

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

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

May 8, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 1:50 p.m. by Kirk Hallett.

Attending:

James Agras (*via phone*)

Carol Aichele

James Barker (*via phone*)

Nathan Barrett

Jamie Bracey-Green (*via phone*)

Nicole Carnicella (*via phone*)

Carolyn DeWitt

Sandra Dungee Glenn (*via phone*)

Donald Fey

Pamela Gunter-Smith

Kirk Hallett

Jeffrey Keeling

Maureen Lally-Green (*via phone*)

Jonathan Peri

Ashley Svec

Karen Farmer White

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the March 13, 2019, 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 shared updates about a reorganization within the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education to create greater responsiveness and recent recognitions of staff who had reached milestones in their careers of 15, 20, and 25+ years of service to the Department of Education (PDE).

Mr. Stem reported on schools' recent administration of the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSAs) and noted that time spent on testing was down from last year. Mr. Stem further noted that this will be the first year that PSSA scores will be sent back to school districts before the end of the school year.

Deputy Secretary Stem acknowledged Teacher Appreciation Week and expressed appreciation for the commitment that teachers make to their students every day.

Mr. Stem also shared brief updates on use of the Future Ready PA Index since its launch in November 2018 and identification of schools for Comprehensive Support and Improvement and Additional Targeted Support and Improvement under the state's ESSA Plan. He noted that federal law requires that all states designate Targeted Support and Improvement schools in the fall of 2019.

PRESENTATION
STEM UPDATE

Deputy Secretary Stem introduced Judd Pittman, Special Consultant to the Secretary of Education on STEM, for an update on state initiatives related to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). Mr. Pittman discussed efforts to diversify and increase the number of teachers prepared to provide effective STEM education, the number of students engaged in STEM-related instruction, and the number of citizens that are STEM literate. Among those efforts, Mr. Pittman provided updates on targeted and advancing grants awarded under the PAsmart initiative, development of a STEM Toolkit available to all educators, the Governor’s STEM Competition, creation of a new Computer Science certification for grades 7-12.

PRESENTATION
DEVELOPMENT OF A KEYSTONE EXAM
COMPOSITE SCORE RECOMMENDATION

Brian Campbell and Rich Maraschiello, from the Bureau of Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction, reviewed requirements in Act 158 that directed the Secretary of Education to develop a recommended composite score for the Keystone Exams that will serve as a pathway to demonstrate readiness for high school graduation. Per Act 158, the satisfactory composite score must be approved by the State Board of Education by July 30, 2019.

Mr. Campbell and Mr. Maraschiello discussed the process that was used to determine the composite score and presented the Secretary’s recommendation to establish a satisfactory composite score of 4452 for the Keystone Exams. They noted that statute requires that a student achieve at least a proficient score on one of the three Keystone Exams and no less than a basic score on the remaining two. Mr. Campbell and Mr. Maraschiello also presented an analysis of the impact of the recommended composite score if it were applied to the total number of grade 12 students in 2017-2018.

Mr. Campbell and Mr. Maraschiello then entertained questions from State Board members about the standard error of measurement that was used in determining the recommended composite score.

PRESENTATION
PENNSYLVANIA ALTERNATE SYSTEM OF ASSESSMENT
STANDARDS SETTING OVERVIEW

Lynda Lupp, Statewide Special Education Assessment Coordinator with the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network, explained that Pennsylvania Alternate System of Assessment (PASA) exams in English Language Arts and Mathematics were redesigned to encompass two levels of complexity rather than three. Due to the changes in the design of the PASA, PDE will bring together teams of educators in June to revise the PASA Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs) and to conduct a standards setting process to develop new cut scores. Ms. Lupp reviewed the methodology that will be used to conduct the standards setting and said

recommendations for revised PLDs and cut scores will be presented to the State Board of Education for approval in July.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m. on an **Aichele/Barrett** motion.



Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant