

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

**333 Market Street | 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17126**

**July 10, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Chairman Dr. James Barker.

**Attending:**

James Agras	Anne Griffin	Jonathan Peri
Carol Aichele	Pamela Gunter-Smith	Ashley Svec
James Barker	Kirk Hallett	Jillian Sweigard
Jamie Bracey-Green	Jeffrey Keeling	A Lee Williams
Nicole Carnicella ( <i>via phone</i> )	Maureen Lally-Green	Karen Farmer White
Sandra Dungee Glenn		

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the May 8, 2019, meeting of the Council of Basic Education were approved on a **Hallett/Lally-Green** motion.

**REPORT OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR  
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**

Deputy Secretary Matthew Stem recounted that at the Council's last meeting on May 8, 2019, he presented background on changes to high school graduation requirements in Pennsylvania enacted by Act 158. He reminded the Council that the Act required the Secretary of Education to develop a recommended Keystone Exam Composite Score subject to approval by the State Board of Education. Mr. Stem noted that, in May, the Department of Education presented a recommended composite score of 4452 and, as part of that presentation, explained how that recommendation was derived to take into consideration two standard errors. He said the composite score will allow for a student that may be stronger in one or more areas and weaker in others to have a pathway to graduate based on performance on the Keystone Exams.

Dr. Barker asked for clarification between standard deviation and standard error. Dr. Richard Maraschiello, Consultant to the Department, provided a technical explanation of the differences.

Sandra Dungee Glenn asked what year pathways including the Keystone Exam Composite Score take effect as graduation requirements. Deputy Secretary Stem shared that new graduation requirement take effect with the class of 2022.

**PRESENTATION**  
**RECOMMENDED PERFORMANCE LEVEL DESCRIPTORS AND CUT SCORES FOR**  
**THE PENNSYLVANIA ALTERNATE SYSTEM OF ASSESSMENT IN ENGLISH**  
**LANGUAGE ARTS AND MATHEMATICS**

Lynda Lupp, Statewide Special Education Assessment Coordinator with PaTTAN, and Lisa Hampe, Special Education Adviser with the Department of Education, reviewed the standards setting process that was used to develop recommended cut scores and revised performance level descriptors for the Pennsylvania Alternate System of Assessments (PASA) exams administered in English Language Arts and Mathematics. Ms. Lupp and Ms. Hampe discussed the population of students that take the PASA, and noted that the standards setting was necessary due to changes in the design of the PASA to move from three levels of complexity to two levels of complexity. They reviewed results of the standard setting process and presented the Secretary of Education’s recommendation to the Board on the PASA cut scores.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**KEYSTONE EXAM COMPOSITE SCORE**

A motion to establish the satisfactory Keystone Exam Composite Score at 4452, as recommended by the Secretary of Education, was made by Jeffrey Keeling and seconded by A. Lee Williams.

VOTE: All were in favor as indicated by unanimous voice vote, and the recommended composite score was transmitted to the State Board of Education for its consideration.

**PERFORMANCE LEVEL DESCRIPTORS AND CUT SCORES FOR THE**  
**PENNSYLVANIA ALTERNATE SYSTEM OF ASSESSMENT IN ENGLISH**  
**LANGUAGE ARTS AND MATHEMATICS**

A motion to approve revised Performance Level Descriptors and cut scores for the Pennsylvania Alternate System of Assessment in English Language Arts and Mathematics, as recommended by the Department of Education, was made by Maureen Lally-Green and seconded by Kirk Hallett.

VOTE: All were in favor as indicated by unanimous voice vote, and the recommended Performance Level Descriptors and cut scores were transmitted to the State Board of Education for its consideration.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m. on a **Hallett/Williams** motion.



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Stephanie Jones  
Administrative Assistant