

**MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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

May 3, 2023

The 374th meeting of the State Board of Education (Board) was convened on Wednesday, May 3, 2023. Public notice of the meeting was made in accordance with the Sunshine Meeting Act of 1986. The meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m. by Chair Karen Farmer White.

Attending:

James Agras
Hon. Carol Aichele
Hon. David Argall
Nathan Barrett
Sandra Dungee Glenn

Reva Gandhi
Pamela Gunter-Smith
Amanda Hetrick
Natalie Imhoof
Sarah Jordan

Jeffrey Keeling
Hon. Pedro Rivera
Monica Taylor
Karen Farmer White
Lee Williams
Hon. Lindsey Williams

OPENING REMARKS

Chair Farmer White announced that this was the last meeting for Dr. Pamela Gunter-Smith as a member of the Board as Dr. Gunter-Smith is retiring in June and intends to resign from Board service concurrent with her retirement.

Chair Farmer White noted that the Board also would bid farewell today to Reva Ganhdi, Senior Student Member on the Council of Basic Education, and Sarah Jordan, Senior Student Member on the Council of Higher Education, as their terms of service as advisory members of the Board come to a close. She thanked the Hon. Carol Aichele for participating as the Board's representative in interviews to select a new high school student member, and announced that Aarushi Dedhiya, a student at Cumberland Valley High School, has been named as the Board's new Junior High School Student Member. Ms. Farmer White also announced that Brenna Chernich, a student at Millersville University, was named by Chancellor Daniel Greenstein as the Board's new Junior Postsecondary Student Member to represent the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education. The new student members will begin their terms in July.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the March 8, 2023, meeting of the Board were approved on an **Aichele/Rivera** motion.

COMMITTEE REPORT
SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Nathan Barrett, Chairman of the School and University Safety Committee, reported that the Committee met earlier in the day to continue its work on a required biennial review of the model Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 22 Pa. Code Chapter 10. Mr. Barrett reminded

the Board that the Committee initiated this review in November 2022 and, at that time, invited interested stakeholders to submit public comments on the model MOU in writing by the end of January 2023. He reported that the Committee received three comments from the Education Law Center, Senator Lindsey Williams, and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). Mr. Barrett said the comment period was extended through March 31, 2023 in response to comments from Sen. Williams identifying organizations who may have relevant perspectives to share. Mr. Barrett said comments were invited from all interested stakeholders during the extended window and that direct outreach was made to the Juvenile Law Center, Disability Rights Pennsylvania, and 412 Justice; however, no additional comments were received from any stakeholders.

Mr. Barrett said the Committee met earlier in the day to review and discuss the stakeholder comments received earlier in the year and determined not to recommend amendments to the model MOU at this time. Rather, the Committee requested that the Department of Education develop guidance for school administrators surrounding the reporting of incidents over which administrators have discretion in notifying law enforcement. Mr. Barrett said this guidance should, in part, support school administrators in gaining familiarity with the legal definitions for the offenses listed in the School Code that either require immediate notification to law enforcement or that administrators have the discretion to handle independently. Further, Mr. Barrett said the Committee requested that the guidance developed by the Department also address other alternative disciplinary practices, in-school supports, and interventions to address student behavior that administrators might consider utilizing to respond to incidents where they have discretion in determining whether to notify law enforcement about an incident. The Committee requested that the Department provide an update on the status of developing this guidance at the Board's meeting in November 2023.

REPORT OF THE ACTING SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

Dr. Khalid Mumin, Acting Secretary of Education, recognized and congratulated Pennsylvania teachers on the upcoming Teacher Appreciation week. Additionally, Dr. Mumin highlighted the following items:

Dual Credit Grants

Dr. Mumin announced that the Department awarded \$6.7 million in grant funding to 100 school entities to enable high school students to enroll in dual credit programs. Award recipients will use up to \$75,000 in grant funding to create or expand equitable and innovative dual credit opportunities for all secondary students, including students experiencing educational instability, students enrolled in career and technical education, low-income students, and historically underserved student groups.

Accelerated Program for PK-12 Special Education Teacher Certification Grants

Dr. Mumin also shared that the Department awarded \$1.5 million in grant funding to 15 universities that partner with school districts to expedite the process for students to become a special education teacher. Through the accelerated program for PK-12 Special Education Teacher Certification, grants were awarded to colleges and universities with approved PK-12 special education certification programs to partner with at least one school district, approved private school, career and technical center, charter school, cyber charter school, or intermediate

unit to provide individuals who currently hold bachelor's degrees with summer field experience, mentoring by experienced special educators during the school year, and to deliver a postbaccalaureate program for PK-12 special education teacher certification within 18 months.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution Honoring Dr. Pamela Gunter-Smith

A motion to approve a resolution honoring Dr. Pamela Gunter-Smith, departing member of the Council of Higher Education, was made by Dr. Lee Williams and seconded by the Hon. Pedro Rivera.

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

Resolution Honoring Reva Gandhi

A motion to approve a resolution honoring Reva Gandhi, departing Senior Student Member on the Council of Basic Education, was made by Dr. Lee Williams and seconded by the Hon. Carol Aichele.

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

Resolution Honoring Sarah Jordan

A motion to approve a resolution honoring Sarah Jordan, departing Senior Student Member on the Council of Higher Education, was made by Dr. Pamela Gunter-Smith and seconded by Nathan Barrett.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:32 p.m. on an **Aichele/Barrett** motion.

Stephanie Jones

Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant