

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

**333 Market Street, Honors Suite, Harrisburg, PA
March 14, 2018**

The meeting of the Committee of the Whole was called to order by State Board of Education Chair Karen Farmer White at 1:05 p.m.

Attending:

James Agras *(via phone)*
Andrew Ahr
Carol Aichele
James Barker *(via phone)*
Nathan Barrett
Nicole Carnicella

Ellie DeWitt *(via phone)*
Donald Fey
Pamela Gunter-Smith
Kirk Hallett
Shirlann Harmon

Jonathan Peri
Colleen Sheehan *(via phone)*
Craig Snider *(via phone)*
Karen Farmer White
A. Lee Williams

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the January 10, 2018, meeting of the Council of Higher Education were approved on a **Gunter-Smith/Carnicella** motion.

COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Ms. Farmer White welcomed Jonathan Peri to his newly-appointed role as chairman of the Council of Higher Education. Mr. Peri was appointed to that position by Governor Wolf in January.

Ms. Farmer White next acknowledged Secretary of Education Pedro Rivera for his report.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

Secretary Rivera recognized Mr. Peri's new position as chairman of the Council of Higher Education and thanked him for his commitment to higher education.

The Secretary then reviewed in detail the education funding proposals presented in the Governor's Executive Budget proposal in February. Mr. Rivera concluded his report by announcing that 39 institutions of higher education were awarded It's On Us PA grants for 2017-18 as part of the second year of the grant program.

Ms. Farmer White then recognized Council Chairman Peri for the Council of Higher Education.

COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS
COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Mr. Peri called to order the meeting of the Council of Higher Education. He invited members of the Council to submit suggestions or considerations for the Council's agendas. Next, Mr. Peri discussed the book Red Famine and said he would make copies that were donated to Manor College by the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center available on loan to members of the Board. Mr. Peri said the book related to the Board's recent work on Act 70 and represents the newest research by a credible researcher on the subject of the genocide in Ukraine in the 1930s at the hands of Stalin. Finally, Mr. Peri shared informational pamphlets containing data on private higher education in Pennsylvania that were produced by the Association of Independent College and Universities of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Peri then acknowledged Deputy Secretary Noe Ortega for his report.

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY
POSTSECONDARY AND HIGHER EDUCATION

Mr. Ortega, Deputy Secretary of Postsecondary and Higher Education, welcomed Mr. Peri as the new Council Chairman.

Deputy Secretary Ortega opened his report with updates on various efforts of the Office of Postsecondary and Higher Education (OPHE). He announced that OPHE is working in partnership with the Center for Great Teachers and Leaders at the American Institutes for Research to hold three regional stakeholder meetings to discuss indicators of educator effectiveness. He further reported that OPHE is working on implementation of recommendations in the ESSA State Plan by engaging regional and national partners and stakeholders to examine models, research, and best practices of educator residencies to ensure that teachers and school leaders enter schools and classrooms learner-ready. OPHE also is working with cross-sector partners to identify and implement strategies for supporting school counselors throughout the commonwealth.

Mr. Ortega next discussed OPHE's work on transfer and articulation in higher education, as directed by Act 55's expansion of the state transfer system to include standards for awarding credit for prior learning such as AP, IB, CLEP, and DANTES exams. He noted that the Transfer and Articulation Oversight Committee will meet to develop uniform standards for awarding credit for these forms of prior learning.

The Deputy Secretary went on to provide an update on the work of the College Textbook Policies Advisory Committee and said the Committee is working to formulate its report due in 2018. He then discussed OPHE's engagement with Complete College America in employing strategies to ensure students can access educational opportunities and persist toward completion. He also discussed the connection between this work and the objectives of Pennsylvania's postsecondary attainment goal. Mr. Ortega then reported on the 2017-18 Governor's It's On Us PA Grants recently awarded to 39 institutions.

Finally, Mr. Ortega reported that the Division of Adult Education completed the submission of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (WIOA) Combined State Plan modifications, which were approved by the Pennsylvania State Workforce Board in February 13.

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Lee Williams announced, that Erie County submitted supplemental documentation to its plan to establish a new community college. She said the submission was made in response to a request from the Board's Special Committee on the Erie County Community College Plan seeking either additional or clarifying information on the county's proposal. Dr. Williams said the Special Committee will review the materials submitted by Erie, and noted that the supplementary documents were made available for review by all members of the Board and by the Department of Education.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:41 p.m.



Karen Molchanow