

**MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 15, 2026**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the State Board of Higher Education (Board) was convened in a virtual format via MS Teams on Monday, June 15, 2026. Public notice of the meeting was made in accordance with the Sunshine Act. The meeting was called to order at 11:02 a.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:

Dr. Cynthia D. Shapira
Dr. Ann Bieber
Dr. Cheryl McConnell
Dr. Michael Wade Smith
Mr. Kevin Washo
Ms. Marylouise Esten
Ms. Bobbie Jo Zapor
Ms. Andrea Shirk

Dr. Christa Heyward
Ms. Hayley Butler
Hon. Paul Takac
Ms. Diane Acri (for Hon. Jesse Topper)
Hon. Jay Costa
Ms. Angela Fitterer (for Hon. Dr. Carrie Rowe)
Hon. Nancy Walker

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 approving the Board's legislatively required annual report.

V. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEM (MINUTES FROM MAY 20, 2026, MEETING)

Dr. Shapira requested a motion to approve the consent agenda, which included approval of the minutes from the May 20, 2026, meeting.

A motion was made by Dr. Ann Bieber and seconded by Dr. Cheryl McConnell.

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

VI. APPROVAL OF SBHE ANNUAL REPORT

Dr. Shapira, Board Chair, provided context on the annual report. As part of its enabling legislation, the Board is required to issue an annual report which provides an update on the progress of the implementation of the strategic plan. With the annual report, the Board incorporated a review of the efficacy and structure of the Board, which was completed by developing and asking Board members to complete a self-evaluation survey. The results of the survey and the Board's recommendations were relayed to the Board in its May 20 meeting.

The annual report provides a comprehensive summary of the Board's progress and accomplishments since its inception, including:

- 1. The creation of an effective governance structure*
- 2. The creation of the Commonwealth's first higher education strategic plan in decades;*
- 3. The launch of the data dashboards, enhancing transparency and creating a common understanding of the sector*
- 4. Strong statewide collaborations and connections we have formed and continue to develop*
- 5. A demonstrated ability to attract national interest and philanthropic support*
- 6. The implementation plan which will ensure the success of the strategic plan.*

Dr. Shapira requested a motion to approve the annual report.

A motion was made by Dr. Michael Wade Smith and seconded by Mr. Kevin Washo.

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

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Dr. Shapira adjourned the meeting at 11:16 a.m.