

**MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
COUNCIL OF BASIC EDUCATION**

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

May 8, 2025

The Council of Basic Education (Council) was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Council Chair Lee Williams.

Attending:

Hon. Carol Aichele
Brenna Chernich
Katherine Christiano
Yadira Cupeles
Aarushi Dedhiya

Sandra Dungee Glenn
Ernest Hadrick
Amanda Hetrick
Hon. Maureen Lally-Green
Robert Mitchell

Hon. Pedro Rivera
Monica Taylor
Karen Famer White
Lee Williams
Benjamin Wilson

OPENING REMARKS

Dr. Lee Williams, Chair of the Council of Basic Education, welcomed Ms. Amy Lena who was recently named the new Deputy Secretary of Elementary and Secondary Education. Dr. Williams also recognized that it was National Teacher Appreciation Week and thanked the hard-working teachers making a difference across the Commonwealth.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the November 14, 2024, meeting of the Council were approved on a **Christiano/Lally-Green** motion.

**REPORT OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**

Ms. Amy Lena provided her inaugural report as Deputy Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education. She discussed the Department's efforts related to structured literacy, including collaborative work with a new Reading Leadership Council that will advise the Department on reading instruction curriculum materials, universal reading screeners, and more. Ms. Lena was joined by Dr. Megan Clementi, the state assessment coordinator for Mathematics. Dr. Clementi presented results from the recent pilot of Firefly, the Department's new predictive benchmark assessment tool. Dr. Clementi also provided an update on the initiative to transition to online testing for state assessments.

Sandra Dungee Glenn asked the Department whether schools have access to reliable internet service to support online assessments and how the Department determines whether there is equity in accessing the necessary infrastructure to conduct online testing.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Gina Gullo expressed her appreciation as a parent for the planning that went into the new online assessment tools. Ms. Gullo said the accommodations built into the tools for students with disabilities are appreciated.

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m. on a **Christiano/Aichele** motion.

Stephanie Jones

Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant