

MINUTES

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

333 Market Street | 1st Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126

July 9, 2026

The 392nd meeting of the State Board of Education (Board) was convened on July 9, 2026, and called to order at 10:39 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
Julia Antunes
Nathan Barrett
Katherine Christiano
Sen. Lynda Culver
Rep. Bryan Cutler

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

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

CHAIRPERSON REMARKS

Chair Farmer White welcomed Robbie Nguyen, a student at Manheim Township High School, as the Board's new high school Junior Student Member. Ms. Farmer White also welcomed Paulina Sanchez, a student at the University of Pittsburgh, as the Board's new post-secondary Junior Student Member. Mr. Nguyen and Ms. Sanchez will serve two-year terms as advisory members of the Council of Basic Education and the Council of Higher Education, respectively.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the May 7, 2026, meeting of the Board were approved on a Hetrick/Christiano motion.

COMMITTEE REPORT

SPECIAL AND GIFTED EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Honorable Carol Aichele, member of the Special and Gifted Education Committee, shared that the Committee held an informational meeting on July 8, 2026, on the age of eligibility for developmental delay. The term is defined in the Board's regulations governing Special Education to apply to children who are less than the age of beginner and at least age 3. The Hon. Aichele said the informational meeting was convened in response to a stakeholder

request to consider extending the age of eligibility for a development delay identification through age 9.

Dr. Carole Clancy, Director of Special Education for the Pennsylvania Department of Education (Department), provided the Committee with an overview of federal regulations that address developmental delay, related policies adopted by other states, and background on Pennsylvania's definition of developmental delay. Dr. Clancy shared that, under a prior administrative practice, school age students identified as having a developmental delay were not reported to the Department in the annual count of eligible children receiving special education services, which resulted in districts re-evaluating these students either prior to entering a school-age program or in the fall of the school-age program. Dr. Clancy said that, during the pandemic, the Department issued guidance that shifted this reporting practice to include developmental delay in the December 1 child count. The Hon. Aichele said the Committee directed the Department to update and re-issue this guidance to the field to clarify that developmental delay is a disability category that can be used through kindergarten while a student reaches the age of beginner. She said the Committee asked the Department to gather data over the next few years to determine if there is increased use of this category in school-age programs. That data will help the Committee to determine if it indicates a need to consider extending the eligibility age further by amending the definition of developmental delay in 22 Pa. Code Chapter 14.

COMMITTEE REPORT

ACADEMIC STANDARDS/CHAPTER 4 COMMITTEE

Dr. Lee Williams, Chair of the Academic Standards/Chapter 4 Committee, shared that the Committee met earlier that morning at which time it received updated recommendations for new Academic Standards for the Arts and new Academic Standards for Health, Safety and Physical Education. Dr. Brian Gasper, the Department's Chief of the Division of Instructional Quality, presented the recommendations which were developed by external advisory committees. Dr. Williams announced that Committee will hold public hearings on the standards recommendations and on other draft amendments to Chapter 4. She said public hearing are scheduled for August 4, 2026, at Allegheny Intermediate Unit and for September 10, 2026, at Montgomery County Intermediate Unit. Alternative written comments also will be accepted through September 10, 2026. Dr. Williams said the Committee is exploring adding a third public hearing in the Northern Tier and noted that, if a third hearing is added to the schedule, the written comment deadline will be extended to coincide with the third hearing date.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION LEADERSHIP

Dr. Carrie Rowe, Secretary of Education, announced that Heather Sharpe was appointed as the new Deputy Secretary of the Office of Commonwealth Libraries and State Librarian upon the retirement of State Librarian Susan Banks. Ms. Sharpe previously served as Director of the Bureau of Library Development. Secretary Rowe also noted that work on the state budget is ongoing in the General Assembly.

Dr. Lynette Kuhn, Deputy Secretary and Commissioner for Postsecondary and Higher Education, provided an update on a suggestion made by the Board's high school student members to create a video series featuring student testimonials on the transition from high school

to postsecondary education. In response to this suggestion, Dr. Kuhn shared that the Department will create video testimonials featuring current college students and students transitioning from high school as part of the marketing campaign for the PA EmpowerU's Student Resource Bank. Dr. Kuhn also shared updates on FAFSA completion rates, certification processing timelines, and Pennsylvania's first two Workforce Pell program approvals.

Amy Lena, Deputy Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education, shared that the first of several regional stakeholder listening sessions on the state's standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics was held at Capital Area Intermediate Unit on July 8, 2026. Ms. Lena said the listening sessions are intended to foster cross-sector collaboration between K-12 educators, higher education, and business and industry professionals. Ms. Lena also discussed the upcoming Bridging Knowledge to Know-How conference that will be hosted by the Bureau of Special Education and PaTTAN. She discussed the Department's continued engagement in Student Symposiums on Mental Health.

Finally, Ms. Lena shared that the Department will undertake a standards setting process for state science assessments in August. She said that effort will involve convening educators to develop cut score recommendations and performance level descriptors (PLDs) for the PSSA Science exams and the Keystone Biology exam. Ms. Lena introduced members of her staff, Brian Campbell and Rich Maraschiello, to make a presentation on the booking methodology that the Department intends to use in undertaking this standards setting.

Chair Farmer White announced that she anticipates the Board will consider cut scores and PLDs for the state's Science assessments as voting items at its meeting in September. Chair Farmer White noted that the Board's regulations governing state assessments require that Keystone Exam cut scores must be presented at a public meeting of the Board for review at least two weeks prior to Board action on the cut scores. As such, Chair Farmer White announced that the Board will hold a Special Meeting on August 24, 2026, to receive cut score recommendations from the Department.

REPORT OF THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

Amber Czerniakowski, Executive Director of the Professional Standards and Practices Commission (PSPC), presented the PSPC's 2025 Annual Report. Ms. Czerniakowski was joined by Nadya Chmil from the Department's Office of Chief Counsel.

DISCUSSION ITEM

TRANSITION OF 22 PA CODE CHAPTER 10 TO THE SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

Chair Farmer White noted that the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) provided a briefing to the Board's School and University Safety Committee on May 6, 2026, on its work related to the transfer of authority for the safe schools regulations in 22 Pa. Code Chapter 10. Chair Farmer White said the General Assembly previously enacted legislation that transfers responsibility for these regulations from the Board to PCCD's School Safety and Security Committee. To facilitate this transition, she said the Board will need to remove Chapter

10 from the Pennsylvania Code so that the Code does not contain two sets of rules governing the same issues when PCCD's new regulations are published. Chair Farmer White presented a final-omitted rulemaking that would place Chapter 10 in reserve. She invited discussion among the Board on the draft amendments to place Chapter 10 in reserve.

DISCUSSION ITEM

COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY APPLICATION TO DISCONTINUE CAMPUS

Chair Farmer White explained that the Board's regulations in 22 Pa. Code Chapter 34 establish a process for considering applications to discontinue branch campuses at state-supported institutions of higher education that requires the Secretary of Education to consult with the Board before acting to approve or disapprove such applications. She shared that Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania submitted an application to the Department seeking to discontinue operations at its Clearfield campus at the end of the 2026-27 academic year. The application was added to the Board's agenda as an opportunity for members to provide input on the request to discontinue the branch campus. Marcus Delgado, the Department's Deputy Secretary of Administration, presented the Department's initial assessment of the application. He was joined by the Department's Chief Counsel Virginia Montgomery, Assistant Chief Counsel Patrick Lord, and Jenny Piper, Chief of the Division of Higher Education Access and Equity. Following Mr. Delgado's presentation, Chair Farmer White invited discussion among the Board on the application.

DISCUSSION ITEM

2027 MEETING CALENDAR

Chair Karen Farmer White presented proposed dates for 2027 Board meetings and invited discussion among the Board on the draft schedule.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Bev Martin, with SHAPE PA, spoke in support of recommended Health, Safety and Physical Education standards. She thanked the Board for opening discussion on these standards.

ACTION ITEMS

FINAL-OMIT 22 PA CODE CAPTER 10 (SAFE SCHOOLS)

A motion to approve final-omit amendments to place 22 Pa. Code Chapter 10 (Safe Schools) in reserve was made by Mr. Nathan Barrett and seconded by Ms. Amanda Hetrick.

VOTE: The motion to approve final-omit amendments to 22 Pa. Code Chapter 10 (Safe Schools) was approved by a roll call vote of 14-0. (YEA: Aichele, Barrett, Christiano, Culver (proxy), Dungee Glenn, Hadrick, Hetrick, Mitchell, Rivera, Taylor, Farmer White, Lee Williams, Lindsey Williams and Wilson)

2027 MEETING CALENDAR

A motion to approve the Board's 2027 meeting calendar (January 13-14, 2027, March 10-11, 2027, May 5-6, 2027, July 14-15, 2027, September 8-9, 2027, and November 17-18, 2027) was made by Ms. Katherine Christiano and seconded by Ms. Sandra Dungee Glenn

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

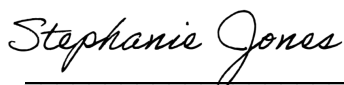
Chair Farmer White announced that the Board's next meeting on September 10, 2026, will be held at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown.

Dr. Williams shared that registration details for upcoming hearings of the Academic Standards/Chapter 4 Committee will be posted on the Board's website.

Sandra Dungee Glenn stated that the Board previously established requirements for structured literacy to be incorporated into educator preparation programs. She cited a recent report from the National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ) that raised questions about how the science of reading is being incorporated into educator preparation. Ms. Dungee Glenn shared that the Pennsylvania Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators (PAC-TE) provided a response to NCTQ's report and said she would share PAC-TE's response with the Teacher and School Leader Effectiveness Committee that she Chairs for the Board. Ms. Dungee Glenn stated that she would like the Committee to focus more on what is happening with structured literacy in the Commonwealth's educator preparation programs.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:01 p.m. on a Lee Williams/Dungee Glenn motion.



Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant