

**MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

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

May 2, 2024

The meeting of the Council of Higher Education (Council) was called to order by the Hon. Pedro Rivera, Chairman of the Council, at 1.00 p.m.

Attending:

Hon. Carol Aichele	Sandra Dungee Glenn	Monica Taylor
Sen. Dav Argall	Ernest Hadrick	Karen Farmer White
Nathan Barrett	Amanda Hetrick	Lee Williams
Claire Chi	Natalie Imhoof	Sen. Lindsey Williams
Katherine Christiano	Robert Mitchell	Benjamin Wilson
Aarushi Dedhiya	Hon. Pedro Rivera	

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the January 11, 2024, meeting of the Council of Higher Education were approved on a **Dungee Glenn/Hetrick** motion.

REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF POSTSECONDARY AND HIGHER EDUCATION

Dr. Kim McCurdy, Bureau Director for Postsecondary and Adult Education, gave an update on the Department of Education's (PDE) PA MASLOW Collegiate Basic Needs initiatives. She emphasized aspects of this work related to mental health and connections with the JED Foundation and the State Higher Education Executive Officers' Mental Health and Wellness learning community.

Ms. Ali Caccavella, Special Advisor to the Deputy Secretary and Commissioner for Postsecondary and Higher Education, provided an update on the PA FAFSA Go! campaign. Ms. Caccavella noted that FAFSA completion rates are down almost 20% for Pennsylvania high school seniors relative to completion rates for the same time last year. Ms. Caccavella shared details for an upcoming FAFSA Emergency Webinar to drive attention to the issue, provide resources, and advance statewide action to increase FAFSA completion. Ms. Caccavella also noted that the FAFSA completion deadline to access state grants through the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency was pushed back to June 1, 2024.

Dr. Carissa Pokorny-Golden, Director of the Bureau of School Leadership and Teacher Quality (BLSTQ), delivered updates on work within her Bureau. She announced an upcoming PA Advancing Education Together Summit. She also shared updated related to accreditation, including the formation of a partnership with the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) to better support educator preparation programs that undergo CAEP

accreditation and efforts in progress to create a partnership with Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation. Dr. Pokorny-Golden also provided updates on continuing efforts to review Chapter 354. She noted that educator preparation program leader focus groups concluded their review and that focus groups including intermediate unit executives and staff members, school administrators and educators, as well as policy group members, will discuss potential changes to Chapter 354 shortly. Finally, Dr. Pokorny-Golden shared that BSLTQ has sustained its efforts to shorten certification processing times.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Pedro Rivera, Council Chair, announced that a public hearing in the matter of the Springfield School District's petition to withdraw as a local sponsor of Delaware County Community College was scheduled Monday, June 24, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. in Harrisburg at the Keystone Building. Dr. Rivera noted that a report containing evidence presented at the hearing will be prepared for the State Board of Education and will serve to inform the Board's decision-making on the petition.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:34 p.m. on a **Hetrick/Dungee Glenn** motion.



Hemalatha Raja
Administrative Assistant