

**MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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

July 12, 2023

The 375th meeting of the State Board of Education (Board) was convened on Wednesday, July 12, 2023. Public notice of the meeting was made in accordance with the Sunshine Meeting Act of 1986. The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m. by Chair Karen Farmer White.

Attending:

James Agras
Hon. Carol Aichele
Hon. David Argall
Nathan Barrett
Brenna Chernich
Claire Chi

Katherine Christiano
Aarushi Dedhiya
Sandra Dungee Glenn
Ernest Hadrick
Amanda Hetrick
Natalie Imhoof

Jeffrey Keeling
Hon. Maureen Lally-Green
Hon. Pedro Rivera
Hon. Jesse Topper
Karen Farmer White
Lee Williams
Hon. Lindsey Williams

OPENING REMARKS

Chair Farmer White congratulated Dr. Khalid Mumin on his Senate confirmation to serve as Secretary of Education for the Shapiro Administration. She also introduced Dr. Carrie Rowe, the new Deputy Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education. Ms. Farmer White then welcomed four new members of the Board – Katherine Christiano, Ernest Hadrick, Robert Mitchell, and Dr. Benjamin Wilson – who were nominated by Governor Shapiro and confirmed by the Senate at the end of June. She noted that Mr. Mitchell and Dr. Wilson would be seated to attend their first meeting in September. Lastly, Ms. Farmer White introduced the Board’s new student members. Brenna Chernich, a student at Millersville University, started a two-year term as the Junior Student Member on the Council of Higher Education and Aarushi Dedhiya, a student from the Cumberland Valley School District, began a two-year term as the Junior Student Member on the Council of Basic Education.

**RECOGNITION OF HIGHMARK AS A
STUDENT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM PARTNER**

Chair Farmer White expressed deep appreciation to Highmark for its continued financial support of the Board’s Student Leadership Program. Kenya Boswell, Senior Vice President of Community Affairs at Highmark, presented a check for new grant funds that will sustain opportunities for student members to serve on the Board and accepted a resolution from Chair Farmer White expressing the Board’s gratitude to Highmark as a valued program partner.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the May 3, 2023, meeting of the Board were approved on a **Lee Williams/Dungee Glenn** motion.

COMMITTEE REPORT
SPECIAL AND GIFTED EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Hon. Carol Aichele, member of the Special and Gifted Education Committee, reported that the Committee met earlier in the day to continue work related to its periodic review of the regulations governing gifted education (Chapter 16). Hon. Aichele said the Committee adopted recommendations intended to improve the delivery of gifted education services and to provide greater clarity to the field on the application of the current regulations in response to concerns raised by stakeholders last fall. Hon. Aichele summarized the Committee's recommendations and noted that the recommendations would be transmitted to the Department of Education (Department) and posted to the Board's website.

COMMITTEE REPORT
ACADEMIC STANDARDS/CHAPTER 4 COMMITTEE

Dr. Lee Williams, Chair of the Academic Standards/Chapter 4 Committee, reported that the Committee met earlier in the day to receive recommendations pertaining to its periodic review of the academic standards for Career Education and Work (CEW), Economics (ECON), and Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) that are part of the Board's regulations in Chapter 4. Dr. Williams said the recommendations were developed by teams of educators and other content experts convened by the Department at the request of the Committee. Those standards content review committees were tasked with conducting an initial review of the CEW, ECON, and FCS standards with a focus on whether they adequately address skills and competencies for students related to financial literacy.

A report of the committees' recommendations was delivered by Dr. Brian Gasper, Chief of the Department's Division of Instructional Quality. Dr. Williams said the committees recommended updates to the content of the CEW, ECON, and FCS standards and recommended that the current standards be reorganized under new strands and new grade bands. Dr. Williams said the standards review content teams also recommended that the Board consider adding new stand-alone academic standards for Personal Finance to Chapter 4 and noted that a copy of draft Personal Finance standards was included in the committees' report to the Board.

Dr. Williams said the Chapter 4 Committee also reviewed other draft amendments to Chapter 4 that they intend to consider in tandem with their work on academic standards. She said the draft amendments reflect updates to the regulation's table of contents, identify how recommended standards updates and additions would be reflected if the Committee later were to adopt those changes, and make other updates for clarity. Dr. Williams said the draft amendments also propose to shift the administration of the elementary-level PSSA Science assessment from grade 4 to grade 5, a change that previously was recommended by the Department to align the assessment with the end of the grade bands in the new Pennsylvania Integrated Standards for Science, Environment, Ecology, Technology, and Engineering (STEELS). Dr. Williams said the shift to administering a Science PSSA at grade 5 would take effect in the 2025-26 school year, the same year the new STEELS standards take effect.

Dr. Williams announced that the Committee will conduct public hearings and will accept written comments on the recommended academic standards updates and on the draft

amendments to Chapter 4 as an opportunity to hear from other stakeholders on this work. Hearings will be held at the Department of Education in Harrisburg on September 13, at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit on September 14, and at the Allegheny County Intermediate Unit on September 25.

**REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
AND PDE'S DEPUTY SECRETARIES**

Dr. Khalid Mumin, Secretary of Education, recognized the new Board members and thanked them for serving the Commonwealth. Dr. Mumin reported on the status of the state budget for FY 2023-24 and said he will provide another update at the next meeting of the Board.

Dr. Kate Shaw, Deputy Secretary and Commissioner for Postsecondary and Higher Education, provided an update on the Higher Education Workgroup formed by Governor Shapiro to deliver recommendations for a new vision of higher education in Pennsylvania by the end of 2023. Dr. Shaw also lauded improvements in the Department's timeliness in processing applications for educator certifications in part due to the addition of 10 new staff in the division that administers certifications.

Dr. Carrie Rowe, Deputy Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education, delivered her inaugural report as Deputy Secretary and highlighted her vision to prepare learners for the workforce.

REPORT OF THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

Mr. Shane Crosby, Executive Director of the Professional Standards and Practices Commission (PSPC) presented the PSPC's 2022 Annual Report. He also reported that the PSPC will consider amending the Pennsylvania Model Code of Ethics for Educators, published in a Statement of Policy at 22 Pa. Code Chapter 238, to reflect recent changes made by the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) to its Model Code of Ethics for Educators. Mr. Crosby said the revisions made to the NASDTEC document are more organizational than substantive.

**PRESENTATION
HOW THE PANDEMIC AND REMOTE LEARNING SHAPED EDUCATION
AND HEALTH OUTCOMES IN PENNSYLVANIA**

Ms. Candy Miller, Research and Evaluation Manager in the Department's Compliance Office, was joined by Alma Vigil and Stephen Lipscomb of Mathematica, to present new research on how the pandemic and remote learning shaped education and health outcomes in Pennsylvania. The research was supported by an Institute of Education Sciences grant focused on using longitudinal data to support state education recovery policymaking.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ACTION ITEM

2024 Meeting Calendar

A motion to approve the Board's 2024 meeting calendar was made by Sen. Lindsey Williams and seconded by Rep. Jesse Topper. The following dates were approved with meetings to be consolidated on Thursdays when proceedings are scaled to a one-day meeting: January 10-11, March 13-14, May 1-2, July 10-11, September 11-12, and November 13-14.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Claire Chi, Senior Student Member on the Council of Basic Education, thanked the Board for its continued partnership with the Pennsylvania Association of Student Councils in facilitating the selection of new high school student members. Ms. Chi also thanked the Hon. Aichele for serving as the Board's liaison on the high school student member selection committee and further expressed gratitude to Highmark for supporting the Board's Student Leadership Program. She provided an update on outreach to students statewide through Students for Education in Pennsylvania (SEPA) and said she met with that student network in the spring to collect feedback on academic standards and career preparation. Ms. Chi said she has been making additional outreach to students through classrooms visits to Moshannon Valley Elementary School and Jersey Shore Elementary conducted with the America 250 PA organization. She also shared about her experience participating as a Pennsylvania delegate to the U.S. Senate Youth Program in the spring.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:59 p.m. on an **Aichele/Hetrick** motion.

Stephanie L. Jones

Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant