

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

**Virtual Skype Meeting**

**July 8, 2020**

The meeting of the Council of Higher Education was called to order by Council Chair Dr. Jonathan Peri at 1:11 p.m.

**Attending:**

James Agras  
Hon. Carol Aichele  
James Barker  
Nathan Barrett  
Nicole Carnicella  
Hon. Andy Dinniman  
Sandra Dungee Glenn

Anne Griffin  
Pamela Gunter-Smith  
Jeffrey Keeling  
Hon. Maureen Lally-Green  
Hon. Wayne Langerholc  
Jonathan Peri  
Eva Rankin

Hon. James Roebuck  
Hon. Curt Sonney  
Karen Farmer White  
A. Lee Williams

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the November 13, 2019, meeting of the Council of Higher Education were approved on a **Peri/Gunter-Smith** motion.

The minutes of the January 8, 2020, meeting of the Council of Higher Education were approved on an **Agras/Dungee Glenn** motion.

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

Noe Ortega, Deputy Secretary of Postsecondary and Higher Education, introduced Dr. Debra Heath-Thornton to present the Department of Education's annual Human Capital Report. Dr. Heath-Thornton presented data on the status of the teacher workforce in Pennsylvania, including the number of certification programs and program providers, postsecondary enrollment data, enrollment trends, teacher shortages, and subject area shortages.

Data show a continued decline in enrollment in educator preparation programs since 2010. Concern surrounding teacher shortages was demonstrated by data showing an increase in the number of emergency permits issued annually and measures of the educator supply gap facing Pennsylvania including the number of educators with 30 or more years of service or who are age 55 or older compared to the number of new certificates issued by the Department. Dr. Heath-Thornton then shared data on the top seven subject area shortages in 2018-19.

Dr. Heath-Thornton also addressed the Department's commitment to ensuring that low-income and minority students attending Title I schools are equitably served by effective educators. She presented school-level data on educator effectiveness by low-income quartile

and by non-white quartile. She concluded by reviewing various initiatives supported by the Department focused on increasing educator diversity and addressing educator supply concerns.

**PRESENTATION**  
**EFFORTS RELATED TO EDUCATOR DIVERSITY**

Dr. Donna-Marie Cole-Malott and Dr. David Monk, with the Department of Education, were joined by Sharif El-Mekki, with the Center for Black Educator Development, to discuss efforts to improve educator diversity in the Commonwealth, such as the Aspiring to Educate Program and the proposal before the Board to adopt competencies for educators in culturally relevant and sustaining education (CRSE).

Representative Sonney asked if young teachers entering the field are leaving both the state and the profession or just leaving the state. Mr. Ortega stated that in most cases they are leaving the profession, but sometimes leave for competitive salaries outside of Pennsylvania.

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
**TEACHER AND SCHOOL LEADER EFFECTIVENESS COMMITTEE**

Sandra Dungee Glenn, Chair of the Teacher and School Leader Effectiveness Committee, reported that the Committee met earlier in the day and approved proposed amendments to Chapter 49. Ms. Dungee Glenn said the foundation for the amendments reflects recommendations made by the Secretary of Education that further were refined by the Committee based input gathered from stakeholders at multiple public hearings. She noted that the majority of revisions align the regulation to statutory changes, clarify ambiguous language, and update language for relevancy. Ms. Dungee Glenn then reviewed in detail other proposed amendments to the Chapter, including extending the length of induction programming and requirements for all educators to receive training in new competencies both as part of preservice instruction, induction, and professional development. New competencies addressed in the proposal include mental wellness, trauma-informed instruction, cultural awareness, virtual instruction, professional ethics, and structured literacy. In addition to approving amendments to Chapter 49, Ms. Dungee Glenn said the Committee also made recommendations to the Department on addressing issues raised by stakeholders outside of Chapter 49. Among these were a recommendation that the Department review Chapter 354 and a recommendation to update the student teaching evaluation.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Marie Conti stated she was disappointed that a dedicated pathway for Montessori educators to receive Pennsylvania certification was not included in Chapter 49.

**ACTION ITEM**

**PROPOSED CHAPTER 49 (CERTIFICATION OF PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL)**

A motion to approve proposed amendments to Chapter 49 and transmit the amendments to the State Board of Education for its consideration was made by Sandra Dungee Glenn and seconded by Pamela Gunter-Smith.

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:09 p.m. on a **Dungee Glenn / Gunter-Smith** motion.

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

Karen Molchanow  
Executive Director