

**MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

333 Market Street, Honors Suite, Harrisburg, PA
July 8, 2015

The meeting of the Committee of the Whole was called to order by Chairman Larry Wittig at 1:00 p.m. The meeting of the Council of Higher Education was called to order by Council Chairman James Grandon at 1:05 p.m.

Attending:

James Agras (via phone)	Kirk Hallett	Craig Snider (via phone)
Carol Aichele	Maureen Lally-Green	Lavinia Soliman
Jay Badams	Donald LeCompte	Joshita Varshney
James Barker	Jonathan Peri	Karen Farmer White
Nicole Carnicella	Mollie Phillips	A. Lee Williams
James Grandon	Colleen Sheehan (via phone)	Larry Wittig

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the May 13, 2015 meeting of the Council of Higher Education were approved on a **Peri/Williams** motion.

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Mr. Larry Wittig, Chairman of the State Board of Education, opened the meeting of the Committee of the Whole with the following remarks:

- Introduction and welcome of Lavinia Soliman, new student member of the Council of Higher Education
- Introduction and welcome of Marisa Lehr, new Board legal counsel

**REPORT OF THE ACTING DEPUTY SECRETARY
HIGHER EDUCATION**

Ms. Theresa Barnaby, Director of the Bureau of School Leadership and Teacher Quality, provided the following report:

Supervisor of Elementary K-6 Grade Span Change Proposal

- Certificates issued for Supervisor of Early Childhood Education K-6 and Supervisor of Elementary K-6 do not align with current School Code provisions for certificates in Early Childhood (Pre-K-4) and Elementary/Middle (4-8).

- The Bureau recommends combining the certificates into one covering grades Pre-K-8 based on the following rationale:

- **Background/History**

- Prior to September 22, 2007, certificates issued before January 1, 2013 were limited to early childhood (Pre-K-3); elementary (K-6); and middle level (6-9).
- Effective September 22, 2007, certificates issued on or after January 1, 2013 are limited to early childhood (Pre-K-4) and elementary/middle (4-8).
- These supervisory certificates were overlooked when other certificates were updated.

- **Options**

The Bureau is able to revise the certificate grade levels. There are two options.

1. The certificate grade levels may be adjusted to align with the current instructional early childhood and grades 4-8 certificates:
 - a. From Supervisor of Early Childhood Education K-6 to Supervisor of Early Childhood Education Pre-K-4
 - b. From Supervisor of Elementary K-6 to Supervisor of Grades 4-8
2. The certificates may be replaced by a combined certificate, Supervisor of Grades Pre-K-8, eliminating the early childhood and elementary certificates.

- **Recommendation and Rationale**

The Bureau recommends combining the certificates into one covering grades Pre-K-8 since the previous certificates had identical grade scopes and the middle level was overlooked. This option provides maximum flexibility when assigning staff without sacrificing the quality of the supervisory certificate. The grade scope also models the special education divisions (Special Education Pre-K-8; Special Education 7-12). The new certificate will be titled Supervisor of Grades Pre-K-8.

Division of Veterans/Military Education

- On June 29, 2015, Governor Wolf signed HB 131 into law, becoming Act 11 of 2015. The Act provides an exception to the residency requirement for in-state tuition at public institutions of higher learning to include community colleges, state universities, state-related universities, and public institutions of higher learning licensed under Private Licensed Schools regulations.
- Effective July 1, 2015, GI Bill® beneficiaries including veterans, dependents and other covered individuals who reside in the Commonwealth will be charged the in-state tuition rate at these public institutions of higher learning regardless of meeting residency requirements. This Act makes Pennsylvania compliant with PL 103-147 (The Choice Act).

State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)

- Legislation has been introduced to permit Pennsylvania to join the national reciprocity program for state authorization of distance education providers.
- Membership in SARA is arranged through membership in a regional higher education compact. As one of three states that is not currently a member of a regional compact, the legislation also permits PDE to join a compact for the purposes of joining SARA.
- When PDE finalizes SARA membership, all institutions of higher education in Pennsylvania will be permitted to offer distance education in any member state without seeking additional authorization.
- State authorization can currently cost tens of thousands of dollars each year for each institution and also requires staffing at each institution.

Relay Graduate School of Education – Hearing

- Relay Graduate School of Education applied for approval to establish a campus in Pennsylvania to award a Master of Arts in Teaching. The application was published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin and PDE received a protest and request for a hearing from the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania (AICUP). A hearing officer has been appointed and an informational hearing will be scheduled.

GED Grandfathering

- 6,474 requests have been processed as of July 6, 2015 for grandfathering of prior GED scores.
- 3,682 (57%) individuals have at least one 2002 Series GED® score that is eligible for grandfathering.
- 2,792 (43%) individuals are not eligible for grandfathering, either because they did not take the 2002 Series GED® test or because none of the 2002 Series GED® test scores are eligible.
- 159 individuals already have earned the Commonwealth Secondary School Diploma under the grandfathering option.
- The grandfathering of 2002 Series GED® test scores ends on December 31, 2015.

High School Equivalency Assessments

- Three applicants have responded to the Department's ITQ to offer tests for high school graduation equivalency; the applications will be reviewed and evaluated against criteria of the Division of Adult Education. At least one application will be accepted from a company offering a paper-based test to provide that option, since the new version of the GED® is computer-based only. Ultimately, there may be as many as three different high school equivalency tests accepted by PDE.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.



Karen Molchanow
Executive Director