

**MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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

November 8, 2023

The 377th meeting of the State Board of Education (Board) was convened on Wednesday, November 8, 2023. Public notice of the meeting was made in accordance with the Sunshine Meeting Act of 1986. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chair Karen Farmer White.

Attending:

James Agras
Hon. Carol Aichele
Sen. David Argall
Nathan Barrett
Brenna Chernich
Claire Chi
Katherine Christiano

Aarushi Dedhiya
Sandra Dungee Glenn
Ernest Hadrick
Amanda Hetrick
Jeffrey Keeling
Hon. Maureen Lally-Green
Robert Mitchell

Hon. Pedro Rivera
Rep. Peter Schweyer
Monica Taylor
Rep. Jesse Topper
Karen Farmer White
Lee Williams
Sen. Lindsey Williams
Benjamin Wilson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the September 13, 2023, meeting of the Board were approved on an **Aichele/Dungee Glenn** motion.

COMMITTEE REPORT

TEACHER AND SCHOOL LEADER EFFECTIVENESS COMMITTEE

Ms. Sandra Dungee Glenn, Chair of the Teacher and School Leader Effectiveness Committee, reported that the Committee met earlier in the day to receive the Department of Education's (Department) annual report on the status of educator certifications in the Commonwealth. A copy of the report was distributed to all Board members. Ms. Dungee Glenn said data on trends in high school graduation, postsecondary enrollment, educator preparation program enrollment, and the number of emergency permits and Instructional I, Instructional II, and Administrative certificates issued continued to demonstrate concerning trends in the sufficiency of Pennsylvania's educator pipeline and a sharp increase in the use of emergency permits. Ms. Dungee Glenn said the Department's report also addressed actions that it is taking to address these concerns.

Ms. Dungee Glenn said the Department also shared updates about its efforts to improve customer service by reducing the processing time for permits and certifications. She said the Department also shared information about its work to refresh the Certification Staffing and Policy Guidelines and forthcoming efforts to convene focus groups to update the current student teacher evaluation and to discuss issues surrounding Chapter 354 (Preparation of Professional Educators).

Ms. Dungee Glenn reported that the Department also provided an update on the status of its work to create a new Career and Technical Education Program of Study for Education, as directed by the General Assembly in Act 55. She noted that Act 55 also tasked the Board with conducting periodic review of this program within one year of it being offered.

COMMITTEE REPORT
ACADEMIC STANDARDS/CHAPTER 4 COMMITTEE

Dr. Lee Williams, Chair of the Academic Standards/Chapter 4 Committee, said the Committee met earlier in the day to continue work related to the review of the academic standards for Career Education and Work, Economics, and Family and Consumer Sciences and other draft amendments to Chapter 4. Dr. Williams noted the Committee held public hearings in the fall to gain additional perspectives from stakeholders on recommended updates to these standards and on recommendations to establish new standards for Personal Finance. She said the Committee also accepted written testimony from individuals who could not attend one of their hearings.

Dr. Williams said the standards content review teams that previously were appointed to develop recommendations surrounding the standards reconvened at the end of October to consider the additional stakeholder input collected by the Committee in the fall and to determine whether they agreed or disagreed with suggestions to make further refinements to the standards. She said stakeholder input collected through that process also was shared with all members of the Board. During the Committee's meeting earlier that morning, Department staff presented a report from the standards review content committees on its review of stakeholder feedback, and Committee members considered this information to inform whether they would support additional changes to the recommended standards updates. Dr. Williams said the Committee also discussed a proposed timeline for implementing updated standards and implementation supports.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
AND PDE'S DEPUTY SECRETARIES

Dr. Khalid Mumin, Secretary of Education, announced the release of state assessment results from the 2022-23 school year. He introduced Dr. Carrie Rowe, Deputy Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education, who was joined by members of her staff to present the statewide assessment results to the Board. Dr. Mumin also discussed the status of the state budget and the work of the Basic Education Funding Commission.

Dr. Kate Shaw, Deputy Secretary and Commissioner for Postsecondary and Higher Education, shared highlights on the first PA Maslow initiative that convened in October 2023 in State College. Dr. Shaw also provided an update on the Higher Education Workgroup formed by Governor Shapiro. Finally, Dr. Shaw announced that the Department has signed a contract for a repository for closed school records.

NEW BUSINESS

PETITION TO INTERVENE AND REQUEST FOR PUBLIC HEARING OF THE DELAWARE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN RE: SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT'S PETITION TO WITHDRAW AS A MEMBER OF THE LOCAL SPONSOR OF DELAWARE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Chair Farmer White addressed a matter of new business pertaining to the petition filed by the Springfield School District seeking to withdraw as a member of the local sponsor of Delaware County Community College. The Board published a notice in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* on October 7, 2023, announcing the opportunity to file a written petition to intervene, notice of intervention or protest, or written request for a public hearing in this matter. Chair Farmer White said the Board received one petition to intervene and request for a public hearing from Delaware County Community College and that she intended to call up the petition for action later in the meeting. She invited Thomas Howell, counsel to the Board, to discuss the petition to intervene and what its approval would mean for the community college relative to the proceedings that would ensue in considering Springfield's request to withdraw. Dr. Monica Taylor abstained from participating in discussion or further consideration of this matter due to a conflict of interest.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Stan Sidor, President of the Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges, appeared before the Board on behalf of Delaware County Community College (DCCC). Dr. Sidor said action to grant the Springfield School District's petition to withdraw as a local sponsor of DCCC would adversely impact community colleges across the Commonwealth. He urged the Board to approved DCCC's petition to intervene in that matter.

Mr. Christopher Gerber, counsel for Delaware County Community College, thanked the Board for the opportunity to consider DCCC's petition to intervene to grant the community college party status.

ACTION ITEM

PETITION TO INTERVENE AND REQUEST FOR PUBLIC HEARING OF THE DELAWARE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN RE: SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT'S PETITION TO WITHDRAW AS A MEMBER OF THE LOCAL SPONSOR OF DELAWARE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A motion to approve the Petition to Intervene and Request for Public Hearing filed by Delaware County Community College in the matter of the Springfield School District's Petition to withdraw as a member of the local sponsor of Delaware County Community College was made by Sandra Dungee Glenn and seconded by Hon. Lindsey Williams.

VOTE: All were in favor as indicated by unanimous voice vote. (Dr. Monica Taylor abstained)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Board's high school student representatives, Claire Chi and Aarushi Dedhiya, shared highlights of the Pennsylvania Association of Student Councils Convention in Altoona where they connected with roughly 500 student leaders from across the Commonwealth. Ms. Chi and Ms. Dedhiya led a Students and Government Workshop for convention attendees.

Additionally, Ms. Chi and Ms. Dedhiya provided an update on Students for Education in Pennsylvania (SEPA), which is comprised of over 160 student members from more than 65 school districts. In October 2023, students involved in SEPA discussed improving mental health supports and developed recommendations on how to make mental health resources more accessible to all students Ms. Chi and Ms. Dedhiya presented the students' recommendations to the Board. Finally, they discussed a new partnership with the Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year Program to elevate student voice and to encourage students to enter the educator workforce.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:26 p.m. on an **Aichele/Keeling** motion.

Stephanie L. Jones

Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant