

**MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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

November 14, 2024

The 383rd meeting of the State Board of Education (Board) was convened on Thursday, November 14, 2024. Public notice of the meeting was made in accordance with the Sunshine Meeting Act of 1986. The meeting was called to order at 10:37 a.m. by Chair Karen Farmer White.

Attending:

Hon. Carol Aichele
Sen. David Argall
Nathan Barrett
Naina Bhatia
Brenna Chernich
Katherine Christiano
Yadira Cupeles

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the September 12, 2024, meeting of the Board were approved on a **Christiano/Lee Williams** motion.

COMMITTEE REPORT
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE SCHOOL ACCREDITATION

The Hon. Carol Aichele, Chair of the Special Committee on Private School Accreditation, announced that the Committee met the previous day to consider an application from Cognia seeking to renew its authority to continue serving as an approved private school accrediting organization. Ms. Aichele said the Department of Education presented a report of findings from its review of Cognia’s application and recommended that Cognia’s recognition as an approved private school accreditor be renewed. A copy of the Department’s report was provided to all Board members for review.

Ms. Aichele said the Committee agreed with the findings in the Department’s report and that the Committee acted to recommend that Cognia be recognized as an approved accrediting organization for another five years with a scope of authority to accredit Pre-K (nursery), kindergarten, elementary, secondary and special education private academic schools, as well as tutoring centers, educational testing and remedial centers. Ms. Aichele requested that Chair Farmer White call up Cognia’s application for a vote later in the meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORT
ACADEMIC STANDARDS/CHAPTER 4 COMMITTEE

Dr. Lee Williams, Chair of the Committee on Academic Standards/Chapter 4, announced that the Independent Regulatory Review Commission will consider the Board’s final-form amendments to Chapter 4 at its public meeting on December 5. The final-form amendments approved in September include new academic standards for Personal Finance and updated standards for Career Education and Work, Economics, and Family and Consumer Sciences.

Dr. Williams also reported that the Academic Standards Committee met the previous day to consider next steps in conducting periodic reviews of state academic standards. She said the Committee intends to open the Academic Standards for Arts and Humanities and the Academic Standards for Health, Safety and Physical Education for review in 2025. Dr. Williams said the Committee will again ask the Department of Education to partner in this effort by convening teams of educators and content experts to conduct an initial review of the standards and to formulate recommendations about how the standards should be revised. Nominees to serve on those standards review teams would be presented to the Committee for approval in March of 2025. Dr. Williams invited input from all Board members on the Committee’s plans.

COMMITTEE REPORT
TEACHER AND SCHOOL LEADER EFFECTIVENESS COMMITTEE

Ms. Sandra Dungee Glenn, Chair of the Teacher and School Leader Effectiveness Committee, shared that the Committee held an informational meeting on November 13, 2024, to receive the Department of Education’s annual status report on educator certifications and to receive a progress report from the Department’s Chief Talent Officer about the agency’s multi-faceted efforts to attract, retain, and prepare educators in the Commonwealth.

Ms. Dungee Glenn also announced that the Committee will conduct a periodic review of the assessments used for candidates for certification, as required by Chapter 49. She said the Committee received an informational presentation on current certification assessment requirements and that the Committee asked the Department to prepare additional background information to inform this work.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

Dr. Khalid Mumin, Secretary of Education, was unable to attend and provided a written report for Board members.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ACTION ITEM

APPLICATION OF COGNIA SEEKING TO RENEW AUTHORITY AS A PRIVATE ACADEMIC SCHOOLS ACCREDITING ORGANIZATION

A motion to renew Cognia’s approval to serve as a private school accrediting organization for a five-year period ending November 14, 2029, with a scope of authority covering pre-K (nursery), kindergarten, elementary, secondary and special education private academic schools, tutoring centers, educational testing and remedial centers was made by the Hon. Carol Aichele and seconded by Jeffrey Keeling.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rep. Peter Schweyer announced that Rep. Jesse Topper was elevated to Minority Leader in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for the next legislative session. As such, Rep. Topper will depart service to the State Board of Education as he no longer will serve as Minority Chair of the House Education Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:53 a.m. on a **Hetrick/Dungee Glenn** motion.

Stephanie Jones

Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant