

MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 19, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the State Board of Higher Education (Board) was convened virtually via MS Teams on Thursday, March 19, 2026. Public notice of the meeting was made in accordance with the Sunshine Act. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Dr. Cynthia Shapira, Chair.

II. ROLL CALL

Ms. Lubna Mian, Chief of Staff, performed roll call. A quorum of members was present as follows:

Mr. Kenneth Long	Dr. Christa Heyward
Dr. Cynthia D. Shapira	Ms. Hayley Butler
Dr. Ann Bieber	Hon. Dr. Pedro A. Rivera
Dr. Cheryl McConnell	Ms. Diane Acri (for Hon. Jesse Topper)
Dr. Michael Wade Smith	Ms. Gwenn Dando (for Hon. Wayne Langerholc)
Mr. Kevin Washo	Hon. Jay Costa
Dr. Brenda A. Allen	Ms. Angela Fitterer (for Hon. Dr. Carrie Rowe)
Ms. Marylouise Esten	Hon. Nancy Walker
Ms. Bobbie Jo Zapor	
Dr. Kara Laskowski	
Ms. Andrea Shirk	
Mr. Michael G. Warfel	
Ms. Alycia Laureti (for Hon. Paul Takac)	

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

IV. CHAIR WELCOME

After welcoming the members to the meeting, Dr. Shapira informed the board that the meeting would focus on the approval of publicly available data sources for data dashboards in support of the Board's work, including meeting the strategic plan goal of ensuring transparency and accountability to the public. The sources had been identified by the Data Committee working with the staff and a group of technical advisors representing data experts from major postsecondary sectors.

V. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEM (MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 19, 2026, MEETING)

Dr. Shapira requested a motion to approve the consent agenda, which included approval of the minutes from the February 19, 2026 meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Michael Warfel and seconded by President Ken Long.

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

VI. VOTE TO APPROVE PDE TO INCLUDE THE VOLUNTARY USE BY INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE PROCUREMENT OF A CENTRAL REPOSITORY OF ACADEMIC RECORDS

Dr. Cynthia Shapira provided background into the proposed plan for the Pennsylvania Department of Education's procurement of a central repository of academic records for the State Board of Private Licensed Schools. The repository would permit storage of transcripts and other records when a Private Licensed School ceases operations. The procurement could be expanded to allow the same vendor to store higher education transcripts from other institutions of higher education, with participation purely voluntary.

Dr. Shapira requested a motion to permit the Department of Education to include the SBHE in its procurement of a central repository of academic records.

A motion was made by Dr. Brenda Allen and seconded by Dr. Ann Bieber.

Dr. Cynthia Shapira, Dr. Kate Shaw, and Dr. Lynette Kuhn provided insight on the process, including the fact that use of the repository would provide a valuable benefit to students affected by closures.

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

VII. VOTE TO APPROVE STAFF USE OF DATA DASHBOARD SOURCES

Dr. Kate Shaw, Executive Director, and Dr. Greg Kienzl, Director of Data and Strategic Analysis, provided an overview of the sources and process for the construction of the data dashboards. Dr. Shaw emphasized that the dashboards will also allow for a centralized location of information to increase knowledge and understanding of higher education for various stakeholders.

Dr. Greg Kienzl shared the publicly available proposed data sources that are being utilized within the construction of the data dashboards:

- U.S. Department of Education's Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) data

- U.S. Department of Education’s College Scorecard data
- Pennsylvania Department of Education’s Statewide College Credit Transfer System data
- State Higher Education Executive Officers’ State Higher Education Finance data
- Labor and Employment data from Lightcast
- PA Department of Economic and Community Development’s Partnerships for Regional Economic Performance (PREP) regions
- Advance CTE’s Career Clusters taxonomy
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Poverty Thresholds
- Pennsylvania Department of Education Public Accreditation data
- Middle States Commission on Higher Education public data

Board members discussed the implications of the use of the data sources and potential impact on various sectors and indicated support for the project and sources.

Dr. Shapira requested a motion to approve the use of the data sources and their use for the development of the data dashboards.

A motion was made by Dr. Michael Wade Smith and seconded by President Ken Long.

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

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Dr. Shapira adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: April 16, 2026