

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

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

November 9, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 1:25 p.m. by Council Chair Dr. Lee Williams.

Attending:

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

Reva Gandhi
Natalie Imhoof
Sarah Jordan
Jeffrey Keeling
Hon. Mark Longietti

Hon. Pedro Rivera
Hon. Curt Sonney
Karen Famer White
Lee Williams
Hon. Lindsey Williams

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the September 14, 2022, meeting of the Council of Basic Education were approved on an **Aichele/Barrett** motion.

COMMITTEE REPORT
SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Mr. Nathan Barrett, Chair of the School and University Safety Committee, reported that the Committee met earlier in the day to open a required review of the model Memorandum of Understanding that is published in the State Board of Education’s (Board) regulations at 22 Pa. Code Chapter 10 (Safe Schools). Mr. Barrett said the Public School Code directs the Board to review the model MOU every two years and to determine whether any changes to it are necessary. The model MOU last was reviewed in the fall of 2020. Mr. Barrett said the model MOU is a voluntary document that schools in Pennsylvania can use to fulfill their legal obligation to execute a formal agreement with their local police governing their relationship in the reporting and resolution of incidents that occur on school property, at a school-sponsored activity, or on a conveyance as described in the Safe Schools Act.

Mr. Barrett shared that Scott Kuren, Director of the Safe Schools Office, met with the Committee to provide an update on the status of the MOUs that are required to be filed with his office. Mr. Kuren shared that the Board’s Model MOU is widely used in the field and that stakeholders from the field who were engaged by his office provided positive feedback on the model MOU and recommended no major changes. Mr. Barrett noted that the Office of Safe Schools recommended including a field on the front page labeled “Two-year Period” to identify the years covered by MOUs filed with the Office of Safe Schools in order improve procedures related to reporting and monitoring of MOUs.

Mr. Barrett said the Committee’s next step in reviewing the model MOU is to extend an opportunity for interested stakeholders to submit comments on the document in writing for the Committee’s consideration. Written comments will be accepted through January 31, 2023.

**REPORT OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**

Dr. Jeffrey Fuller, Deputy Secretary of Elementary and Secondary Education, introduced Dr. Carrie Rowe as the new Special Advisor to the Deputy Secretary. Dr. Fuller then recognized members of his staff, Mr. Brian Gasper and Mr. Brian Campbell, who provided an update on work related to academic standards.

Mr. Gasper provided a status update on implementation of the new academic standards for science, environment, ecology, technology, and engineering that recently were adopted by the Board. Mr. Gasper shared a copy of the Department’s 3-year implementation plan for the new standards, discussed an Act 48 course planned for science educators, and shared examples of the foundation boxes that are in the final stages of creation and that will make meaningful connections to support educators in integrating the new standards into instruction. On behalf of the Department, Mr. Gasper also requested that the Board consider revising 22 Pa. Code Chapter 4 (Academic Standards and Assessments) to adjust the PSSA in Science from 4th grade to 5th grade. The Department recommended adjusting the grade at which the assessment is administered due to the K-5 grade band established in the new standards.

Mr. Gasper also shared a proposed timeline for initial efforts to update the academic standards for Family and Consumer Sciences, Career Education and Work, and Economics. The Board’s Academic Standards/Chapter 4 Committee directed this next phase of review for academic standards in September and requested that the Department of Education serve as a partner in this effort by engaging content experts to develop recommendations on updated standards for the Committee’s consideration. Mr. Gasper shared that, between November 2022 and January 2023, the Department intends to distribute applications to solicit volunteers to serve on three content specific committees. Proposed content committee members will be presented to the Academic Standards/Chapter 4 Committee in January 2023 for review and approval. The Department intends to convene working sessions of the content committees from January 2023 through April 2023, with a goal of presenting recommendations for standards updates to the Academic Standards/Chapter 4 Committee in July 2023.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

High school student members Reva Gandhi and Claire Chi provided an update on their outreach to Pennsylvania students across the state. They reported that monthly meetings with members of the Students for Education in Pennsylvania (SEPA) program began again in September in an effort to hear from student voices across the Commonwealth more frequently and to provide opportunities for leadership development and mentorship for school initiatives. Two meetings in October were held with over 25 students representing their respective school districts and two additional SEPA meetings are planned in November. Ms. Gandhi and Ms. Chi reported that they attended a recent Pennsylvania Association of Student Councils (PASC) conference where they had the opportunity to engage with 675 student delegates in attendance. At the statewide conference, they hosted a workshop on student advocacy, delivered a speech promoting SEPA and student voice in state policy, and collaborated with the PASC Executive Board's Governmental Relations committee. Ms. Gandhi and Ms. Chi also highlighted that PASC working to reconvene its Student Summit in Harrisburg in 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m. on an **Aichele/Keeling** motion.

Stephanie Jones

Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant