

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

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

September 11, 2025

The Council of Basic Education (Council) was called to order at 1:20 p.m. by Council Chair Lee Williams.

Attending:

Hon. Carol Aichele
Julia Antunes
Naina Bhatia
Ciaran Bilbow
Katherine Christiano
Yadira Cupeles

Rep. Bryan Cutler
Sandra Dungee Glenn
Ernest Hadrick
Amanda Hetrick
Jeffrey Keeling
Robert Mitchell

Rep. Peter Schweyer
Monica Taylor
Karen Famer White
Lee Williams
Sen. Lindsey Williams
Benjamin Wilson

OPENING REMARKS

Dr. Williams welcomed Ms. Julia Antunes as the State Board of Education’s new high school Junior Student Member. Ms. Antunes attends Mt. Lebanon High School in Allegheny County where she is involved in student government, Coding Gals, the Young Feminist Club, the Model United Nations, and the Latino Student Union.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the May 8, 2025, meeting of the Council were approved on an **Aichele/Christiano** motion.

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

Dr. Williams announced that the Department’s required annual reports on special education and on gifted education were submitted in writing and available for Board members to review in their meeting materials. She noted that the Director of the Bureau of Special Education will be with the Board in November to answer any questions related to the content of these reports. Dr. Williams then introduced Deputy Secretary Amy Lena.

Deputy Secretary Lena shared updates from the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education. Ms. Lena celebrated the success of the second annual Advancing Education Together Summit that brings together K-12 administrators and deans of educator preparation programs. Ms. Lena also shared that the Department revised the PDE 427 form that was used to evaluate

educators moving both from Level I to Level II certification and from Educational Specialist I to Educational Specialist II certification. Ms. Lena said the form is now separated into two distinct measurement tools that address the role of a classroom teacher and that address the role of a non-teaching professional. Among other updates, Ms. Lena noted that the Department's Office for Safe Schools has been rebranded as the Office of School Climate and Well-being.

Ms. Lena also provided an update on state assessments. She discussed the growth in the number of school entities electing to administer assessments online, improvements in test participation rates, and use of the Department's new Firefly benchmarking tool. Finally, Ms. Lena shared the schedule for future meetings of the external committees convened to review and develop recommendations on the Academic Standards for Arts and Humanities and the Academic Standards for Health, Safety and Physical Education.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

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 1:34 p.m. on an Aichele/Christiano motion.



Stephanie Jones
Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant