

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes

292nd Meeting of the State Board of Education
January 28, 2010

The 292nd meeting of the State Board of Education was convened on Thursday, January 28, 2010, at the Rachel Carson Building, 400 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA 17105. Public notice of the meeting was published in accordance with the Sunshine Meeting Act of 1986. Mr. Joseph Torsella, Chairperson, called this meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

Attending:

Joseph Torsella
Francis Michelini
Connie Davis
Mollie Phillips
Daniel Fogarty
Karen Farmer-White
Francine McNairy
Arnold Hillman

Sandra Dungee Glenn
Sheila Dow Ford
Senator Jeffrey Piccola
Gardiner Kreglow
Travis Gilbert
Andrew Youstic

Absent:

James Barker
James Agras
Esther Bush
Larry Wittig
Corrinne Caldwell
Edward Sheehan, Jr.
Rep. James Roebuck
Sen. Andrew Dinniman
Rep. Paul Clymer
Shannon Farrelly

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Mr. Joseph Torsella, Chairperson, called the State Board of Education to order.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion by Mrs. Connie Davis, seconded by Dr. Francine /McNairy, the minutes of the November 19, 2009 meeting of the State Board of Education were approved by unanimous voice vote.

GENERAL DISCUSSION – SCHOOL CLIMATE STANDARDS

Secretary Gerald Zahorchak updated the Board on the importance of School Climate Standards. A presentation highlighted the impact of bullying, including diminished academic performance for the students involved.

Dr. Zahorchak remarked on the need for better interpersonal skills training for students. Dr. Regina Palubinsky remarked on how climate resources can be integrated with the System Aligned Standards.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

As requested by Chairman Torsella, Dr. Zahorchak will present his report to the State Board at the meeting in March due to the time constraints of this meeting.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

Dr. Gilbert Griffiths presented a written report, which noted that the Commission considered sixteen educator discipline cases at its January 11, 2010 meeting. On January 12, 2010, the Commission hosted a meeting of education stakeholders to begin discussions around amending the Professional Educator Discipline Act. The Commission and the Department have agreed – in principle – that the mediation process set up by the Office of General Counsel should be available to the parties in discipline cases.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. David Lapp offered remarks on School Climate Standards on behalf of the Education Law Center of Philadelphia, PA.

Dr. Judy Bookhamer, Executive Director of the PA School Counselors Association, presented remarks on School Climate Standards on their behalf.

Mr. Vernard Trent, Sr., September Apples Diversified Services, LLC, voiced his comments on School Climate Standards.

Dr. Dianne Reed, Executive Director of CADEKIDS in Philadelphia, PA, presented remarks on their behalf.

ACTION ITEMS

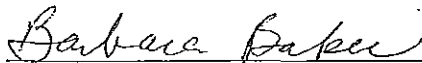
There were no items requiring action at this meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Daniel Fogarty and seconded by Mrs. Sandra Dungee Glenn.



Barbara Baker, Administrative Assistant