

**MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

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

March 12, 2026

The meeting of the Council of Higher Education (Council) was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by the Honorable Pedro Rivera, Chair.

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	Mr. 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 **Dungee Glenn/Hetrick** motion.

**REPORT OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY AND COMMISSIONER FOR
POSTSECONDARY AND HIGHER EDUCATION**

Dr. Lynette Kuhn, Deputy Secretary and Commissioner for Postsecondary and Higher Education, provided updates on the recently launched Workforce Pell initiative, PA EmpowerU, FAFSA completion, efforts to pilot a PDE 430 for educational specialists, and work to identify transferable credits from new Career and Technical Education programs in General Education within the PA College Transfer portal. Additionally, Dr. Kuhn shared updated processing times for Pennsylvania teacher certifications and emergency permits.

PRESENTATION
STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION'S
STRATEGIC PLAN FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Dr. Kate Shaw, Executive Director of the State Board of Higher Education (SBHE), provided an overview of the SBHE's strategic plan, *Driving a Prosperous Pennsylvania: A Statewide Agenda for Higher Education*. Approved by the SBHE on February 19, 2026, the plan is organized around six goals: 1) Increase postsecondary credential attainment, 2) Ensure affordable pathways to postsecondary credentials, 3) Support the economic development needs of the Commonwealth, 4) Support the workforce development needs of the Commonwealth, 5) Ensure accountability and efficient use of state funds and 6) Strengthen the fiscal health and stability of the higher education sector.

At the conclusion of Dr. Shaw's presentation, Chair Farmer White invited discussion regarding how the State Board of Education will continue to facilitate regular communication and collaboration with the SBHE moving forward. Upon discussion, it was decided that the Council of Higher Education should serve this role as the Board's liaison to the SBHE.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

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 1:30 p.m. on a **Dungee Glenn/Farmer-White** motion.



Michelle Simmons
Administrative Officer 1