

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

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

May 2, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. by Dr. Lee Williams, Chair of the Council of Basic Education.

Attending:

Hon. Carol Aichele
Sen. Dave Argall
Nathan Barrett
Claire Chi
Katherine Christiano
Aarushi Dedhiya

Sandra Dungee Glenn
Ernest Hadrick
Amanda Hetrick
Natalie Imhoof
Robert Mitchell
Hon. Pedro Rivera

Monica Taylor
Karen Famer White
Lee Williams
Sen. Lindsey Williams
Benjamin Wilson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the January 11, 2024, meeting of the Council of Basic Education were approved on an **Aichele/Barrett** motion.

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

Dr. Carrie Rowe, Deputy Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education, discussed forthcoming changes to Pennsylvania’s system of school assessments that will implement online testing for the PSSA and Keystone Exams by 2026, incorporate technology-enhanced items on the assessments, and reduce the amount of time spent on standardized testing. Dr. Rowe discussed the advantages of online testing, including cost savings, the ability to deliver accommodations to students with disabilities more discreetly, a reduction in administrative tasks for test administration, a reduction in testing time for students, and a quicker return of results to schools. Dr. Rowe said paper and pencil tests will continue to be available as needed for students with disabilities or where students may not have access to the internet. She also discussed efforts the Department is undertaking to determine where there are issues with internet connectivity or equipment and how the Department can be responsive to those needs.

Dr. Rowe said the Department also is developing a free, optional predictive benchmark assessment tool for schools that can help educators better understand whether students are on track to succeed on end-of-year exams and identify issues that then can be addressed earlier in the year. Finally, Dr. Rowe said the Department will provide enhanced integrated reporting for schools that will show either a student has met the proficiency requirement or has demonstrated growth during the year.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Williams shared a status update on the proposed amendments to Chapter 4 that were approved by the Board in January. She shared that the proposed regulation is currently with the Office of Attorney General (OAG) for review. Following approval by OAG, Dr. Williams said the proposed amendments to Chapter 4 will be opened for a 30-day public comment period, transmitted to the Independent Regulatory Review Commission, and transmitted to the House and Senate Education Committees.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m. on an **Aichele/Christiano** motion.

Stephanie Jones

Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant