

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

**Pennsylvania Training and Technical Network
6340 Flank Drive
Harrisburg, PA 17112**

March 12, 2026

The Council of Basic Education (Council) was called to order at 1:41 p.m. by Council Chair Lee Williams.

Attending:

Hon. Carol Aichele	Sandra Dungee Glenn	Rep. Peter Schweyer
Julia Antunes	Ernest Hadrick	Monica Taylor
Naina Bhatia	Amanda Hetrick	Karen Farmer White
Katherine Christiano	Hon. Maureen Lally-Green	Lee Williams
Yadira Cupeles	Robert Mitchell	Sen. Lindsey Williams
Rep. Bryan Cutler	Hon. Pedro Rivera	Benjamin Wilson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the September 11, 2025, meeting of the Council were approved on a **Christiano/Aichele** motion.

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

Deputy Secretary Amy Lena acknowledged the Department’s discussion earlier in the day with the Academic Standards/Chapter 4 Committee to move forward with planning listening sessions on the state’s English Language Arts and Mathematics standards. This stakeholder engagement is intended to bring together K-12 educators, higher education faculty, and workforce representatives to review current standards and help determine next steps for revising ELA and Math standards. Ms. Lena also shared updates from the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, including celebrating a recent Special Education Conference that honored the 50th anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Finally, Ms. Lena highlighted her recent visits to school districts across the Commonwealth.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Naina Bhatia and Ms. Julia Antunes, High School Student Members on the Council of Basic Education, provided an update on their outreach with peers through Students for Education in Pennsylvania (SEPA). They shared that recent SEPA discussions focused on recent legislation to ban cell phones in school. Ms. Bhatia and Ms. Antunes said SEPA members elaborated on cell phone solutions implemented in their own districts and emphasized a lack of centralized standards across the Commonwealth that have led to inconsistencies in school phone policies, resulting in confusion. Ms. Bhatia and Ms. Antunes stated that the legislation is not the right course of action and that standardizing cell phone rules through other methods would be more effective.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:52 p.m. on an **Aichele/Christiano** motion.

Stephanie Jones

Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant