

MINUTES STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

May 8, 2025

On May 8, 2025, the 385th meeting of the State Board of Education (Board) was convened and called to order at 10:25 a.m. by Chair Karen Farmer White. Public notice of the meeting was made in accordance with the Sunshine Meeting Act of 1986.

Attending:

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

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

Hon. Pedro Rivera
Monica Taylor
Karen Farmer White
Lee Williams
Sen. Lindsey Williams
Benjamin Wilson

OPENING REMARKS

Chair Karen Farmer White shared that the terms of service for Aarushi Dedhiya, Senior High School Student Member, and Brenna Chernich, Senior Postsecondary Student Member, were coming to a close. She announced that two new students were nominated to serve as the Board's next Junior Student Members. Julia Antunes, a student at Mt. Lebanon High School, was nominated as the new Junior High School Student Member following an application process facilitated by the Pennsylvania Association of Student Councils. Makayla Murphy, a student at the Community College of Allegheny County, was nominated by the Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges to represent their sector on the Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the March 13, 2025, meeting of the Board were approved on a **Lee Williams/Dungee Glenn** motion.

COMMITTEE REPORT **TEACHER AND SCHOOL LEADER EFFECTIVENESS COMMITTEE**

Ms. Sandra Dungee Glenn, Chair of the Teacher and School Leader Effectiveness Committee, reported that the Committee met on May 7, 2025, to continue its review of the assessments required of candidates for certification and to discuss how the Board should evaluate the new Career and Technical Education Program of Study (CTE POS) in General Education.

Ms. Dungee Glenn said the School Code requires the Board to evaluate the efficacy of the CTE POS in General Education within one year of it being offered and at least every three

years thereafter. Judd Pittman, director of the Bureau of CTE, made a report to the Committee on the number of public schools that have established CTE POS in General Education over the past two years and identified potential benchmark measures that could be used to assess program efficacy. Ms. Dungee Glenn said the Committee determined that it was too soon to draw conclusions about whether the CTE POS in General Education is meeting its intended goals as the program is only in its second year of operation and no data is available yet to know whether students who complete the CTE pathway will enroll in educator preparation programs.

As such, Ms. Dungee Glenn said the Committee adopted an initial report on the new CTE POS in General Education that identifies metrics that the Board should consider over the long term in evaluating whether the program is meeting its goals. She highlighted key metrics and noted that, in identifying the measures, the Department was mindful about considering what data already is reported by schools in order to reduce the burden of data collection and reporting. Ms. Dungee Glenn asked the Chair to place the report on the agenda for action by the Board.

Ms. Dungee Glenn said the Committee also received an in-depth presentation from the Department to inform its review of certification assessments. The Committee received information about: testing fees, first-attempt and best-attempt pass rates, passing scores and the application of a sliding scale based on a student's grade point average, new test options from testing vendors, and approaches to certification assessment adopted by other states. To further inform this work, Ms. Dungee Glenn said the Department engaged teacher education students, classroom teachers and school administrators, and higher education faculty to gather their feedback on existing certification assessment requirements. A summary of this stakeholder input was shared with the Committee. Ms. Dungee Glenn said the Committee will convene again in July for another informational session on certification assessments.

COMMITTEE REPORT **HIGHER EDUCATION TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY**

Chair Farmer White provided an update on the Higher Education Transfer of Authority Committee (HETOAC) that was formed to consult with the State Board of Higher Education (SBHE) on preliminary recommendations for the transfer of higher education responsibilities that the Board received from the SBHE in March. Ms. Farmer White said the HETOAC met with a subcommittee of the SBHE on April 16, 2025, and on April 29, 2025. She invited members serving on the HETOAC to share their perspectives on issues related to the transfer of authority stemming from those consultative meetings. She further invited all members of the Board to reflect on areas of consensus or areas of joint concern and to speak on what next steps the Board should take.

Ms. Sandra Dungee Glenn, Chair of the HETOAC, said it was imperative to have an entity with perspective on the entire spectrum of the Commonwealth's education system, Pre-K through 16. She stated that the creation of the SBHE does not remove the Board's role in higher education in total. Ms. Dungee Glenn said the SBHE's strategic plan should become part of one aligned Master Plan for Education in the Commonwealth put forth by the Board that is inclusive of both the new strategic plan for higher education and the Board's Master Plan for Basic Education. Ms. Dungee Glenn further stated that, in her perspective, it made sense for the SBHE to assume review of regulations governing higher education with the exception of regulations governing educator preparation that should remain with the Board.

Ms. Farmer White stressed the need for ongoing communication between the Board and the SBHE. Dr. Monica Taylor stated that she largely agreed with Ms. Dungee Glenn and recommended that the Board consider forming a committee to engage in ongoing collaboration with the SBHE. Dr. Benjamin Wilson agreed with the comments offered by Dr. Taylor.

Ms. Katherine Christiano agreed with Ms. Dungee Glenn's recommendations, particularly as they pertain to retaining authority for educator preparation. She further agreed with Dr. Taylor's recommendation to form a committee to facilitate ongoing communication with the SBHE. Ms. Amanda Hetrick suggested that it may be fruitful for the Board and the SBHE to hold a joint meeting once a year.

REPORT OF THE ACTING SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

Dr. Carrie Rowe, Acting Secretary of Education, announced that Amy Lena was officially named as the new Deputy Secretary of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Dr. Rowe then provided an update on activity at the federal level and reviewed a list of Executive Orders that had been issued in recent weeks on matters that pertain to both education and libraries. She discussed the Department's efforts to communicate with chief school administrators about these Executive Orders and to secure answers to questions about them.

Finally, Dr. Rowe announced that Ashlie Crossen, the 2024 Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year, was named the 2025 National Teacher of the Year.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Dr. Kate Shaw, Executive Director of the SBHE, made a presentation about the SBHE's efforts to develop a strategic plan for higher education in the Commonwealth. Dr. Shaw reviewed the timeline for adopting the plan and the multiple methods of stakeholder engagement that is informing the work. She shared the six draft strategic plan goals that were approved by the SBHE. Dr. Shaw also invited Board members to share their feedback on the strategic plan.

REPORT OF THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

Chair Farmer White announced that the report of the Professional Standards and Practices Commission would be held over for the Board's next meeting in July.

DISCUSSION ITEM ACCEPTANCE OF PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Farmer White invited discussion of the format for accepting public comment during meetings of the Board. Members reached consensus that, moving forward, public comment will be accepted both from members of the public who are attending in person and from members of the public who are participating virtually.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ACTION ITEMS

REPORT ON THE CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM OF STUDY IN GENERAL EDUCATION

A motion to approve the report on the Career and Technical Education Program of Study in General Education, as recommended by the Teacher and School Leader Effectiveness Committee, was made by Ms. Sandra Dungee Glenn and seconded by Ms. Amanda Hetrick.

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

RECOMMENDATIONS PERTAINING TO THE DELINEATION OF ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Ms. Sandra Dungee Glenn offered a motion directing the Board to transmit to the State Board of Higher Education (SBHE) the following recommendations pertaining to the transfer of powers and duties related to higher education in Article XXVI-B of the Public School Code and the collaborative relationship that should be established between the Board and the SBHE:

- The requirements for the Council of Higher Education (Council) to develop a Master Plan for Higher Education and for the Board to adopt a Master Plan for Higher Education upon recommendation by the Council should be relinquished. Alternatively, the strategic plan for higher education that is developed by the SBHE should be presented to the Board for acceptance as part of a Comprehensive Master Plan for Education in the Commonwealth PreK-16 that would consist both of the SBHE's strategic plan and the Board's Master Plan for Basic Education.
- In relinquishing the requirements for the Council and the Board to adopt a Master Plan for Higher Education, the authority to require the submission of long-range plans from all public and private institutions of higher education established in section 2603-B(d)(9) of the School Code should be transferred to the SBHE. At present, the School Code requires these long-range plans to be reviewed in the development of a Master Plan for Higher Education. These long-range plans should be utilized by the SBHE to inform its strategic plan on higher education and to inform a Comprehensive Master Plan for Education in the Commonwealth PreK-16.
- The following powers and duties held by the Council of Higher Education under section 2604-B(c) of the School Code should be transferred to the SBHE:
 - The power to develop standards for the approval of colleges and universities for the granting of degrees and certificates.

- The power to develop standards for all higher education building projects involving the use of State funds or the funds of any Commonwealth instrumentality.
- The power held by the Council of Higher Education under section 2604-B(c)(4) of the School Code to conduct research studies and to formulate policy proposals in all areas pertaining to higher education in this Commonwealth should be transferred to the SBHE with the following exceptions:
 - Responsibility to conduct research and to formulate policy proposals related to educator preparation and educator certification, related to technical institutes, and related to public postsecondary career and technical education should remain under the jurisdiction of the Board.
- The power held by the Council of Higher Education under section 2604-B(c)(4) of the School Code to investigate programs should be retained for the Council to employ at its discretion.
- Section 2603-B(d)(4)(i-iii) of the School Code establishes the authority and duties of the Board related to the receipt and administration of federal funding for the development of academic facilities. These duties, insofar as they pertain to higher education only, should be carried out either by the SBHE or by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.
- The following powers held by the Board under section 2603-B of the School Code should be transferred to the SBHE. In executing this transfer, the Board should retain the right to review the alignment of policies established under this authority with the Comprehensive Master Plan for Education in the Commonwealth PreK-16.
 - The power to adopt policies under which the Secretary of Education shall approve or disapprove any action of a state-owned university, community college or State-related or State-aided college or university in establishing additional branches or campuses, or in discontinuing branches or campuses
 - The power to adopt policies under which the Secretary of Education shall approve or disapprove any action of a State-owned university, community college or State-related or State-aided college or university in establishing new professional schools or upper division programs by two-year institutions.
 - The power to adopt policies under which the Secretary of Education shall approve or disapprove applications by two-year institutions to become four-year institutions.
 - The power to adopt policies under which the Secretary of Education shall approve or disapprove the request of any private institutions of higher education for admission to State-related or State-aided status, or for eligibility for other State financial support.

- The authority held by the Board in section 2603-B(d)(9.1) to adopt policies encouraging the inclusion of trauma-informed approaches in professional education curriculum in all public and private institutions of higher education in this Commonwealth issuing degrees to individuals who may desire to teach in the schools of this Commonwealth should remain under the authority of the Board. Likewise, the responsibility established in section 2603-B(j) to consult with the Professional Standards and Practices Commission on matters pertaining to teacher certification, professional practice, accreditation of educator preparation programs, and long-range plans affecting these areas should be retained by the Board. Each of these responsibilities is related to the broader authority that should be retained by the Board to formulate policy proposals related to educator preparation and education certification.
- A mechanism should be established to facilitate regular communication and collaboration between the Board and the SBHE.
- The Board should retain authority to recommend improvements for underserved students in terms of access, progression, and completion of postsecondary education.

The motion was seconded by Dr. Monica Taylor.

Upon discussion on the motion, the Hon. Maureen Lally-Green sought clarity on the Board's role related to the SBHE's strategic plan for higher education if the Board no longer held responsibility for developing a Master Plan for Higher Education in the future. Ms. Dungee Glenn responded that the intent is to provide for one aligned Master Plan for Education in the Commonwealth through a mechanism that would be determined at a later point in time. The Hon. Lally-Green suggested that a plan of that nature be referred to as a comprehensive plan to distinguish it from the current master plan.

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

RESOLUTION HONORING AARUSHI DEDHIYA

A motion to approve a resolution honoring Aarushi Dedhiya was made by Dr. Lee Williams and seconded by Dr. Monica Taylor.

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

RESOLUTION HONORING BRENNIA CHERNICH

A motion to approve a resolution honoring Brenna Chernich was made by the Hon. Pedro Rivera and seconded by Ms. Sandra Dungee Glenn.

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


ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Farmer White announced that the Board's next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 9 and Thursday, July 10. She noted a scheduling conflict for members of the

Department's leadership team on July 10. To ensure that PDE leadership can attend the meeting, Chair Farmer White said the next meeting would be streamlined to one day on July 9.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:09 p.m. on a **Dungee Glenn/Christiano** motion.



Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant