

**MINUTES  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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

**May 4, 2022**

The 368<sup>th</sup> meeting of the State Board of Education was convened on Wednesday, May 4, 2022. Public notice of the meeting was made in accordance with the Sunshine Meeting Act of 1986. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Chair Karen Farmer White.

**Attending:**

Hon. Carol Aichele	Pamela Gunter-Smith	Hon. Scott Martin
Nathan Barrett	Sarah Jordan	Hon. Curt Sonney
Jamie Bracey-Green	Jeffrey Keeling	Taiba Sultana
Sandra Dungee Glenn	Hon. Maureen Lally-Green	Karen Farmer White
Reva Gandhi	Hon. Mark Longietti	Lee Williams
		Hon. Lindsey Williams

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the March 16, 2022, meeting of the Board were approved on a **Lee Williams/Dungee Glenn** motion.

**CHAIRPERSON’S REMARKS**

Chair Karen Farmer White shared that Dr. Ortega departed his role as Secretary of Education and introduced Eric Hagarty as the new Acting Secretary of the Department of Education. Ms. Farmer White also introduced Claire Chi, a student from the State College Area School District, who was selected to serve as the Board’s new junior high school student member starting in July. Ms. Farmer White concluded by recognizing Teacher Appreciation Week and the extraordinary work of Pennsylvania’s educators.

**REPORT OF THE ACTING SECRETARY OF EDUCATION  
AND PDE’S DEPUTY SECRETARIES**

Acting Secretary Hagarty thanked the Board for its warm welcome. He then introduced members of his leadership team for reports from the agency.

Dr. Tanya I. Garcia, Deputy Secretary and Commissioner for Postsecondary and Higher Education, provided updates on activity related to higher education, including the It’s on Us campaign. Dr. Garcia also reported that the Council of Higher Education and the Master Plan for Higher Education Advisory Committee held a joint working session earlier in the morning. The working session focused on the fourth strategic priority around which a new Master Plan will be centered – Innovate and Redesign Postsecondary Institutions for Today’s Learners.

Dr. Sherri Smith, Deputy Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education, introduced Ms. Carole Clancy, Director of the Bureau of Special Education (BSE), Ms. Lynda Lupp, and Ms. Lisa Hampe with the Office of Special Education to present an update on the Pennsylvania Alternate System of Assessment (PASA). BSE staff shared that the Department has entered into a contract with Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Consortium to serve as the new assessment vendor for the PASA beginning July 1, 2022. BSE staff discussed the design and administrative revisions that will come with the move to the new assessment vendor and presented the policy performance levels and performance level descriptors for the new exams.

Dr. Smith also introduced Mr. Brian Campbell, Director of the Bureau of Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction. Mr. Campbell presented two recommendations from the Secretary of Education regarding extenuating circumstances for graduation waivers under Section 121 of the School Code. The first recommendation requested that the Board consider extending the COVID-19 pandemic as an extenuating circumstance for students in the graduating classes of 2024 and 2025. The second recommendation requested that the Board consider establishing an allowable two score composite for students who were eligible for the Act 136 non-numerical exemption, had numeric scores for two different Keystone Exams (neither of which were Below Basic), and for which the composite scaled score of the two tests must equal at least 2968. Mr. Campbell stated that recommendations to establish these additional extenuating circumstances were being presented to address students whose pathways for demonstrating state graduation requirements are limited due to the effects of COVID-related assessment flexibilities.

Upon discussion, Sen. Martin questioned whether there is awareness among the field about the extenuating circumstance previously approved by the Board to permit the COVID-19 pandemic to serve as an extenuating circumstance for students in the graduating class of 2023. Sen. Martin further questioned whether the Board has the authority to approve the Secretary's recommendation to establish an extenuating circumstance that would utilize a two score composite in light of a provision in the School Code that requires action by the General Assembly to modify the existing established Keystone Exam composite score. Sen. Martin stated that legislation has been prepared to address this matter through the legislature.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **Pennsylvania Alternate System of Assessment Performance Level Descriptors**

A motion to approve the Performance Level Descriptors for the Pennsylvania Alternate System of Assessment was made by Sandra Dungee Glenn and seconded by Carol Aichele.

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

#### **Establishment of COVID-19 as an Extenuating Circumstance for Waivers Under Section 121 of the School Code for Students in the Graduating Classes of 2024 and 2025**

A motion to approve the establishment of COVID-19 as an extenuating circumstance for waivers under Section 121 of the School Code for students in the graduating classes of 2024 and 2025 was made by Nathan Barrett and seconded by Pamela Gunter-Smith.

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

**Establishment of a Two Score Composite as an Extenuating Circumstance for Waivers Under Section 121 of the School Code for Students Who Were Eligible for the Act 136 Non-numerical Exemption**

A motion to approve a two score composite as an extenuating circumstance for waivers under Section 121 of the School Code only for students who were eligible for the Act 136 non-numerical exemption, who have numerical scores for two different Keystone Exams, neither of which is Below Basic, and whose composite scaled score for two Keystone Exams must equal at least 2968 was made by Jeffrey Keeling and seconded by Nathan Barrett.

VOTE: The motion failed as indicated by voice vote.

**Resolution Honoring Noe Ortega**

A motion to approve a resolution honoring the service of Dr. Noe Ortega was made by Hon. Carol Aichele and seconded by Pamela Gunter-Smith.

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

**Resolution Honoring Eva Rankin**

A motion to approve a resolution honoring the service of Eva Rankin was made by Jeffrey Keeling and seconded by Nathan Barrett.

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

**Resolution Honoring Taiba Sultana**

A motion to approve a resolution honoring the service of Taiba Sultana was made by Pamela Gunter-Smith and seconded by Carol Aichele.

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Sandra Dungee Glenn announced that the Board's final-form amendments to Chapter 49 were published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* on April 23 and took effect at the time of publication. Ms. Dungee Glenn said the Teacher and School Leader Effectiveness Committee met earlier in the day to receive an update from Deputy Secretary Garcia about next steps for implementing the changes set forth in the final-form rulemaking. She said the Committee requested that the Department make a status report on its implementation efforts in six months.

Ms. Dungee Glenn also shared that the Committee received a presentation from the Pennsylvania Educator Diversity Coalition.

Chair Farmer White announced that the Board would reconvene for Executive Session following the meeting of the State Board of Career and Technical Education. Ms. Farmer White said the purpose of the Executive Session was to receive an update from counsel on litigation.

Chair Farmer White then called to recess the meeting of the Board.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The State Board of Education reconvened at 3:29 p.m. for an Executive Session to receive an update from counsel on litigation.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:41 p.m. on an **Aichele/Gunter-Smith** motion.

*Stephanie Jones*

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Stephanie Jones  
Administrative Assistant