

**MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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

March 8, 2023

The 373rd meeting of the State Board of Education (Board) was convened on Wednesday, March 8, 2023. Public notice of the meeting was made in accordance with the Sunshine Meeting Act of 1986. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chair Karen Farmer White.

Attending:

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| James Agras | Pamela Gunter-Smith | Hon. Peter Schweyer |
| Hon. Carol Aichele | Amanda Hetrick | Monica Taylor |
| Hon. David Argall | Natalie Imhoof | Hon. Jesse Topper |
| Nathan Barrett | Sarah Jordan | Karen Farmer White |
| Nicole Carnicella | Jeffrey Keeling | Lee Williams |
| Reva Gandhi | Hon. Pedro Rivera | |

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the January 11, 2023, meeting of the Board were approved on an **Aichele/Barrett** motion.

CHAIRPERSON’S REMARKS

Chair Farmer White introduced Dr. Khalid Mumin, who was nominated by Governor Shapiro to serve as the new Acting Secretary of Education. Ms. Farmer White noted that, in his new role, Dr. Mumin also will serve as CEO of the Board.

Ms. Farmer White also recognized leadership transitions that occurred in both the House and the Senate Education Committees with the start of the new legislative session. She welcomed Sen. David Argall (R-29), the new Majority Chairman of the Senate Education Committee, Rep. Peter Schweyer (D-134), the new Majority Chairman of the House Education Committee, and Rep. Jesse Topper (R-78), the new Minority Chairman of the House Education Committee. Ms. Farmer White noted that they will serve as new voting members of the Board by virtue of their new positions as Education Committee leaders in their respective chambers. Ms. Farmer White assigned Sen. Argall and Rep. Schweyer to be seated as members of the Council of Basic Education and Rep. Topper to be seated as a member of the Council of Higher Education.

COMMITTEE REPORT
TEACHER AND SCHOOL LEADER EFFECTIVENESS

Chair Farmer White reported that the Teacher and School Leader Effectiveness Committee met earlier in the day to continue its discussions on the challenges facing Pennsylvania’s educator workforce and to highlight potential solutions to those challenges. The

Committee was joined by Zakiya Stewart, Pennsylvania Policy Manager at Teach Plus, and Jason Dougal, President and COO of the National Center on Education and the Economy. Ms. Stewart and Mr. Dougal presented a new report on “Addressing Pennsylvania’s Teacher Shortage Crisis Through Systemic Solutions” that was jointly authored by their organizations. Ms. Farmer White said a copy of the report was provided to all Board members for review.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL OF BASIC EDUCATION

Dr. Lee Williams, Chair of the Council of Basic Education, reported that the Council met earlier in the day and approved final-omitted amendments to the regulations that govern special education (22 Pa. Code Chapter 14). She said the technical amendments presented in the final-omitted rulemaking update terminology throughout the entirety of Chapter 14 to replace references to the phrase “mental retardation” with the term “intellectual disabilities.” Dr. Williams said the updates will make the language in the Board’s regulation consistent with terminology now used in federal law and in other state regulations. She noted that the Board previously considered the terminology update, but the package did not advance through all remaining steps of regulatory review prior to the end of the last administration. Dr. Williams requested that Chair Farmer White place the final-omitted amendments to Chapter 14 on the agenda for the Board’s consideration, as recommended by the Council. Finally, Dr. Williams noted that the Department of Education intends to make the same terminology updates to the Department’s regulations in Chapter 711 which governs special education in charter schools.

Dr. Williams said the Council also received an update from Nathan Barrett, Chair of the School and University Safety Committee, about the Committee’s required biennial review of the model Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that is part of Chapter 10. Mr. Barrett shared that the Committee received three written comments on the model MOU from the Education Law Center, the ACLU, and Sen. Lindsey Williams. In her remarks, Sen. Williams identified other organizations that she believed it would be beneficial for the Board to hear from on this issue, but who did not submit written remarks by the deadline. As such, Dr. Williams said Mr. Barrett extended the deadline for written comments on the model MOU through March 31, 2023, and directed staff to conduct outreach to the organizations identified by Sen. Williams.

Finally, Dr. Williams said the Council received a status report from the Department on the Chapter 4/Academic Standards Committee’s work to review the current standards for Economics, Career Education and Work, and Family and Consumer Sciences. As requested by members of the Board, Dr. Williams said the Department added additional members from Philadelphia and from the Northern Tier to the standards content review committees. The names and affiliations of those additional content committee members were included in the written report that was distributed to all Board members. Dr. Williams said the written status report also included a calendar for the work to be conducted by the standards content review committees over the next two months.

REPORT OF THE ACTING SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

Dr. Khalid Mumin, Acting Secretary of Education, presented an overview of Governor Shapiro’s Executive Budget proposal for education for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ACTION ITEM

Final-Omitted Chapter 14 (Special Education Services and Programs)

A motion to approve final-omitted amendments to Chapter 14 (Special Education Services and Programs) was made by Carol Aichele and seconded by Lee Williams.

VOTE: The motion to approve the final-omitted amendments to Chapter 14 (Special Education Services and Programs) was approved by a roll call vote of 15-0. (YEA: Agras, Aichele, Argall, Barrett, Carnicella, Gunter-Smith, Hetrick, Keeling, Lally-Green, Rivera, Schweyer, Taylor, Topper, Farmer White, and Lee Williams)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Natalie Imhoof, Junior Student Member on the Council of Higher Education, announced that she recently had the opportunity to share an update about the work of the Board with Susquehanna University's student government association, including an update on her efforts as a member of the College Textbook Policies Advisory Committee and work related to the Master Plan for Higher Education. Ms. Imhoof said most students agreed on the importance and impact of the College Textbook Policies Advisory Committee. Regarding the Master Plan for Higher Education, Ms. Imhoof said many students commented that the draft Master Plan's focus on erasing equity gaps in postsecondary access, progression, and completion by race, ethnicity, income, age, gender, and geography was vitally important. She said students also identified the draft plan's focus on increasing transparency and increasing college affordability as crucial.

Chair Farmer White announced that she intended to convene an Executive Session of the Board immediately following adjournment of 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 the William Penn School District education funding litigation. Chair Farmer White announced that the Hon. Rivera would not participate in the Executive Session due to a conflict of interest with the litigation.

RECESS

Chair Farmer White called for a motion to recess the meeting of the Board and to reconvene for Executive Session following adjournment of the meeting of the State Board of Career and Technical Education. The motion to recess was approved on a Lee Williams/Agras motion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The State Board of Education reconvened at 1:52 p.m. for an Executive Session to receive an update from counsel on the William Penn School District education funding litigation.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m. on an **Aichele/Schweyer** motion.

Stephanie Jones

Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant