

**MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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

July 12, 2018

The 345th meeting of the State Board of Education was convened on Thursday, July 12, 2018. Public notice of the meeting was made in accordance with the Sunshine Meeting Act of 1986. The meeting was called to order at 8:57 a.m. by Chair Karen Farmer White.

Attending:

James Agras	Caroline DeWitt (<i>via phone</i>)	Kirk Hallett
Carol Aichele	Sandra Dungee Glenn	Maureen Lally-Green
James Barker (<i>via phone</i>)	Sen. John Eichelberger	Jonathan Peri
Nathan Barrett	Donald Fey	Ashley Svec
Nicole Carnicella	Pamela Gunter-Smith	Karen Farmer White
		A. Lee Williams

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the May 10, 2018, meeting of the State Board of Education were approved on a **Lally-Green/Agras** motion.

**REPORT OF THE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ESSA IMPLEMENTATION OVERSIGHT**

Chair Karen Farmer White provided an update on behalf of the Special Committee on ESSA Implementation Oversight. She reported that the Committee visited the Allentown School District and Pittsburgh Public Schools at the end of June to learn about the districts' participation in a pilot of the state's School Improvement System (SIS) that was established as part of Pennsylvania's ESSA State Plan. The Committee heard from Rosemary Hughes, PDE's Special Advisor on School Improvement, the district superintendents and key central office staff, and principals leading schools that participated in the pilot. Ms. Farmer White noted that the SIS is slated for full-scale implementation in the 2018-19 school year for schools identified for Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI).

Ms. Farmer White reviewed the design of the SIS's facilitated self-assessment process and the essential practices for schools upon which the self-assessment rubric is based. She then summarized the lessons learned from the SIS pilot as relayed to the Committee by district leaders that participated in the pilot. Ms. Farmer White noted that the lessons learned will help the Department to further enhance the tools and the process that will be deployed to CSI schools statewide in the fall.

Ms. Farmer White said she was impressed with the genuine partnership that was demonstrated between the Department of Education and the pilot districts. She said she was

further encouraged to hear that pilot participants valued that the new SIS provided an opportunity for honest conversation supported by an independent facilitator and that the system allows schools to personalize their approaches to school improvement.

REPORT OF THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

George Drake provided a report on behalf of the Professional Standards and Practices Commission (PSPC). Dr. Drake said the PSPC is slated to consider 50 disciplinary cases and one petition for reinstatement at its next meeting. He also announced that the workgroup charged with developing recommended program guidelines addressing professional ethics held its first meeting on May 11 to brainstorm approaches that could be used as the centerpiece of Program Framework Guidelines for use by educator preparation programs.

Dr. Drake provided an update on the status of pending cases. Currently, the Office of Chief Counsel (OCC) has 2,167 open educator discipline cases, 462 of which are designated as “high priority” because they involve allegations of sexual abuse or physical abuse of children or criminal charges/convictions for crimes set forth in section 111(e) of the Public School Code of 1949. There are 165 cases pending litigation before the Commission and one case pending in Commonwealth Court. Dr. Drake further reported that, to date, the OCC has received 409 educator misconduct complaints and 182 mandatory reports for the 2018 calendar year.

Lee Williams asked if there is validity to claims that many of the open cases do not reflect serious incidents, yet are cases that have to be reported. Dr. Drake agreed that many cases will not meet legal sufficiency standards, but, nevertheless, they are open cases.

Sandra Dungee Glenn asked for clarification between a disciplinary case and a misconduct complaint. She asked for further clarification on how far back the 2,167 open cases dated. Dr. Drake explained that disciplinary cases and misconduct complaints are one in the same. He said most of the open cases are from the past 1-2 years. Ms. Dungee Glenn asked Dr. Drake to break out the timeline of disciplinary cases for future reports.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

Secretary Pedro Rivera made a report on the following items:

2018-19 State Budget

Secretary Rivera reported that Governor Wolf’s budget for 2018-19 was signed into law in June. The Secretary provided a detailed overview of funding appropriated for education in 2018-19. He highlighted the additional \$100 million investment in basic education funding that will be distributed using the fair funding formula enacted by the Wolf Administration in 2016, the new PAsmart initiative, and funds dedicated to the improvement of school safety.

School Safety Taskforce

Secretary Rivera said the School Safety Taskforce completed a stakeholder listening tour in June. He said common needs shared by students, parents, and school administrators across the state included enhanced social and emotional learning, increased access to mental health services, building community connections, effectively integrating law enforcement and school resource officers, and providing schools with more safety and security resources. The Secretary said the Taskforce's final report is forthcoming.

Act 35 of 2018

The Secretary said the Governor signed Act 35 into law last month. The Act requires school entities to administer a locally-determined civics exam in grades 7-12 beginning in the 2020-2021 school year. The Department is required to post related resources on its website and to monitor and report on participation.

Keystone Exams

The Secretary also provided an update on Act 39, which was enacted in June and delays implementation of Keystone Exams as a statewide graduation requirement for another year until the 2020-2021 school year.

Summer of STEM

As part of Governor Wolf's commitment to ensuring a world-class workforce, Secretary Rivera shared that the Department kicked off a Summer of STEM tour where state officials are meeting with school administrators to discuss innovative approaches to STEM education.

Clinical Residency Grants

Secretary Rivera announced that the Department awarded \$1.8 million in grants to eight universities to develop and implement year-long residency programs for teachers and principals. As part of the grant, programs must be developed in partnership with at least one high-need local education agency. The Secretary said implementation/expansion grants were awarded to Drexel University, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and Robert Morris University. Residency Program planning grants were awarded to Cabrini University, Lehigh University, Millersville University, Penn State Harrisburg, and the University of Pennsylvania.

Secretary Rivera noted that increasing the number of collaborative field-based, practical experiences was a priority recommendation within Pennsylvania's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Consolidated State Plan.

Maureen Lally-Green asked Secretary Rivera if the residency programs would be at the post-baccalaureate level. The Secretary explained that there would be both graduate and undergraduate experiences and that the undergraduate programs will be full-year residencies built into the four-year college curriculum.

Kirk Hallett provided comments related to the Harrisburg School District regarding Keystone Exams, Head Start, and graduation requirements. Mr. Hallett shared his strong personal frustration that Head Start does not have enough seats to serve all students living in poverty in Harrisburg who would greatly benefit from early childhood education. He said the state should be investing more in early childhood to give children a solid foundation than in remediating problems down the road. Secretary Rivera applauded Mr. Hallett's passion.

Jonathan Peri spoke to the PA Future Ready Index and said he felt there is merit that it will engender a sense of competition across school districts and an interest in raising the bar, which a be a positive force. Dr. Peri also thanked Secretary Rivera for the Department's work regarding clinical residency grants.

Nicole Carnicella noted that residency programs are vital in the medical field. Secretary Rivera said the Department looked to the medical field for best practices regarding residency programs in designing its own initiative.

Dr. Williams expressed appreciation to the Department for its work in developing the PA Future Ready Index.

Dr. Drake commented that the residency program is a wonderful addition and said he is proud that Millersville University will be involved as a grant recipient.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ACTION ITEMS

FINAL-OMIT CHAPTER 14 (SPECIAL EDUCATION)

A motion to approve final-omitted amendments to Chapter 14 (Special Education), as recommended by the Council of Basic Education and by the Special and Gifted Education Committee, was made by the Honorable Lally-Green and seconded by Dr. Williams.

VOTE: Roll Call vote: 13-**AYE**, 0-**NAY**, 0-Abstentions. (*Agras- AYE, Aichele- AYE, Barker- AYE, Barrett- AYE, Carnicella- AYE, Eichelberger- AYE, Dungee Glenn- AYE, Farmer White- AYE, Gunter-Smith- AYE, Hallett- AYE, Lally-Green- AYE, Peri- AYE, Williams – AYE*)

RESOLUTION HONORING COLLEEN SHEEHAN

A motion to approve a resolution honoring Colleen Sheehan was made by Dr. Peri and seconded by Carol Aichele.

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

2019 MEETING CALENDAR

A motion to approve the 2019 Meeting Calendar was made by James Agras and seconded by Dr. Carnicella.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Peri announced that the School and University Safety Committee will commence its required biannual review of Chapter 10 (Safe Schools) in September. At that time, Mr. Peri said the Committee will receive a report from the Department on the status of current Memorandums of Understanding between school entities and local law enforcement and will provide an opportunity for public comment on the regulation from interested stakeholders.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Farmer White called for an Executive Session of the Board for the purpose of receiving a legal briefing from counsel on the William Penn School District litigation.

The Board adjourned its Executive Session and the Chair reconvened the 345th meeting of the Board.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:22 a.m. on an **Agras/Gunter-Smith** motion.



Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant