

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

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

July 11, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 1:33 p.m. by Kirk Hallett.

Attending:

James Agras	Caroline DeWitt	Maureen Lally-Green
Carol Aichele	Sandra Dungee Glenn	Jonathan Peri
James Barker (<i>via phone</i>)	Donald Fey	Ashley Svec
Nathan Barrett	Pamela Gunter-Smith	Karen Farmer White
Nicole Carnicella	Kirk Hallett	A. Lee Williams

OPENING REMARKS

Mr. Hallett shared that the Council had scheduled two public roundtables at the end of June to gather stakeholder input on the draft Master Plan for Basic Education. The roundtable session scheduled in Allentown was canceled due to a lack of registered participants. A roundtable discussion in Pittsburgh was attended by representatives of school districts, intermediate units, student advocacy groups, a career and technical education administrator, education law specialists, and staff from the University of Pittsburgh’s Center for Urban Education. Mr. Hallett said Council members heard a diverse array of perspectives about the issues impacting Pennsylvania’s schools and communities and said the ideas shared at the roundtable will be taken into consideration by the Council as it works to formulate a final draft Master Plan to present to the Board later this fall.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the May 9, 2018, meeting of the Council of Basic Education were approved on an **Aichele/Barrett** motion.

COMMITTEE REPORT
SPECIAL AND GIFTED EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Honorable Maureen Lally-Green, Chair, reported that the Special and Gifted Education Committee convened earlier in the day to consider revisions to the regulations concerning Special Education (Chapter 14). Ms. Lally-Green said the proposed amendments would update terminology used in the regulations to remove references to the phrase “mental retardation” and to replace that phrase with the term “intellectual disability”.

Ms. Lally-Green said the phrase mental retardation is archaic and holds a negative connotation when used in a school or community setting. Further, she noted that the amendments mirror the terminology used in various federal laws and in other state regulations promulgated by the Department of Human Services.

She reported that the Committee acted to approve the updated terminology and to recommend that the Council also support the proposed amendments as a final-omitted regulation.

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Standards Validation

Deputy Secretary Matthew Stem introduced members of his staff – Richard Maraschiello, Project Manager, and Brian Campbell, Director of the Bureau of Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction – to report on the outcomes of the standards validation conducted for the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment in English Language Arts (ELA).

Mr. Campbell reminded the Board that the validation was conducted due to changes in the test design that resulted from reducing the length of the assessment. Mr. Maraschiello said the educators that met in June to conduct the review unanimously recommended that the current ELA cut scores remain valid and should continue to be used. He said the review committee noted that one cut score for Grade 5 Advanced led to impact data that was dissimilar to that of the neighboring grades and recommended that the Department review data on that cut point in the future to determine if there is a need to adjust it.

Sandra Dungee Glenn raised a question related to the cut score for grade 4 Basic and discussed with Mr. Maraschiello the statistical significance of the standards validation findings related to that cut point.

STEM

The Deputy Secretary provided an update on the Department’s priorities related to STEM education, a STEM-ready workforce, and Computer Science coursework. He highlighted STEM-related efforts included in the Wolf Administration’s new PAsmart initiative, National Computer Science Summits, ongoing work of local STEM Ecosystems, and an effort of the Berks County Intermediate Unit to create a summer course in STEM for students experiencing homelessness.

Future Ready PA Index

Mr. Stem recognized Mr. Campbell and Allen Muir from the Bureau of Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction, to walk through a demonstration of the new Future Ready PA Index that the Department is scheduled to launch in the fall. The presentation demonstrated the dynamic manner in which the public reporting system will present disaggregated data for each school in the Commonwealth. The Department staff said the Future Ready PA Index includes multiple on track and college and career measures in addition to state assessment results which is an improvement over prior public reporting systems that rated schools solely on test scores.

Jonathan Peri said that the new reporting system is fabulous, and wondered whether the vast amount of data presented has the potential for unintended negative impacts on communities that don't perform as well as others.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ACTION ITEM

Final-omit Chapter 14 (Special Education)

A motion to approve final-omitted amendments to Chapter 14 (Special Education) was made by the Hon. Lally-Green and seconded by Lee Williams.

VOTE: All were in favor as indicated by unanimous voice vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m. on a **Williams/Lally-Green** motion.



Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant