

**MINUTES  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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

**March 18, 2020**

The 355<sup>th</sup> special meeting of the State Board of Education was convened virtually on Wednesday, March 18, 2020. Due to public health measures being implemented across the Commonwealth to address COVID-19, members of the Board and members of the public participated in the meeting virtually via webinar and teleconference. Public notice of the meeting was made in accordance with the Sunshine Meeting Act of 1986. The meeting was called to order at 1:49 p.m. by Chair Karen Farmer White.

**Attending:**

James Agras  
Carol Aichele  
James Barker  
Nathan Barrett  
Jamie Bracey-Green

Nicole Carnicella  
Sandra Dungee Glenn  
Pamela Gunter-Smith  
Jeffrey Keeling  
Maureen Lally-Green

Jonathan Peri  
James Roebuck  
Karen Farmer White  
A. Lee Williams

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the January 8, 2020, meeting of the State Board of Education were approved on a **Carnicella/Peri** motion.

**PRESENTATION**

**ACT 158 OF 2018: SECRETARY OF EDUCATION'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON  
ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENT AND EVIDENCE-BASED PATHWAYS FOR  
GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

Matt Stem, Deputy Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education, introduced Brian Campbell, Director of the Bureau of Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction. Mr. Stem reviewed how the Keystone Exams are used to determine whether a student has satisfied state graduation requirements through either a demonstration of proficiency or attainment of a composite score. Mr. Stem also reviewed statutory provisions for high school graduation specific to students that are Career and Technical Education concentrators.

Mr. Campbell then presented recommended scores on alternative assessments, including the SAT, PSAT, ACT, Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery exam, Advanced Placement (AP) exams, and International Baccalaureate (IB) exams, that may be used in determining whether a student has demonstrated readiness for postsecondary success. For the AP and IB exams, Mr. Campbell also presented recommended course equivalencies. He discussed the rationale for why each score was recommended to be used under the Alternative Assessment pathway established in Act 158 of 2018.

Mr. Campbell next presented recommended established scores for the ACT WorkKeys Assessment, SAT Subject Test, AP, and IB exams as they would be used under the Evidence-Based pathway established in Act 158. He also presented a recommendation that the list of additional evidence established in Act 158 be approved without modification.

Sandra Dungee Glenn inquired about the current percentage of students scoring proficient or advanced on the Keystone Exams. Mr. Stem replied that it ranged from 60%-70% depending on the exam.

Ms. Dungee Glenn said she continue to hold concerns regarding equitable access for all students to all graduation pathways. She requested that the Department of Education monitor whether districts provide access to AP courses and other avenues that can be used as graduation pathways in addition to the required reporting on graduation rates and which pathways were used to meet graduation requirements. Ms. Dungee Glenn said it will be helpful to know how many schools will be able to take advantage of each pathway as part of reporting.

Rep. James Roebuck stated that students need clear options for career pathways so that they are not left wandering once they reach postsecondary education. He said some students do not even know that AP exists as an option, and commented that we need to do a better job to help students understand the opportunities available to them and how to transition from high school to postsecondary to reach these opportunities. Deputy Secretary Stem agreed and stated that Career Education and Work standards were incorporated into the PA Future Ready Index in recognition of this as a priority.

Dr. Jamie Bracey-Green stated that participating in dual credit programs with an institution of higher education is a greater predictor of postsecondary success than AP or IB courses. She asked whether the Department had considered dual credit pathways as equally important. Mr. Stem said the Department tracks data on dual credit opportunities and can present that to the Board at a later date.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

David Dix stated that he is a passionate advocate for creating a community college in Erie County. He said Erie's 300,000 residents are waiting for action on the county's community college plan. He further stated that the COVID-19 crisis has exacerbated the need for a community college in the region.

### **ACTION ITEM**

### **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS: ESTABLISHED SCORES FOR ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENTS AND EVIDENCE-BASED PATHWAYS FOR GRADUATION**

Dr. James Barker moved, and Dr. Jonathan Peri seconded, the following motion:

That the State Board of Education approve the following established scores on approved alternative assessments as follows and that the established scores on these assessments be

utilized consistent with the alternative assessment pathway for graduation as defined in Section 1-121(c.1)(2) of the Public School Code:

- For the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), a score of 1010
- For the PSAT, a score of 970
- For the ACT, a score of 21
- For an Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery exam, the minimum score to gain admittance to a branch of the armed services in the year the student graduates
- For an Advanced Placement exam, a score of three on an AP exam related to one of the following courses that are equivalent to the Algebra Keystone Exam:
  - AP Calculus AB
  - AP Calculus BC
  - AP Computer Science A
  - AP Computer Science Principles
  - AP Statistics
  - AP Physics 1: Algebra Based
  - AP Physics 2: Algebra Based
  - AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism
  - AP Physics C: Mechanics
  - AP Chemistry
- For an Advanced Placement exam, a score of three on an AP exam related to one of the following courses that are equivalent to the Literature Keystone Exam:
  - AP English Language and Composition
  - AP English Literature and Composition
- For an Advanced Placement exam, a score of three on an AP exam related to one of the following courses that are equivalent to the Biology Keystone Exam:
  - AP Biology
  - AP Environmental Science
  - AP Chemistry
  - AP Physics 1: Algebra-Based
  - AP Physics 2: Algebra-Based

- AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism
- AP Physics C: Mechanics
- For an International Baccalaureate exam, a score of four on an IB exam related to one of the following courses that are equivalent to the Algebra Keystone Exam:
  - IB Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches SL
  - IB Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches HL
  - IB Mathematics: Applications and Interpretation SL
  - IB Mathematics: Applications and Interpretation HL
  - IB Computer Science
  - IB Chemistry
  - IB Physics
- For an International Baccalaureate exam, a score of four on an IB exam related to one of the following courses that are equivalent to the Literature Keystone Exam:
  - IB Language A: Literature
  - IB Language A: Language and Literature
  - IB Literature and Performance
- For an International Baccalaureate exam, a score of four on an IB exam related to one of the following courses that are equivalent to the Biology Keystone Exam:
  - IB Biology
  - IB Chemistry
  - IB Design Technology
  - IB Physics
  - IB Sports, Exercise and Health Science

And be it further moved, that the Board approve the following established scores on approved alternative assessments as follows and that these established scores be utilized consistent with the evidence-based pathway for graduation as defined in Section 1-121(c.1)(3) of the Public School Code:

- For the ACT WorkKeys assessment, attainment of the Silver Level
- For a SAT Subject Test, a score of 630
- For an AP program exam, a score of three
- For an IB Diploma program exam, a score of three

And, finally, be it further moved, that Board approve the list of evidence established in Section 1-121(c.1)(3)(ii) of the Public School Code, without modification.

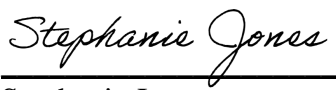
VOTE: All were in favor as indicated by unanimous voice vote.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:54 p.m. on a **Gunter-Smith/Williams** motion.

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**Stephanie Jones**  
Administrative Assistant