

**MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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

September 15, 2022

The 370th meeting of the State Board of Education (Board) was convened on Thursday, September 15, 2022. Public notice of the meeting was made in accordance with the Sunshine Meeting Act of 1986. The meeting was called to order at 8:57 a.m. by Chair Karen Farmer White.

Attending:

James Agras	Pamela Gunter-Smith	Hon. Scott Martin
Hon. Carol Aichele	Natalie Imhoof	Hon. Pedro Rivera
Nathan Barrett	Sarah Jordan	Hon. Curt Sonney
Nicole Carnicella	Jeffrey Keeling	Karen Farmer White
Claire Chi	Hon. Maureen Lally-Green	Lee Williams
Sandra Dungee Glenn	Hon. Mark Longietti	Hon. Lindsey Williams

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the July 13, 2022, meeting of the Board were approved on a **Lee Williams/Gunter-Smith** motion.

COMMITTEE REPORT
SPECIAL AND GIFTED EDUCATION

The Hon. Maureen Lally-Green, Chair of the Special and Gifted Education Committee (Committee), stated that regulations governing gifted education in Pennsylvania are established by the Board in 22 Pa. Code Chapter 16 and that those regulations charge the Board with reviewing the Chapter at least every four years as part of the ongoing supervision of how the regulations are interpreted and applied. The last review of Chapter 16 was conducted in 2018. The Hon. Lally-Green reported that the Committee met on September 14, 2022, to make plans for conducting the next required review. The Committee also received a presentation from Ms. Carole Clancy, Director of the Bureau of Special Education, on actions the Department of Education has taken to improve opportunities for gifted students in response to recommendations that were endorsed by the Committee following conclusion of the last review of Chapter 16 in 2018. Ms. Clancy's presentation was shared with all Board members.

The Hon. Lally-Green announced that the Committee will hold three regional roundtables to seek input from stakeholders on Chapter 16. Roundtables will be held on October 20 for Central Pennsylvania, October 25 for Western Pennsylvania, and October 27 for Eastern Pennsylvania using a virtual format with in-person access to each meeting available at the PaTTAN offices in Harrisburg, Pittsburgh, and Malvern. The Hon. Lally-Green said the Committee also will accept remarks on gifted education in writing from those who can't attend one of the roundtables.

Finally, at its meeting on September 14, the Committee also received required annual reports from the Department of Education on special education due process requests and outcomes for the 2020-21 school year and on activities related to gifted education complaints and compliance monitoring for the 2021-22 school year. Copies of both reports were shared with all Board members.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION

The Hon. Pedro Rivera, Chair of the Council of Higher Education, reported that the Council met on September 14, 2022, and approved the Master Plan for Higher Education. Mr. Rivera said the Master Plan now was being transmitted to the Board for its consideration. Mr. Rivera asked Dr. Tanya I. Garcia, Deputy Secretary and Commissioner for Postsecondary and Higher Education, to review the updates to the Master Plan that were made in response to amendments requested and approved by Council members the day prior. A copy of the updated document was made available to all Board members.

Deputy Secretary Garcia reviewed language added to the Executive Summary of the Master Plan to define and provide context for workforce development and to include language reflected on page 30 of the draft that described the demographics of today's postsecondary students and the financial responsibility they carry. Dr. Pamela Gunter-Smith suggested editorial revisions to further refine the narrative that was added related to workforce development. Ms. Sandra Dungee Glenn requested that the Executive Summary of the Master Plan include additional narrative from the body of the document that addresses the value of postsecondary education related to wealth creation. The Hon. Mark Longietti requested that the document be updated to remove Tom Foley's name from the list of Advisory Committee members as Mr. Foley requested in a letter he submitted to the Board. Rep. Longietti also sought clarity on the map presented on page 16 of the Master Plan and requested that the document include a footnote explaining the methodology of the report that informed the graphic. The Board discussed the mechanics of how to reflect these revisions in the Master Plan and was advised that they could make amendments as an entire body or refer the Plan back to the Council of Higher Education. Sen. Scott Martin stated that he had comments to share on the document and that he would hold them for later if the Master Plan was referred back to the Council.

REPORT OF THE ACTING SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

Mr. Eric Hagarty, Acting Secretary of Education, welcomed students back for the start of a new school year and thanked teachers across the Commonwealth for their dedication to education in Pennsylvania. Mr. Hagarty then introduced two new members of the senior leadership team at the Department of Education. Dr. Amira Hill-Yancy is serving as a new Special Assistant to the Secretary focused on Child Development and Early Learning. Mr. Tomás Hanna is serving as the new Chief Talent Officer with responsibility for implementing the Department's Educator Workforce Strategy and recent changes to the School Code that address educator workforce needs.

**REPORT OF THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION
AND THE OFFICE OF CHIEF COUNSEL**

Mr. Shane Crosby, Executive Director of the Professional Standards and Practices Commission (PSPC), shared the PSPC’s 2021 Annual Report that summarizes disciplinary actions taken by the Commission during that calendar year. Ms. Sarah DiRito, Assistant Chief Counsel for the Department of Education, stated that there currently are 1,178 open educator misconduct complaints and that, in 2022, the Office of Chief Counsel has received a total of 293 complaints and has resolved 607 complaints.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Gina Gullo, with the Pennsylvania State Education Association, applauded the Academic Standards/Chapter 4 Committee for identifying three new sets of standards to open for review – Career Education and Work, Family and Consumer Sciences, and Economics. Ms. Gullo said reviewing these standards is timely given the significant impact that COVID-19 had on the workforce and recognizing how industries have changed how they’re conducting business. Ms. Gullo said one thing all of these standards have in common is financial literacy. She said bifurcation of these learning points does not support a focus on financial literacy and urged the Board to address financial literacy instruction for students as part of its upcoming work on academic standards. Ms. Gullo further requested that the Department update the Certification Staffing Policy Guidelines (CSPGs) to provide clarity on the staff permitted to teach financial literacy.

ACTION ITEMS

Master Plan for Higher Education: Motion to Table

A motion to table consideration of the Master Plan for Higher Education as approved by the Council of Higher Education was made by the Hon. Pedro Rivera and seconded by Sen. Lindsey Williams.

VOTE: The motion to table consideration of the Master Plan for Higher Education was approved by a roll call vote of 14-1 (YEA: Agras, Aichele, Barrett, Carnicella, Dungee Glenn, Gunter-Smith, Keeling, Lally-Green, Martin, Rivera, Sonney, Farmer White, Lee Williams, and Lindsey Williams; NAY: Longietti)

Master Plan for Higher Education: Motion to Refer Back to the Council of Higher Education

A motion to refer the Master Plan for Higher Education back to the Council of Higher Education for reconsideration was made by Sandra Dungee Glenn and seconded by the Hon. Maureen Lally-Green.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Claire Chi, Junior Student Member on the Council of Basic Education, provided an update regarding recent work of Students for Education in Pennsylvania (SEPA) that is co-directed by the Board's high school student representatives. The SEPA program recently celebrated its one-year anniversary and, since its founding in August 2021, has welcomed over 100 members in an effort to more effectively represent the collective student perspective in education policymaking. At SEPA's meeting in September, Ms. Chi said they introduced new opportunities for members to engage with the program and its state-level student leaders, including scheduling monthly sessions to hear more frequently from geographically diverse student groups and offering volunteer hours to increase participation and recognize student public service. Ms. Chi said SEPA student members support the creation of the state's universal free breakfast program, and that the program is responsive to concerns the SEPA student body expressed for the wellbeing of their school communities when federal funding for universal free school meals was discontinued. She said the program will relieve food insecurity exacerbated by the pandemic and support child nutrition for every K-12 student in Pennsylvania.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Farmer White called for an Executive Session of the Board for the purpose of consulting with counsel regarding legal analysis of a petition filed with the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m. on a **Gunter-Smith/Dungee Glenn** motion.



Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant