

MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
April 16, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the State Board of Higher Education (Board) was convened in a hybrid format via MS Teams and in-person on Thursday, April 16, 2026. Public notice of the meeting was made in accordance with the Sunshine Act. The meeting was called to order at 1:01 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. Cheryl McConnell	Hon. Dr. Pedro A. Rivera
Dr. Michael Wade Smith	Hon. Paul Takac
Mr. Kevin Washo	Ms. Diane Acri (for Hon. Jesse Topper)
Dr. Brenda A. Allen	Ms. Gwenn Dando (for Hon. Wayne Langerholc)
Ms. Marylouise Esten	Hon. Jay Costa
Ms. Bobbie Jo Zapor	Hon. Dr. Carrie Rowe
Dr. Kara Laskowski	Hon. Nancy Walker
Ms. Andrea Shirk	
Mr. Michael G. Warfel	

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 a plan to implement the strategic plan in the first year after its adoption, and updates by data committee on the data dashboard development. The first-year implementation will require changes to some SBHE committees. The committees will provide updates at future meetings.

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

Dr. Shapira requested a motion to approve the consent agenda, which included approval of the minutes from the March 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. UPDATE BY DATA COMMITTEE ON DATA DASHBOARD DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Kenneth Long, Data Committee Chair, provided an update on the work of the data committee and the process for reviewing the draft data dashboards. SBHE staff members are working to compile feedback for the Data Committee to review and consider revisions. Revised dashboards will be shared with the Committee's technical advisory group and Board members.

The Data Committee and SBHE staff are committed to providing access to data that is drawn from well-respected sources and presented in a way that is responsible and understandable to a wide range of users. The committee will continue to review and revise the dashboards in preparation for public release.

VII. VOTE TO APPROVE YEAR 1 STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Dr. Shapira, Strategic Planning Committee Chair, informed the board that the Board Executive Committee held a meeting earlier this month and constructed a plan for the first year of the strategic plan, with anticipation the board will approve similar plans annually.

The new phase of the strategic plan constituted adjustments to the existing committee structures; now introducing sub-committees. The Data, Policy and Economic & Workforce Development Committees will be split into six smaller sub-committees to ensure that the Board builds strong expertise in areas aligned with strategic plan goals.

Dr. Kate Shaw gave a detailed presentation of the implementation process for year one, along with the goals and deliverables which will be implemented through the work of the six sub-committees. Board members have been assigned to subcommittees subject to their preferences, with the staff to provide orientation and support.

Board members discussed the implementation plan, and how the executive committee to the Board will oversee implementation.

Dr. Shapira requested a motion to approve year 1 strategic plan implementation.

A motion was made by Mr. Kevin Washo and seconded by Dr. Brenda A. Allen.

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

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Dr. Shapira adjourned the meeting at 1:50 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: May 20, 2026