

MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Regular Meeting
March 27, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the State Board of Higher Education (SBHE) was convened both in-person at Luzerne County Community College, and virtually via MS Teams on Thursday, March 27, 2025. 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 the roll call. A quorum of members was present as follows:

Ms. Diane Acri (Designee for Hon. Jesse Topper)
Dr. Brenda Allen
Dr. Ann Bieber
Hon. Jay Costa
Ms. Angela Fitterer (Designee for Dr. Carrie Rowe)
Dr. Kara Laskowski
Mr. Kenneth Long
Dr. Cheryl McConnell

Hon. Dr. Pedro Rivera
Hon. Peter Schweyer
Dr. Cynthia Shapira
Ms. Andrea Shirk
Dr. Michael Wade Smith
Hon. Nancy Walker
Mr. Michael G. Warfel
Mr. Kevin Washo
Ms. Bobbie Jo Zapor

Absent: Mr. Sean Eden, Ms. Marylouise Esten, Hon. Wayne Langerholc, and Ms. Skyler Wrubleski

III. WELCOME REMARKS BY THE CHAIR AND HOST INSTITUTION

Dr. Shapira thanked Luzerne County Community College for hosting the public hearing and introduced Mr. John Yudichak, President, for comments.

President Yudichak spoke on behalf of students, faculty, and staff to welcome the State Board of Higher Education. He highlighted successful programs at the college—both degree-granting and trade programs—as well as the institution’s expansion of articulation agreements. Dr. Yudichak closed by thanking the SBHE for its work thus far and reiterated the need for robust, coordinated postsecondary and higher education that aligns with changing demographics and economic needs in Pennsylvania.

IV. PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF DRAFT STRATEGIC PLANNING GOALS

Dr. Shapira then introduced the draft strategic plan, followed by a presentation and robust public discussion of six draft strategic planning goals led by Dr. Kate Shaw, Executive Director.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2025, meeting was made by Mr. Kevin Washo and Mr. Michael G. Warfel.

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

VI. UPDATE BY COMMITTEES AND PBFC

Dr. Shapira introduced the respective committee chairs and requested their reports.

Performance-Based Funding Council

Chair: Hon. Jesse Topper

Ms. Diane Acri, on behalf of Rep. Topper, reported that the council is reviewing all data and metrics, and modeling formulas in time for the April 30, 2025, deadline.

Transfer of Authority

Chair: Dr. Ann Bieber

Dr. Bieber reported that the committee met with counsel and reviewed a preliminary set of recommendations for transfer of authority from the State Board of Education to the State Board of Higher Education. The recommendations have been sent to the State Board of Education (SBE), and a meeting is scheduled for SBE and SBHE counsel to review and discuss.

Bylaws

Chair: Mr. Kevin Washo

Mr. Washo reported that the committee has reviewed the third tranche of draft bylaws and will have a final draft for Board review this spring.

Postsecondary Data

Chair: Mr. Kenneth Long

Mr. Long reported that the committee met with the Technical Advisory Group and is scheduling onboarding time with Dr. Kienzl, the SBHE's new Director of Information and Strategic Analysis.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

Dr. Shaw provided the following updates:

- While the situation at the U.S. Department of Education remains fluid, the two largest impacts on higher education could be data services and student financial aid.
- Pennsylvania State University has indicated that it may close up to 12 campuses across the commonwealth. No specific locations have been announced yet, and PDE is focused on ensuring that closures are orderly and least disruptive as possible for students.
- Dr. Shaw welcomed Dr. Greg Kienzl, the SBHE'S new Director of Information Systems and Strategic Analysis.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Dr. Shapira adjourned the meeting at 3:06 p.m.