

**MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
COUNCIL OF BASIC EDUCATION**

**333 Market Street | 1st Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126**

March 14, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 1:40 p.m. by Mr. Kirk Hallett.

Attending:

James Agras *(via phone)*
Andrew Ahr
Carol Aichele
James Barker *(via phone)*
Nathan Barrett
Nicole Carnicella

Caroline DeWitt *(via phone)*
Hon. John Eichelberger
Donald Fey
Pamela Gunter-Smith
Kirk Hallett
Shirlann Harmon

Maureen Lally-Green
(via phone)
Jonathan Peri
Colleen Sheehan *(via phone)*
Craig Snider *(via phone)*
Karen Farmer White
A. Lee Williams

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the November 8, 2017, meeting of the Council of Basic Education were approved on an **Aichele/Barrett** motion.

The minutes of the January 10, 2018, meeting of the Council of Basic Education were approved on an **Aichele/Barrett** motion.

**REPORT OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**

Deputy Secretary Matthew Stem provided an update on activity related to Pennsylvania's Future Ready PA Index that is set to be deployed by the Department of Education (PDE) in Fall 2018. Mr. Stem said the Future Ready PA Index is PDE's proposal to establish a more comprehensive accountability system that values schools' efforts to help all students learn, grow, and succeed in the classroom and beyond. He said the proposed plan will provide a more holistic tool for communities to measure school success, be less reliant on point-in-time standardized test scores, and shift away from use of a single summative rating system.

Karen Farmer White, Chair of the State Board of Education, stated that data must be disaggregated as a means to address student inequities and enhance student performance. Dr. Lee Williams said that unmasking subgroup performance is crucial to understanding what is happening in schools. Dr. James Barker also commented on the importance of disaggregating data and using the data to focus interventions on specific student needs.

Jonathan Peri asked how the Future Ready PA Index was created and whether a Tableau platform is being used. Deputy Secretary Stem said PDE does has Tableau and that the Index was built primarily from PDE's PIMS system. Simultaneously, he said PDE is trying to build a data mart that delves deeper than the Future Ready PA Index to meet the needs of federal reporting requirements under the Every Student Succeeds Act that go beyond what is included in Future Ready PA Index.

Nathan Barrett asked about economically disadvantaged students and data related to students that do not provide financial statements to schools. He asked what PDE is doing to get more accurate data on these students. Mr. Stem shared that PDE is working with schools to help to get more precise numbers for economically disadvantaged students, but noted that this data always has been the most challenging because of the self-reporting nature of the information.

Dr. Pamela Gunter-Smith asked if the data will be used to provide insight as to what resources a school might need to become more successful. Mr. Stem noted that the Index is intended to be a conversation starter to get local communities and schools to begin a more robust needs assessment process.

Mr. Hallett commented that the Index is very customer-friendly. Mr. Hallett asked what happens when a school's indicators show all red, or underachieving and how parents can use the Index as a resource to impact change. Mr. Stem responded that the Index will indicate if a school is identified in the bottom five percent for comprehensive support and improvement (CSI). Mr. Stem said that CSI schools will be required to undertake specific actions for improvement, including a needs assessment.

Dr. Williams inquired about the professional development opportunities listed in Mr. Stem's written report and asked whether professional development opportunities would be geared toward the Index and use of data. Mr. Stem shared details on such professional development opportunities that already are being provided and that will continue to be aligned moving forward.

Dr. Barker applauded Deputy Secretary Stem and his team for their efforts in drilling down into subgroups to help all students in all schools.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kelly Feighan, a sociologist with Public Health Management Corporation, commented on incomplete free and reduced priced lunch data. Ms. Feighan suggested using census data available through the American Community Survey as a poverty score that takes into account the number of people in a household.

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Hallett announced a forthcoming effort to undertake technical amendments to Chapter 14, regulations governing Special Education, to align with changes made in related federal statutes and federal regulations. Mr. Hallett said the Board will consider these updates through the expedited final-omit process and that he anticipates that the technical amendments will be presented to the Board for review and approval in July 2018.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m. on a **Williams/Aichele** motion.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephanie Jones". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant