

**MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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

September 13, 2023

The 376th meeting of the State Board of Education (Board) was convened on Wednesday, September 13, 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:

James Agras	Sandra Dungee Glenn	Rep. Peter Schweyer
Hon. Carol Aichele	Ernest Hadrick	Monica Taylor
Nathan Barrett	Amanda Hetrick	Rep. Jesse Topper
Brenna Chernich	Natalie Imhoof	Karen Farmer White
Katherine Christiano	Jeffrey Keeling	Lee Williams
Aarushi Dedhiya	Robert Mitchell	Hon. Lindsey Williams
	Hon. Pedro Rivera	Benjamin Wilson

OPENING REMARKS

Chair Farmer White welcomed Katherine Christiano, Ernest Hadrick, Robert Mitchell, and Dr. Benjamin Wilson, four new members of the Board who were nominated by Governor Shapiro and recently confirmed by the Senate.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the July 12, 2023, meeting of the Board were approved on an **Aichele/Dungee Glenn** motion.

COMMITTEE REPORT

ACADEMIC STANDARDS/CHAPTER 4 COMMITTEE

Dr. Lee Williams, Chair of the Academic Standards/Chapter 4 Committee (Committee), reported that earlier in the day the Committee conducted a public hearing as part of its periodic review of the academic standards for Career Education and Work, Family and Consumer Sciences, and Economics. Interested stakeholders provided testimony on the recommendations for updating those standards that were presented to the Committee in July, as well the draft Personal Finance standards that were recommended to be added as a new area in Chapter 4. Dr. Williams said stakeholders also were invited to comment on other unrelated amendments to Chapter 4 that the Committee announced it would consider in tandem with updates to the academic standards, including a proposal to shift the administration of the elementary-level PSSA in Science from grade 4 to grade 5.

Dr. Williams announced that the Committee’s public hearing scheduled for September 14, in Montgomery County was canceled due to lack of registrations for the event, and that registrations still were being accepted for the Committee’s final public hearing on in Pittsburgh on September 25. Dr. Williams said the Committee also would continue to accept comments in writing through the end of September. She shared that the standards review committees that were appointed to develop an initial set of recommendations plan to meet on October 24 and 25 to address feedback from members of the Chapter 4 Committee related to duplication in the standards recommendations, to review stakeholder input from the public hearings, and to work on formatting draft updates to the standards as documents that look consistent with the formatting of the Pennsylvania Core Standards for Math and English Language Arts.

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

Dr. Khalid Mumin, Secretary of Education, reported on PA Maslow, an effort focused on supporting a hierarchy of collegiate basic needs. Dr. Mumin also shared that the Basic Education Funding Commission is holding a series of hearings to gather testimony from educators and education policy experts to help develop a plan to ensure that public education is adequately and equitably funding in the Commonwealth.

Dr. Kate Shaw, Deputy Secretary and Commissioner for Postsecondary and Higher Education, also shared highlights on the PA Maslow initiative and announced that an inaugural convening for the effort will be held in October 2023 in State College. Dr. Shaw also reported that internal efforts to reduce the processing time for teacher certifications have succeeded in cutting that timeframe to two to three weeks. Finally, Dr. Shaw provided an update on the Higher Education Workgroup formed by Governor Shapiro.

Dr. Carrie Rowe, Deputy Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education, announced that Judd Pittman has been hired as the new Bureau Director for Career and Technical Education (CTE). Dr. Rowe highlighted new funding in the state budget to support CTE-related initiatives, including an industry in the schools program. Dr. Rowe also discussed the most recent state assessment results and said the PA Future Ready Index would be updated around mid-October and that more information related to assessment results will be shared at the next Board meeting. Dr. Rowe then introduced Dr. Carole Clancy, Director of the Bureau of Special Education, who delivered the Department of Education’s annual reports to the Board on gifted education monitoring and complaints, and special education due process hearings and outcomes.

**PETITION OF THE SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT TO WITHDRAW
AS A MEMBER OF THE LOCAL SPONSOR OF
DELAWARE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Chair Farmer White announced that Springfield School District recently filed a petition seeking to withdraw as a member of the local sponsor of Delaware County Community College. Chair Farmer White summarized the contents of the petition and explained that the Public School Code establishes that no school district that is part of the local sponsor of a community college may withdraw its sponsorship without the Board’s approval.

Monica Taylor, member of the Board, stated that she would abstain from participating in any matters related to the petition due to a conflict of interest.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Farmer White called for an Executive Session in order for the Board to consult with counsel on the legal procedures the Board must follow pertaining to the Springfield School District's petition to withdraw as a member of the local sponsor of Delaware County Community College.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Adrienne King, resident of Perkasie, PA, shared her concerns regarding the approval of the Hillsdale curriculum by the Pennridge School District. Ms. King said educators have expressed concern that the curriculum does not meet state academic standards. Ms. King said parents are not qualified to make that determination and requested that the Department of Education investigate to protect the integrity of education for all students. Ms. King's said the hiring of Vermillion has furthered the local school board's effort to whitewash education and that such action sets aside the reality of American to put forth a rose-colored view that does not take into account the experience of various populations.

Jane Kramer, a Pennridge School District parent, urged the Department to protect the integrity of education for all students in Pennridge. Ms. Kramer said the district has been systemically removing resources that reflect the experiences of marginalized groups. She stated that the Hillsdale curriculum reads like propaganda and call on the Department of Education to review the curriculum to ensure it meets state standards.

Sharon Ward, Senior Policy Advisory with the Education Law Center, stated that she was in attendance to represent the PA WINS Coalition. Ms. Ward spoke in support parents in the Pennridge School District who hold concerns with the district's newly-approved curriculum.

ACTION ITEMS

DESIGNATION OF A PRESIDING OFFICER IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF THE SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT SEEKING TO WITHDRAW AS A MEMBER OF THE LOCAL SPONSOR OF DELAWARE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A motion to designate a presiding officer under the provisions of 1 Pa. Code § 35.185 and 1 Pa. Code § 35.187 to hold such hearings and resolve such procedural motions as may be necessary to develop and submit to the Board a proposed report under 1 Pa. Code § 35.202 to rule on the petition of the Springfield School District was made by Sandra Dungee Glenn and seconded by Hon. Peter Schweyer.

VOTE: All were in favor as indicated by unanimous voice vote. (Dr. Monica Taylor abstained)

ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEADLINE FOR FILING PETITIONS TO INTERVENE IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF THE SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT

**SEEKING TO WITHDRAW AS A MEMBER OF THE LOCAL SPONSOR OF
DELAWARE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

A motion to establish the date of November 8, 2023, as the date by which motions to intervene regarding the petition of Springfield School District will be received was made by Hon. Pedro Rivera and seconded by Ms. Dungee Glenn.

VOTE: All were in favor as indicated by unanimous voice vote. (Dr. Monica Taylor abstained)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:17 p.m. on a **Williams/Dungee Glenn** motion.

Stephanie L. Jones

Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant