

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

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

March 13, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 2:15 p.m. by Mr. Kirk Hallett.

Attending:

James Agras (<i>via phone</i>)	Nicole Carnicella	Jonathan Peri
Carol Aichele	Donald Fey	Arynn Pratt
James Barker (<i>via phone</i>)	Pamela Gunter-Smith	Ashley Svec
Nathan Barrett	Kirk Hallett	Karen Farmer White
Jamie Bracey-Green	Jeffrey Keeling	A Lee Williams
	Maureen Lally-Green (<i>via phone</i>)	

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the January 9, 2019, meeting of the Council of Basic Education were approved on a **Williams/Barrett** motion.

COMMITTEE REPORT
SPECIAL AND GIFTED EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Honorable Carol Aichele, a member of the Special and Gifted Education Committee, reported that the Committee met earlier in the day to discuss recommendations in response to gifted education issues that were raised by stakeholders during public roundtables last fall. Ms. Aichele said the Committee adopted 12 recommendations in response to the varied issues before it. Ms. Aichele said a copy of the recommendations was made available to all Board members and would be forwarded to the Department with a request that the Department provide a report on implementation of the recommendations in one year.

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Deputy Secretary Matthew Stem introduced Rosemary Hughes for an update on school improvement efforts under the state's Every Student Succeeds Act plan. Mr. Stem noted that, in the fall of 2018, the Department designated 97 schools for Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) and 193 schools for Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (A-TSI). Ms. Hughes reported on progress in the implementation of Pennsylvania's system for LEA and school improvement.

Lee Williams shared accolades for the school improvement system and said she enjoyed prior visits with schools involved in a pilot of the system. Dr. Williams asked if the pilot program has transferred into student success. Ms. Hughes shared that most pilot schools felt as if they had greater support at the district level and that LEAs were engaged in the pilot program which contributed to a shared commitment to the work and shared responsibility.

Ms. Stem next introduced Carol Kuntz, Director of the Office for Safe Schools, and Dr. Nikole Hollins-Sims, an Educational Consultant with the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network, for a report on efforts to improve equity in Pennsylvania schools. Ms. Kuntz and Dr. Hollins-Sims spoke to efforts to support LEAs in creating and maintaining school settings that celebrate diversity and inclusion.

Jonathan Peri commended the presenters for their positive work to create equity in schools. Pamela Gunter-Smith also expressed her thanks for their work related to equity and inclusion. Dr. Gunter-Smith asked what metric would be used to evaluate the effort's success over time. Dr. Hollins-Sims shared that an evaluation is in the development phase. Ms. Kuntz shared that a natural metric was built into a PILS course for administrators.

Jamie Bracey-Green asked how this work is aligned with school improvement. Mr. Stem shared that silos of great work are happening and noted that his colleague, Dr. Sherri Smith, is working on comprehensive planning to bring these efforts together.

Related to the Department's work on equity and inclusion, Nathan Barrett shared a success story about a community infusion project involving an immigrant community in his school district.

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 3:17 p.m. on a **Williams/Aichele** motion.



Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant