

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

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

March 13, 2019

The meeting of the Council of Higher Education was called to order by Council Chair Jonathan Peri at 1:05 P.M.

Attending:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the January 9, 2019, meeting of the Council of Higher Education were approved on a **Bracey-Green/Carnicella** motion.

**REPORT OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY
POSTSECONDARY AND HIGHER EDUCATION**

Noe Ortega, Deputy Secretary of the Office of Postsecondary and Higher Education (OPHE), offered highlights of his written report on the following topics:

- Chapter 49
 - OPHE continue to offer support to the Board during its public hearings on the Secretary's proposed revisions to Chapter 49
- Supporting Clinical Residencies
 - 2019-2020 Innovative Teacher and Principal Residency Grant Program Guidelines were released with an application deadline set for March 29, 2019
- Computer Science Guidelines
 - OPHE released computer science guidelines that establish a new certification pathway and outline subject-specific competencies for teachers. OPHE anticipates the first computer science teachers to graduate in the spring of 2021.
- Educator Workforce Diversity
 - Since the beginning of 2019, OPHE has held roundtable discussions at higher education institutions aimed at engaging stakeholders in conversations about

educator diversity. OPHE has asked higher education institutions to develop a support system for teachers once they are in employed; hoping to develop a comprehensive roadmap that helps begin to address this problem.

- Parent Pathway Models
 - OPHE is currently examining exemplar models and programs around the country that target economically disadvantaged single parents and provide them with an opportunity to complete a college degree. OPHE is working with the Department of Labor and Industry to convene programs this summer.
- Engaging School Counselors
 - OPHE continues its work with the Pennsylvania School Counselors Association to launch a series of regional counselor symposia aimed at providing school counselors with the tools and resources needed to enhance their ongoing efforts to guide students on pathways to postsecondary success.
- Statewide College Credit Transfer System
 - OPHE and the Transfer and Articulation Oversight Committee established common cut scores for AP and CLEP exams to take effect for all transfer system colleges and universities in fall 2019. Act 55 of 2017 expanded the statewide transfer system to include uniform standards for awarding credit for prior learning.
- ACT 121 Student Loan Letter
 - OPHE is working with the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency, the Pennsylvania Student Financial Aid Association, and others to develop an implementation plan that requires higher education institutions that receive federal education student loan information to provide notices to students about their loans and repayment on an annual basis.
- Institution Closure
 - The Art Institute of Pittsburgh plans to shut down its operations on March 8, 2019. OPHE has been in touch with the institution and has acquired a list of schools willing to offer transfer opportunities to affected students.

Jamie Bracey-Green commended the Department's work in developing computer science certification guidelines. Regarding educator workforce diversity, Dr. Bracey-Green suggested that there be a focus on minority-serving institutions and aligning resources to support capacity-building for the teacher workforce at those institutions. Deputy Secretary Ortega replied that OPHE's roundtable discussions with higher education institutions are providing perspective on where the Department can maximize investments to meet its goal of diversifying the educator pipeline, as well as creating more culturally inclusive climates at institutions of higher education.

Dr. Bracey-Green asked where the Department has a strategic focus on efforts such as 2+2+2 programs. Deputy Secretary Ortega replied that such programs are fantastic model for affordability and that providing students with early exposure to the rigors of college improves the likelihood that they will succeed.

Dr. Peri commended the proposed Parent Pathways initiative. He expressed continued concerns about Act 121 and said careful consideration is needed as the Act is implemented.

PRESENTATION
PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
ANNUAL REPORT ON CERTIFICATION

Dr. Debra Heath-Thornton, Director of the Bureau of School Leadership and Teacher Quality, and Dr. Christina Baumer, Division Chief for Professional Education and Teacher Quality, presented the Department of Education's annual Human Capital Report to the Board. The report included data on educator preparation and certification, enrollment trends in traditional educator preparation programs, and current and projected educator workforce needs. The report also touched on Department of Education initiatives to recruit, retain, and diversify the educator workforce.

Dr. Peri expressed various concerns about decreased enrollment in teacher preparation programs, the number of emergency certifications, and the lack of inclusion of private higher education institutions in the Troops to Teachers initiative. Pamela Gunter-Smith also encouraged the Department to include private institutions in grants provided under Troops to Teachers.

Dr. Bracey-Green asked if the Department requires exit interviews for teachers leaving the field who have been teaching for 5 years or less and whether cultural competence can be infused into teacher preparation. Matthew Stem, Deputy Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education, said teacher turnover is a national issue and that there is a recognized need to create incentives for teachers to remain in the field and to provide them with professional development on building necessary skills for cultural competencies. Deputy Secretary Ortega said the Department needs to consider how it collects information necessary to address these issues and how that data is best utilized.

Kirk Hallett asked what is being done to encourage students to enter teaching. Mr. Stem stated that his office is working on career education and work standards that focus on assisting students in their career pathways.

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m. on a **Carnicella/Gunter-Smith** motion.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Molchanow".

Karen Molchanow