

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

VIRTUAL MEETING

September 12, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 11:03 a.m. by Council Chair Dr. Lee Williams.

Attending:

Hon. Carol Aichele
Sen. David Argall
Nathan Barrett
Nana Bhatia
Brenna Chernich

Katherine Christiano
Aarushi Dedhiya
Ernest Hadrick
Amanda Hetrick
Jeffrey Keeling

Maureen Lally-Green
Robert Mitchell
Hon. Pedro Rivera
Karen Famer White
Lee Williams

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the July 11, 2024, meeting of the Council of Basic Education were approved on an **Aichele/Christiano** motion.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS/CHAPTER 4 COMMITTEE MEETING

Dr. Lee Williams, Committee Chair, reported that the Academic Standards/Chapter 4 Committee met earlier that morning and approved final-form amendments to Chapter 4. The final-form rulemaking updates the academic standards for Career Education and Work, Economics, and Family and Consumer Sciences, establishes new academic standards for Personal Finance, shifts the administration of the state’s elementary level science assessment from grade 4 to grade 5, and requires school entities to post various strategic plans on their web sites.

Dr. Williams said the Committee conducted an exhaustive review of comments received on the proposed rulemaking from stakeholders, from members of the General Assembly, and from the Independent Regulatory Review Commission. The Committee also reviewed in detail amendments it recommended to the final-form rulemaking in response to these comments. Dr. Williams transmitted the Committee’s recommended final-form rulemaking to the Council for its consideration and said she intended to call the final-form rulemaking for a vote later in the meeting. Dr. Williams then provided an opportunity for questions and discussion among the Council regarding the recommended final-form amendments to Chapter 4.

**REPORT OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**

Dr. Carrie Rowe, Deputy Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education, provided a summary review of omnibus amendments to the Public School Code enacted by Act 55 of 2024 and other amendments to the Public School Code enacted by Act 82 of 2024.

Dr. Rowe also was joined by Carole Clancy, Director of the Bureau of Special Education. Ms. Clancy delivered the Department of Education’s annual report on special education due process requests and outcomes, as required by Chapter 14, and the Department’s annual report on gifted education compliance monitoring, complaints, and due process requests and outcomes, as required by Chapter 16. Ms. Clancy also provided a status update on the Department’s continued progress toward addressing recommendations to improve gifted education that were adopted by the State Board of Education’s Committee on Special and Gifted Education in July of 2023.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ACTION ITEM

FINAL-FORM 22 PA. CODE CHAPTER 4 (ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENT)

A motion to approve final-form amendments to 22 Pa. Code Chapter 4, as recommended by the Committee on Academic Standards/Chapter 4, and to transmit the final-form amendments to the State Board of Education for its consideration was made by Katherine Christiano and seconded by Nathan Barrett.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Student Representatives Aarushi Dedhiya and Naina Bhatia introduced a proposal to enhance supports for immigrant and migrant students and their families by developing and sustaining a language access toolkit. The proposal was developed by the Council’s student representatives in consultation with other students across Pennsylvania who are part of Students for Education in Pennsylvania. Ms. Dedhiya and Ms. Bhatia discussed the need such a toolkit would fulfill. They also outlined the type of materials the proposed toolkit would contain in a student’s respective native language, such as a self-assessment to evaluate language access services within a school, a guide to help families better understand supports for students who are English learners, glossaries of education terminology, and translated course guides. Ms. Dehiya and Ms. Bhatia identified the five most commonly spoken languages by students in Pennsylvania who are English learners and suggested that the Department use these as a starting point for developing materials to implement their recommended toolkit.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:02 p.m. on a **Christiano/Lally-Green** motion.

Stephanie Jones

Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant