

**MINUTES  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**333 Market Street | 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17126**

**November 15, 2018**

The 347<sup>th</sup> meeting of the State Board of Education was convened on Thursday, November 15, 2018. Public notice of the meeting was made in accordance with the Sunshine Meeting Act of 1986. The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by Chair Karen Farmer White.

**Attending:**

James Agras (*via phone*)  
Carol Aichele  
James Barker  
Jamie Bracey-Green  
Nicole Carnicella (*via phone*)

Sandra Dungee Glenn  
Hon. John Eichelberger  
Pamela Gunter-Smith  
Kirk Hallett  
Jeffrey Keeling

Jonathan Peri (*via phone*)  
Ashley Svec  
Karen Farmer White  
A. Lee Williams

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the September 13, 2018, meeting of the State Board of Education were approved on a **Williams/Dungee Glenn** motion.

**REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION**

Secretary Pedro Rivera joined the Board via video conference. Chair Farmer White congratulated the Secretary on his recent appointment as President of the Board of Directors of the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). Secretary Rivera welcomed Dr. Jamie Bracey-Green and Dr. Jeffrey Keeling as new members of the Board.

The Secretary then made a report on the following topics.

**Future Ready PA Index**

Secretary Rivera shared that the Future Ready PA Index was set to launch today. The Index is the Wolf Administration's new public-facing, one-stop location for comprehensive information and data on student and school success.

**Graduation Requirements**

The Secretary shared that the General Assembly recently approved new graduation standards that move students away from a single measure of standardized tests that align to the Keystone Exams and offer other proficiency measures that demonstrate career and college readiness, and community-ready factors.

## **Other**

Secretary Rivera discussed upcoming initiatives that the Department of Education will continue to advocate for related to STEM, computer science, workforce training, and ensuring that Pennsylvania students are ready to engage meaningful college/career and community endeavors.

Upon time for discussion, James Barker congratulated Secretary Rivera on his recent appointment at CCSSO and asked the Secretary to discuss his top priority for the New Year. The Secretary replied that priority for both his state and national agendas is to establish educational conditions for students to become successful academically by meeting their social, emotional and mental health needs at school. To accomplish this, the Secretary said partnerships are needed with other agencies to bring more resources into schools so educators can focus on teaching and partners can provide necessary holistic supports to ensure student success.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **MASTER PLAN FOR BASIC EDUCATION**

A motion to approve the Master Plan for Basic Education, as recommended by the Council of Basic Education, was made by Dr. Barker and seconded by Lee Williams.

VOTE: All were in favor as indicated by unanimous voice vote.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Kirk Hallett announced that AdvancED recently was notified that its authority to accredit private and nonpublic schools in Pennsylvania is due to expire in November 2019 and that it is necessary for the organization to submit an application for renewal of its authority if it wishes to continue serving in this capacity. Mr. Hallett said the Board's notice to AdvancED requested that a renewal application be submitted by mid-March 2019 to provide adequate time for review and action on a renewal request prior to the expiration of AdvancED's current authority.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chair Karen Farmer White announced that the proposed report of the independent hearing examiner in the matter of the Washington Township Independent School District was delivered to the Board on October 30. The Chair then called for an Executive Session of the Board for the purpose of receiving a briefing from counsel on the procedural next steps related to the hearing examiner's proposed report.

The Board adjourned its Executive Session and the Chair reconvened the 347<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 a.m. on a **Williams/Peri** motion.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephanie Jones".

---

Stephanie Jones  
Administrative Assistant