

**MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**333 Market Street | 1st Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126**

March 14, 2024

The 379th meeting of the State Board of Education (Board) was convened on Thursday, March 14, 2024. Public notice of the meeting was made in accordance with the Sunshine Meeting Act of 1986. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chair Karen Farmer White.

Attending:

Hon. Carol Aichele
Sen. David Argall
Nathan Barrett
Brenna Chernich
Claire Chi
Kathy Christiano

Aarushi Dedhiya
Sandra Dungee Glenn
Ernest Hadrick
Amanda Hetrick
Natalie Imhoof
Jeffrey Keeling

Maureen Lally-Green
Robert Mitchell
Hon. Pedro Rivera
Monica Taylor
Karen Farmer White
Lee Williams
Sen. Lindsey Williams

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the January 11, 2024, meeting of the Board were approved on an **Aichele/Christiano** motion.

**REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
AND PDE'S DEPUTY SECRETARIES**

Dr. Khalid Mumin, Secretary of Education, reviewed the proposed investments in education in Governor Shapiro's FY 2024-25 Executive Budget proposal. Dr. Mumin also highlighted the Governor's Blueprint for Higher Education.

Dr. Kim McCurdy, Director of the Bureau of Postsecondary and Adult Education, and Dr. Carissa Pokorny-Golden, Director of the Bureau of School Leadership and Teacher Quality (BSLTQ), provided a report on behalf of the Office of Postsecondary and Higher Education. Dr. McCurdy provided updates on the PA MASLOW initiative addressing collegiate basic needs, the Parent Pathways Grant, a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) completion event held at the State Library, and FAFSA completion rates.

Dr. Pokorny-Golden shared that the BSLTQ recently released an Addendum to the Framework for Teacher Intern Certification Programs and that the specific program guidelines were posted to BSLTQ's website. She further shared that BSLTQ is reviewing requests for proposals to upgrade the Teacher Information Management (TIMS) system. Dr. Pokorny-Golden also noted that reduced timeframes for processing certification applications have been sustained. Finally, Dr. Pokorny-Golden also discussed work being conducted by focus groups that BSLTQ has convened to review Chapter 354 (Preparation of Professional Educators).

Dr. Carrie Rowe, Deputy Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education, provided updates on activity related to K-12 education. She said the Department is developing guidance on implementation of a recent amendment to the Public School Code that provides flexibility to school districts in defining a school term based on a minimum number of days or a minimum number of hours. Dr. Rowe said the Department also will issue guidance on safety precautions related to the upcoming solar eclipse in April. She also discussed forthcoming updates to guidance on military recruiters having access to student directory information, the recent PDE Data Summit, and refreshing requirements for administrator training under Act 45.

Dr. Rowe was joined by Dr. Carole Clancy, Director of the Bureau of Special Education, who discussed the Department's progress in acting on recommendations to improve gifted education that were adopted by the Board's Special and Gifted Education Committee in July of 2023. Dr. Clancy also shared that Pennsylvania was awarded a federal Javits grant that will provide \$700,000 annually for a five-year period to support gifted education services. Dr. Clancy reviewed the Department's plans for use of the grant funds.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Karen Farmer White announced that the application deadline for high school sophomores to apply for the Junior Student Member seat on the Council of Basic Education recently closed. Ms. Farmer White said 25 applications were received from students in 24 different school districts and that interviews with finalists for the position will be held on April 20. Ms. Farmer White thanked the Board's current high school student members for their engagement in this process and thanked the Hon. Carol Aichele for agreeing to serve as the Board's liaison during the interviews with finalists. Ms. Farmer White said a new Junior Student Member to serve on the Council of Higher Education will be nominated by the Mid-Atlantic Association of Career Schools. The new Junior Student Members will start their terms in July.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m. on a **Lee Williams/Aichele** motion.

Stephanie Jones

Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant