

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

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

September 9, 2020

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

Attending:

Hon. Carol Aichele
James Barker
Nathan Barrett
Jamie Bracey-Green
Nicole Carnicella

Anne Griffin
Pamela Gunter-Smith
Jeffrey Keeling
Hon. Maureen Lally-Green
Jonathan Peri

Eva Rankin
Hon. James Roebuck
Taiba Sultana
Hon. Curt Sonney
Karen Farmer White
Lee Williams

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the January 8, 2020, meeting of the Council of Basic Education were approved on a **Lally-Green/Aichele** motion.

**COMMITTEE REPORT
COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC STANDARDS/CHAPTER 4**

Dr. Lee Williams, Chair of the Committee on Academic Standards/Chapter 4, provided an update on the Committee meeting held earlier in the day. Dr. Williams reminded the Council that, one year ago, the Board directed the Department of Education to undertake an effort to develop recommended updates to the state’s academic standards for science to align the standards with current research and best practices in science education. Dr. Williams said the Department presented its recommendations to the Committee, and that the Committee adopted them for consideration as proposed amendments to 22 Pa. Code Chapter 4 and recommended that the Council of Basic Education take parallel action.

Dr. Williams noted that changes to academic standards must be made through the regulatory review process and reminded members that this two-stage process would include additional opportunities for comment both by members of the public and other state policy leaders before the Board would consider a final regulation.

In addition to approving proposed updates to the state’s science standards, Dr. Williams said the Committee also approved technical amendments to Chapter 4 to align the regulation with recent statutory changes to high school graduation requirements, lowering of the compulsory school age to 6, and terminology updates that replaced references to “vocational-

technical education” with “Career and Technical Education” and references to “Area Vocational-Technical School” with “Area Career and Technical School.”

Finally, Dr. Williams said the Committee recognized that successful implementation of new science standards will require time for school entities to align curriculum and provide professional development to staff, time for educator preparation programs to incorporate standards into preservice instruction, and time for the Department to develop and deploy resources to support implementation by school entities and to align related state assessments. Therefore, the Committee proposed further amendments to Chapter 4 that would require proposed new science standards to be fully implemented in classroom instruction beginning in the 2024-25 school year.

PRESENTATION
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR UPDATING PENNSYLVANIA’S ACADEMIC
STANDARDS IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

Judd Pittman, Special Consultant to the Secretary of Education for STEM, presented the Department’s recommendations for updates to the current academic standards in Science & Technology and Environment & Ecology. In crafting the recommendations, Mr. Pittman said the Department held true to its values of equity, innovation, and openness by establishing a stakeholder-driven process to review the existing standards and develop recommended updates. Mr. Pittman provided an overview of the stakeholder engagement process and the work conducted by Content and Steering Committees in drafting the recommendations.

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Deputy Secretary Matthew Stem provided updates to the Board on the start of the 2020-21 school year. Throughout the late spring and summer, Mr. Stem said school leaders and their governing boards began to create local plans for the start of the school year. This process required extensive communication, collaboration, and trust building at the local level due to balancing competing demands for mitigation in a pandemic while providing the highest quality education possible. Understanding that, Mr. Stem said the Department aimed to provide as many resources and guidance as possible to assist with local efforts. Mr. Stem reviewed supports made available to the field, including a template for schools to submit their instructional days and hours in the context of hybrid and remote instructional models, guidance related to mitigating the spread of COVID-19 in schools including county-level transmission metrics, recommendations on responding to COVID-19 cases, and a process chart for school nurses to identify symptomatic students and staff. Mr. Stem also discussed an interagency effort to support a rapid response center that is accessible seven days a week to assist school leaders with handling cases of COVID-19 in their buildings. Mr. Stem said the Department also created an equitable systems roadmap for education leaders as a repository of instructional-related supports for teachers and administrators.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ACTION ITEMS

CHAPTER 4 (PROPOSED)

A motion to adopt proposed amendments to Chapter 4, inclusive of amendments presented in the Annex, and the Pennsylvania Standards for Integrated Science, Environment, Ecology, Technology and Engineering (grades K-5), the Pennsylvania Standards for Integrated Science, Environment and Ecology (grades 6-12), and the Pennsylvania Technology and Engineering Standards (grades 6-12) presented in Appendix B-1, was made by Dr. Lee Williams and seconded by Hon. Maureen Lally-Green.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Eva Rankin, the Council's Junior Student Member, thanked those involved in the revision of the state's science standards and appreciated the inclusion of students in the process. Ms. Rankin and Anne Griffin, the Council's Senior Student Member, believe their role as student representatives to the Board requires them to amplify the student perspective at the highest level of policymaking in Pennsylvania. Through an overhaul of the PASTudentRep social media Instagram account, Ms. Rankin said they have achieved a broader reach and a more professional appearance. Ms. Rankin and Ms. Griffin plan to kickstart a virtual platform for students to connect with their student representatives on the Board. Aided by the Pennsylvania Association of Student Councils, Ms. Rankin said she and Ms. Griffin will push to share this platform with as many students as possible and will report feedback to the Council.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m. on a **Barker/Williams** motion.



Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant