

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

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

March 8, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 11:42 a.m. by Council Chair Dr. Lee Williams.

Attending:

Hon. Carol Aichele
Nathan Barrett
Reva Gandhi

Amanda Hetrick
Natalie Imhoof
Jeffrey Keeling
Hon. Maureen Lally-Green

Rep. Peter Schweyer
Monica Taylor
Karen Famer White
Lee Williams

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the November 9, 2022, meeting of the Council of Basic Education were approved on an **Aichele/Barrett** motion.

**REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE
COUNCIL OF BASIC EDUCATION**

Dr. Williams, Chair of the Council of Basic Education, shared a written status report from the Department of Education on the work initiated by the Board's Academic Standards/Chapter 4 Committee (Committee) to review the current standards for Economics, Career Education and Work, and Family and Consumer Sciences. Dr. Williams said the Department acted on requests made by Committee members in January to address geographic gaps in the composition of the standards review content committees that will conduct an initial review of the standards. Dr. Williams said four additional members were added to the standards review content committees from Philadelphia and from the Norther Tier and that the names and affiliations of these new members were listed in the written report. Finally, Dr. Williams noted that the Department's written status report also included a calendar for the work to be conducted by the standards content review committees over the next two months.

Dr. Williams then recognized Nathan Barrett, Chair of the School and University Safety Committee, for an update on the biennial review of the model Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in Chapter 10. Mr. Barrett said his Committee opened a written public comment period on the model MOU in November of 2022 and accepted comments through January 31, 2023. Mr. Barrett shared that three comments were received from the Education Law Center, the ACLU, and Sen. Lindsey Williams. In her remarks, Sen. Williams identified other organization that she believed it would be beneficial to hear from on this issue. In response to Sen. Williams' suggestion, Mr. Barrett announced that the deadline for submitting written comments on the

model MOU will be extended through March 31, 2023, and he directed staff to conduct outreach to the organizations identified by Sen. Williams in her written comments.

DISCUSSION ITEM
FINAL-OMITTED CHAPTER 14
(SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES AND PROGRAMS)

The Hon. Maureen Lally-Green, Chair of the Special and Gifted Education Committee, introduced final-omitted amendments to the regulations that govern special education (22 Pa. Code Chapter 14). She said the technical amendments presented in the final-omitted rulemaking update terminology throughout the entirety of Chapter 14 to replace references to the phrase “mental retardation” with the term “intellectual disabilities.” The Hon. Lally-Green said updating terminology in this manner will promote respect for individuals with intellectual disabilities by using language that is positive and up-to-date. Further, Hon. Lally-Green said the updates bring the language used in the Board’s regulations in line with terminology now used in federal law and in other state regulations. She noted that the Board previously considered the terminology update, but the package did not advance through all remaining steps of regulatory review prior to the end of the last administration. Finally, Hon. Lally-Green noted that the Department of Education intends to make parallel terminology updates Chapter 711, which contains regulations issued by the Department governing special education in charter schools.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ACTION ITEM

FINAL-OMITTED CHAPTER 14 (SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES AND PROGRAMS)

A motion to approve final-omitted amendments to Chapter 14 (Special Education Services and Programs) was made by the Hon. Carol Aichele and seconded by Hon. Maureen Lally-Green.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reva Gandhi, Senior Student Member on the Council of Basic Education, provided an update on outreach to Pennsylvania students across the state conducted by herself and Claire Chi, the Council’s Junior Student Member. She reported that monthly meetings with members of the Students for Education in Pennsylvania (SEPA) program began again in February. Ms. Gandhi said discussion was guided by SEPA’s student members in order to address topics important to them, including food insecurity, college readiness, student success and support systems, and school climate. Among the issues raised by students, Ms. Gandhi said a key area of focus was free and reduced school breakfast and lunch programs.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m. on an **Aichele/Barrett** motion.

Stephanie Jones

Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant