

**MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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

September 12-13, 2018

The 346th meeting of the State Board of Education was convened on Wednesday, September 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 11:00 a.m. by Chair Karen Farmer White.

Attending:

James Agras
Carol Aichele
James Barker
Nicole Carnicella
Sandra Dungee Glenn

Sen. John Eichelberger
Donald Fey
Pamela Gunter-Smith
(via phone)
Kirk Hallett

Maureen Lally-Green
Jonathan Peri
Arynn Pratt
Ashley Svec
Karen Farmer White
A. Lee Williams

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 recessed its Executive Session at 11:25 a.m. on September 12. At that time, Chair Farmer White announced that the Board would reconvene its meeting on Thursday, September 13, 2018, in the Honors Suite at 333 Market Street immediately following the conclusion of the meeting of the State Board for Vocational Education.

CALL TO ORDER

The recessed 346th meeting of the State Board of Education was called back to order by Chair Farmer White on Thursday, September 13, 2018, at 9:15 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the July 12, 2018, meeting of the State Board of Education were approved on a **Dungee Glenn/Lally-Green** motion.

**REPORT OF THE
TEACHER AND SCHOOL LEADER EFFECTIVENESS COMMITTEE**

Committee Chair Sandra Dungee Glenn shared that the Committee met on the afternoon of September 12 for the purpose of continuing to prepare for a major review of Chapter 49.

Ms. Dungee Glenn shared that the Department of Education (PDE) recently held three successful stakeholder engagement sessions to gather input from the field on issues of concern related to education preparation and certification. She said the Secretary of Education and his staff are working to digest that feedback from stakeholders to formulate recommendations for the Board.

Ms. Dungee Glenn further shared that Ryan Saunders, of the Learning Policy Institute, appeared before the Committee to provide an overview of research related to educator certification. She noted that Mr. Saunders' work with PDE will continue over the next few weeks as he works to provide additional perspective on the research base aligned to the feedback gathered from stakeholders. Finally, Ms. Dungee Glenn said the Committee also heard reports from Deputy Secretary Noe Ortega and his Executive Assistant Dan Welsh on the various state policy levers that address certification issues and the role of the Board's regulations in that broader context.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

David Volkman, PDE's Executive Deputy Secretary, delivered a report on behalf of Secretary Pedro Rivera. He began by sharing a back to school video clip featuring Secretary Rivera. Mr. Volkman then provided updates to the Board on the following topics:

Superintendent's Academy

Dr. Volkman discussed the inaugural Superintendent's Academy in Pennsylvania that was launched in May 2016 as part of Secretary Rivera's Poverty and Student Achievement Initiative. Dr. Volkman said 73 administrators from across the state completed the first two-year cohort of this executive-level professional development experience conducted in partnership with the National Institute of School Leadership. Participants conducted intensive research into effective policies and practices of the world's best education systems and aimed to transform their own schools based on the insights they gained. Dr. Volkman presented a document that summarized the projects completed by superintendents in the first cohort and said the document would be shared with the Board. He said a second cohort of 60 district and charter school leaders are currently enrolled in the Superintendent's Academy.

Computer Science for All

The Pennsylvania Computer Science for All Summit, held in June 2018, offered educators, school leaders, and stakeholders the opportunity to expand their knowledge and skillset in order to support students in gaining experience in one of the fastest growing sectors in Pennsylvania. Dr. Volkman said that, since 2015, Governor Wolf has championed expanded access to computer science and STEM education. He said the administration's commitment to STEM education was further demonstrated through the \$30 million PAsmart initiative included in the most recent state budget and by visits that PDE leadership made to educational camps, libraries, and colleges as part of the Summer of STEM tour.

School Improvement Grants

Mr. Volkman announced that the Department awarded approximately \$15.3 million in grants to 20 local education agencies (LEAs) to participate in early implementation of Pennsylvania's comprehensive system for district and school improvement. Grants will be awarded under two parallel programs. The first awarded \$15 million to 97 schools in 14 school districts and two charter schools through a competitive process. The second awarded \$300,000 to four of the state's most rural LEAs. Mr. Volkman said all awards were made from federal funds that were received by the Commonwealth to support school improvement strategies in schools currently identified for assistance.

School Safety

Mr. Volkman reported that the 2018-19 state budget includes \$60 million to be distributed by a new School Safety and Security Committee within the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency to help school districts across the state address their unique school safety needs. The committee will award grants to school districts and other school entities for physical building upgrades, security equipment, teacher training, alternative education programs, community violence prevention programs, and special and individualized mentoring programs to keep teachers and students safe.

PRESENTATION **Future Ready PA Index**

Matthew Stem, Deputy Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education, presented an interactive demonstration site of the forthcoming Future Ready PA Index. Mr. Stem said the Index will serve as Pennsylvania's one-stop location for comprehensive information about school success and will use a dashboard model to highlight how schools are performing and making progress on multiple indicators.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Karen Molchanow, Executive Director of the Board, announced that the Special and Gifted Education Committee will begin a periodically-required review of the regulations governing gifted education (Chapter 16). To facilitate this review, the Committee will hold three public roundtables to provide parents of gifted students, gifted educators, and other interested parties an opportunity to engage in open dialog with the Committee about how gifted education services are being delivered in the context of the Board's governing rules. Ms. Molchanow said

roundtables will be held in Pittsburgh on October 3, in Norristown on October 9, and in Harrisburg on November 1.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m. on an **Aichele/Dungee Glenn** motion.

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

Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant