

**MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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

March 12, 2026

On Thursday, March 12, 2026, the 390th meeting of the State Board of Education (Board) was convened and called to order at 1:52 p.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
Julia Antunes
Naina Bhatia
Katherine Christiano
Yadira Cupeles

Rep. Bryan Cutler
Sandra Dungee Glenn
Ernest Hadrick
Amanda Hetrick
Hon. Maureen Lally-Green
Robert Mitchell

Hon. Pedro Rivera
Rep. Peter Schweyer
Monica Taylor
Karen Farmer White
Lee Williams
Benjamin Wilson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the January 15, 2026, meeting of the Board were approved on an **Aichele/Christiano** motion.

COMMITTEE REPORT
ACADEMIC STANDARDS/CHAPTER 4 COMMITTEE

Ms. Amanda Hetrick provided a report on behalf of the Academic Standards/Chapter 4 Committee. Ms. Hetrick shared that the Committee met earlier in the day and received recommendations on Academic Standards for Arts and Academic Standards for Health, Safety and Physical Education developed by external standards review teams. Ms. Hetrick said the Committee determined that it would like to spend more time reviewing the recommendations and will reconvene to offer feedback in May. She said the Committee also discussed unrelated draft amendments to Chapter 4 that it may entertain, including technical edits, revisions to the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment item types, and updates to high school equivalency testing. Ms. Hetrick said the Committee also discussed plans with Deputy Secretary Amy Lena to schedule listening sessions on the state’s English Language Arts and Mathematics standards.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

Dr. Carrie Rowe, Secretary of Education, provided an overview of key investments in the Governor’s proposed budget and described how those investments support students, educators, and communities across Pennsylvania. Dr. Rowe also discussed the importance of recess in supporting students’ physical health, social development, and readiness to learn. She noted that, at present, we do not know how many schools provide daily recess to students or the length of

recess provided, and she encouraged the use of best practices in scheduling as schools enter next year's planning process.

DISCUSSION ITEM
ACCESS TO RECESS FOR STUDENTS

Chair Karen Farmer White shared that, during his budget address, Governor Shapiro identified guaranteeing student access to recess as an issue for the Board to consider. Chair Farmer White said the Governor's Office of Policy and Planning recently sent a letter requesting that the Board provide their office with recommendations regarding the importance of recess in Kindergarten through grade 5 by May 15, 2026. The Governor requested evidence-based guidance, best practices, and policy recommendations that guarantee all students in grades K-5 have consistent access to recess during the school day.

Chair Farmer White invited discussion among the Board about next steps in responding to this request. Chair Farmer White appointed an Ad Hoc Committee on Recess to gather information to support the Board's deliberations on this issue and to develop draft recommendations for the Board's consideration. The Ad Hoc Committee is comprised of Amanda Hetrick (Ad Hoc Committee Chair), Ernest Hadrick, and Katherine Christiano.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gina Gullo, with the Pennsylvania State Education Association (PSEA), addressed the discussion on recess and highlighted House Bill 2217 as aligning with positions supported by PSEA on the issue.

ACTION ITEM

There were no action items.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:34 p.m. on an **Aichele/Lally-Green** motion.

Stephanie Jones

Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant