

**MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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

March 16, 2022

The 367th meeting of the State Board of Education was convened on Wednesday, March 16, 2022. Public notice of the meeting was made in accordance with the Sunshine Meeting Act of 1986. The meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m. by Chair Karen Farmer White.

Attending:

James Agras	Pamela Gunter-Smith	Rep. Curt Sonney
Hon. Carol Aichele	Sarah Jordan	Taiba Sultana
Nathan Barrett	Hon. Maureen Lally-Green	Karen Farmer White
Jamie Bracey-Green	Hon. Mark Longietti	Lee Williams
Sandra Dungee Glenn	Hon. Scott Martin	Hon. Lindsey Williams
Reva Gandhi	Eva Rankin	

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the January 13, 2022, meeting of the Board were approved on a **Gunter-Smith/Lally-Green** motion.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

Dr. Noe Ortega, Secretary of Education, provided an update on the Governor’s Executive Budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2022-23 and others current initiatives happening in the Department of Education.

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

Dr. Tanya I. Garcia, Deputy Secretary and Commission for Postsecondary and Higher Education, provided a summary of the joint working session of the Council of Higher Education and the Master Plan for Higher Education Advisory Committees that was held earlier in the day to discuss increasing college affordability. Dr. Garcia also provided updates on activity within the Office of Postsecondary and Higher Education, including the college credit transfer system, Act 76, GI bill benefits, and development of strategies to address the teacher shortage crisis.

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

Dr. Sherri Smith, Deputy Secretary of Elementary and Secondary Education, introduced Mr. Brian Campbell, Director of the Bureau of Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction, and Mr. Brian Truesdale, Division Chief for Assessment and Accountability in the Bureau of Curriculum,

Assessment, and Instruction. Mr. Campbell and Mr. Truesdale presented a report on state assessment results and participation in state assessments for the 2020-21 school year.

REPORT OF THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

Dr. Nicole Hill, member of the Professional Standards and Practices Commission (PSPC) and ex-officio member of the State Board of Education, and Ms. Sarah DiRito, Assistant Chief Counsel with the Office of Chief Counsel (OCC), presented a joint report on the following topics:

PSPC Year in Review

The PSPC is preparing its annual report for 2021, which will be presented to the Governor, General Assembly, State Board of Education, and the public as required by the Educator Discipline Act. The report will contain a summary of all disciplinary actions taken during the calendar year. Preliminarily, the total number of cases filed with the PSPC in 2021 was 169 and the total number of matters adjudicated was 154. The annual report will contain additional information regarding these adjudications, including the grounds for discipline.

Pennsylvania Model Code of Ethics for Educators

The PSPC recently adopted and published the Pennsylvania Model Code of Ethics for Educators (PMCEE) as a Statement of Policy. The PSPC has begun to incorporate the PMCEE into its existing outreach programs. The PMCEE also will serve as the guiding document for the new requirements for instruction and training in professional ethics established in the Board's recently-approved final amendments to Chapter 49. The Commission is working to identify resources aligned to the PMCEE to assist school entities and educator preparation programs in meeting the new training requirement.

OCC Year in Review

The Office of Chief Counsel (OCC) is responsible for the intake, review, and prosecution of educator misconduct complaints and brings those complaints that become disciplinary cases before the PSPC for the imposition of disciplinary action. In 2021, the OCC initiated or received 467 educator misconduct complaints and closed approximately 853 complaints, including the 154 adjudicated by the PSPC in 2021. Currently, the OCC has 1,454 open educator misconduct complaints pertaining to 1,233 distinct educators. So far, in 2022, the OCC has received 85 complaints and the OCC has resolved 127 complaints.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ACTION ITEM

Resolution Honoring Dr. Jonathan Peri

A motion to approve a resolution honoring the service of Dr. Jonathan Peri, who resigned from the Board in January, was made by Dr. Lee Williams and seconded by Carol Aichele.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Farmer White shared that the Special Committee on ESSA Oversight met earlier in the day and received a presentation from the Department on pending updates to the state's ESSA plan regarding how schools are identified for federal school improvement designations.

Ms. Sandra Dungee Glenn announced that the Board's final-form amendments to Chapter 49 were approved by the Independent Regulatory Review Commission on March 10, 2022. Ms. Dungee Glenn said the final regulation was transmitted to the Office of Attorney General for review and, upon approval by the Attorney General, will take effect upon publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

Chair Farmer White called for an Executive Session of the Board to receive a briefing from counsel on the William Penn School District education funding litigation and to consult with counsel about next steps related to the Board's role in this matter.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m. on an **Agras/Lally-Green** motion.

Stephanie Jones

Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant