

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

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

May 7, 2026

The Council of Basic Education (Council) was called to order at 9:10 a.m. by Council Chair Lee Williams.

Attending:

Hon. Carol Aichele
Julia Antunes
Nathan Barrett
Naina Bhatia
Katherine Christiano
Rep. Bryan Cutler

Sandra Dungee Glenn
Ernest Hadrick
Amanda Hetrick
Robert Mitchell
Hon. Pedro Rivera

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the March 12, 2026, meeting of the Council were approved on a **Barrett/Aichele** motion.

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

Deputy Secretary Amy Lena discussed plans for forthcoming stakeholder listening sessions on the state's academic standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics. These stakeholder forums are intended to bring together K-12 educators, higher education faculty, and workforce and industry representatives to collect actionable, cross-sector feedback on the standards and to ensure the standards are aligned with what students need for success in college, career, and life. Feedback from these listening sessions will be compiled in a report to help guide the State Board of Education's consideration of these standards. Ms. Lena said the Department of Education (Department) intends to convene four stakeholder sessions in Harrisburg, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, and in another location in the northern part of the state.

Ms. Lena also shared that the transition to the new Science, Technology & Engineering, Environmental Literacy and Sustainability (STEELS) standards has reached a significant milestone with the first operational state assessments aligned to the STEELS standards administered this spring. Following the administration of these assessments, the Department will undertake a process to establish new cut scores for the Science PSSAs and the Keystone Biology exam. Consequently, Ms. Lena shared that there will be a necessary delay in the scoring and

reporting of the state's science assessments. Ms. Lena said she expects these scores to be published no later than December 2026.

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 9:21 a.m. on a **Barrett/Aichele** motion.



Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant