

**MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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

November 9-10, 2022

The 371st meeting of the State Board of Education (Board) was convened on Wednesday, November 9, 2022. Public notice of the meeting was made in accordance with the Sunshine Meeting Act of 1986. Chair Karen Farmer White called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and recessed the meeting at 1:04 p.m. The Board reconvened at the Call of the Chair on Thursday, November 10, 2022, at 8:40 a.m.

Attending:

James Agras
Hon. Carol Aichele
Nathan Barrett
Nicole Carnicella
Claire Chi

Sandra Dungee Glenn
Reva Gandhi
Natalie Imhoof
Hon. Mark Longietti
Hon. Scott Martin

Hon. Pedro Rivera
Hon. Curt Sonney
Karen Farmer White
Lee Williams

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the September 15, 2022, meeting of the Board were approved on an **Aichele/Lee Williams** motion.

CHAIRPERSON’S REMARKS

Chair Farmer White shared that the Senate of Pennsylvania recently confirmed Amanda Hetrick and Dr. Monica Taylor as new members of the Board. Ms. Hetrick currently serves as the Superintendent of the Forest Area School District. Dr. Taylor is the Graduate Program Director and an Associate Professor in the Kinesiology Department at Temple University. Ms. Farmer White also noted that Dr. Jamie Bracey-Green recently submitted her resignation from the Board after four years of service as a member of the Council of Higher Education.

**COMMITTEE REPORT
SPECIAL AND GIFTED EDUCATION**

Hon. Carol Aichele, Member of the Special and Gifted Education Committee, shared that the Committee held three regional roundtables in October to gather stakeholder input on the regulations governing gifted education in 22 Pa. Code Chapter 16. The Hon. Aichele said roundtables were held in Harrisburg, Pittsburgh, and Malvern using a hybrid virtual and in-person format. In total, the Committee heard from 15 participants during the roundtables who shared perspectives from parents, gifted education teachers and administrators, Intermediate Unit gifted education liaisons, and higher education faculty. The Hon. Aichele said the Committee also accepted written comments on Chapter 16 through the end of October so that individuals who were unable to attend one of the roundtable discussions had an avenue to have their voices heard. Ten comments were submitted in writing.

The Hon. Aichele said stakeholders raised a variety of issues for consideration. The Committee heard requests to amend Chapter 16 to establish standard criteria for universal screening, requests to mandate training on gifted education for teachers and administrators, and requests to revise the reevaluation process for students who wish to voluntarily exit gifted services. The Committee also heard requests from parents to more explicitly address the needs of twice exceptional students. The Hon. Aichele said other stakeholders raised concerns about the caseload for gifted education teachers and the lack of dedicated state funding to support gifted education.

The Hon. Aichele said all comments that were shared at the roundtables and in writing are accessible to Board members on Sharepoint and a summary of the issues identified by stakeholders will be shared. The Hon. Aichele said the Committee will review the feedback received on gifted education over the next few months and will determine whether or not to recommend proposed revisions to Chapter 16.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Hon. Pedro Rivera shared that the Council of Higher education met on November 9, 2022, and acted to table the Master Plan for Higher Education for consideration at a future meeting.

REPORT OF THE ACTING SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

Eric Hagarty, Acting Secretary of Education, acknowledged Rep. Curt Sonney, Majority Chair of the House Education Committee, and Rep. Mark Longiotti, Minority Chair of the House Education Committee, for their contributions to education in Pennsylvania as they retire from the General Assembly at the end of the current session. Mr. Hagarty noted that today marked their last meeting in service to the Board.

Mr. Hagarty then shared that the Erie City School District made history as the first school district in the Commonwealth to be removed from the financial watch list after more than five years of recovery efforts. Mr. Hagarty also provided an update on updated on education-related actions from the end of the legislative session. He announced that the Universal Free Breakfast Program took effect on October 1, 2022, and will run through the end of the 2022-23 school year. Mr. Hagarty also provided an update on implementation of recent amendments to Chapter 49 implementation.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Karen Farmer White announced that the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education withdrew its petition seeking waiver of a regulation. As such, there was no new business for consideration by the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ACTION ITEM

Resolution Honoring Dr. Jamie Bracey-Green

A motion to approve a resolution honoring Dr. Jamie Bracey-Green was made by the Hon. Carol Aichele and seconded by Jim Agras.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Farmer White announced that final-omitted amendments to Chapter 11 (Student Attendance) and Chapter 12 (Students and Student Services) are now in effect. The amendments, which were approved by the Board in July 2022, were approved by the Independent Regulatory Review Commission on October 20 and published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* on November 5. Ms. Farmer White said the amendments make references to compulsory school age in those regulations consistent with changes to the ages for compulsory school attendance that previously were enacted by the General Assembly.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned on November 10, 2022, at 8:57 a.m. on a **Lee Williams/Aichele** motion.



Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant