

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

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

July 11, 2024

Attending:

Hon. Carol Aichele
Nathan Barrett
Nana Bhatia
Brenna Chernich
Katherine Christiano

Yadira Cupeles
Sandra Dungee Glenn
Ernest Hadrick
Amanda Hetrick
Robert Mitchell

Hon. Pedro Rivera
Monica Taylor
Karen Famer White
Lee Williams
Benjamin Wilson

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Dr. Lee Williams, Chair of the Council of Basic Education. Dr. Williams introduced and welcomed Ms. Naina Bhatia, a student at West Chester East High School, who was selected as the new high school junior student member on the Council of Basic Education.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the May 2, 2024, meeting of the Council of Basic Education were approved on an **Aichele/Christiano** motion.

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

Dr. Carrie Rowe, Deputy Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education, reported on activity related to elementary and secondary education. Dr. Rowe discussed the release of raw testing results from the most recent state assessments to schools and noted that accountability data from those assessments will be available later in the fall. Dr. Rowe also provided an update on participation in state assessments and noted that the state's current participation rate stands at 93%, below the 95% federal benchmark for participation. Dr. Rowe discussed the intersection of this benchmark with other federal policy pertaining to the state's eligibility for waivers of a federal requirement that less than 1% of students with disabilities take an alternate state assessment.

Dr. Rowe also provided an update on activity related to gifted education that the Department of Education is undertaking in response to a recommendation of the Board's Special and Gifted Education Committee. She shared that, as requested, the Department has convened an external team of school psychologists to discuss issues pertaining to gifted identification and to

develop related recommendations for the State Board of Education. Dr. Rowe said she anticipated that the workgroup will continue to meet throughout the next school year.

Finally, Dr. Rowe shared that the current contract for the Pennsylvania Inspired Leadership (PIL) program has expired, but was extended through the end of September. She said the Department has released a request for proposals for PIL.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Williams announced that the public comment period on proposed amendments to Chapter 4 opened on June 15 and will close on July 15. Dr. Williams said the proposed rulemaking also was transmitted for review by the Independent Regulatory Review Commission and the House and Senate Committees on Education.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m. on a **Christiano/Aichele** motion.

Stephanie Jones

Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant