

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

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

**March 10, 2021**

The meeting was called to order at 1:57 p.m. by Council Chair Lee Williams.

**Attending:**

James Agras	Anne Griffin	Eva Rankin
Carol Aichele	Pamela Gunter-Smith	Hon. Curt Sonney
Nathan Barrett	Jeffrey Keeling	Taiba Sultana
Jamie Bracey-Green	Hon. Maureen Lally-Green	Karen Farmer White
Nicole Carnicella	Hon. Mark Longietti	Lee Williams
Sandra Dungee Glenn	Jonathan Peri	Hon. Lindsey Williams

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the September 9, 2020, meeting of the Council of Basic Education were approved on a **Lally-Green/Barrett** motion.

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

Deputy Secretary Matt Stem welcomed Dr. Lee Williams in her new role as Council Chair.

Deputy Secretary Stem began his report by noting that the COVID-19 pandemic created circumstances for schools over the past year that were historically unprecedented for American education. Mr. Stem acknowledged the more than two million K-12 students enrolled in the Commonwealths public, private, and non-public schools for their resilience and persistence in handling these circumstances. He said the Department's number one priority is to create conditions to get all students back to in-person instruction as soon as possible and as safely as possible.

Mr. Stem said the Department has seen teachers developing new technological and pedagogical innovations through this challenging year. Among these, he noted a distance learning pilot program being run in coordination with PBS in 30 school districts.

Deputy Secretary Stem shared that the U.S. Department of Education recently announced that it would invite states to submit waiver requests for federal accountability requirements, but

that waivers for state assessments would not be accepted. Therefore, Mr. Stem said that states will be required to administer state assessments. In Pennsylvania, districts will be given the option to delay the administration of assessments until the fall of 2021.

Mr. Stem then introduced members of his team to provide updates on the integrated system of support for accelerated learning that the Department has developed to assist school entities in making key decisions for the start of school. Dr. Sherri Smith, Special Advisor to the Deputy Secretary, identified school planning priorities for the 2021-2022 school year and provided an overview of the Department's system of support. Judd Pittman, Special Consultant to the Secretary for STEM, discussed aspects of this work focused on engaging voices from the field that will include 20 virtual guided listening sessions for superintendents and school leaders. Brian Campbell, Director of the Bureau of Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction, explained that the Department is designing a system through which LEAs can voluntarily submit local assessment data and receive analytics to inform policy and programmatic decisions. Rosemary Hughes discussed system conditions for which school leaders should design and implement structured routines for monitoring implementation and impact to ensure leaders know what is working well and what needs to be adjusted. Brian Gasper, Chief of the Division of Instructional Quality, discussed using formal and informal assessments and classroom-based evidence to inform high-quality, differentiated instruction. Dana Milakovic stressed the importance of proactively focusing on social and emotional learning (SEL) to address both student and staff wellness. Erica Kaurudar discussed providing evidence-based scaffolded supports to accelerate learning for all students.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

#### **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 3:13 p.m. on an **Aichele/Barrett** motion.

*Stephanie L. Jones*

Stephanie Jones  
Administrative Assistant