I. Opening
   A. Call to Order: Dr. Noble called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

   B. Roll Call

   Ms. McHugh conducted roll call for the meeting with seven members present (Bunting, Fifer, Noble, Olatunji, Powell, Rushdan, and Wainwright). Mr. Lofink and Ms. Sweeney were not present.

   C. Approval of Agenda

   A motion was made by Mr. Powell and seconded by Mrs. Bunting to approve the August 15, 2019 agenda as presented. The motion carried (5 Yes to 0 No - Bunting, Fifer, Noble, Powell, and Rushdan).

   D. Approval of Strategic Planning Meeting Minutes for July 17, 2019

   A motion was made by Ms. Fifer and seconded by Mr. Rushdan to approve the July 17, 2019 minutes as presented. The motion carried (5 Yes to 0 No - Bunting, Fifer, Noble, Powell, and Rushdan).

   E. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes for July 18, 2019

   A motion was made by Mrs. Bunting and seconded by Mr. Powell to approve the July 18, 2019 minutes as presented. The motion carried (5 Yes to 0 No - Bunting, Fifer, Noble, Powell, and Rushdan).

II. State Board Business
A. Committee Reports

Board members provided updates on recent Board business and committee participation. Dr. Wainwright attended the Millennial Summit on August 6-7th at the Chase Center with over 1,000 people in attendance with various speakers and presenters. Mr. Rushdan attended the Summer Learning Laws Program, the FAME Program and the P-20 Subcommittee. The FAME Program is getting interested in the STEM Program with kids being allowed to see laboratories and CTE space. Dr. Noble reported that Ms. Sweeney met with Governor Carper and John Sheehan and provided a copy of the Annual Report. She also met with individuals from Junior Achievement. Dr. Noble attended the P-20 Council Licensure and Program Approval and Early Childhood Care and Learning Workforce. Mr. Powell attended a Community Meeting at the Southbridge Community. Christiana School District presented very good dialog. He also attended the opening day at The Bancroft School. Ms. Olatunji attended a scholarship program in Oklahoma, the Northeastern University in Boston, and the international YMCA 175th Anniversary which took place in London.

B. Executive Director’s Report

Ms. Ahner provided an update on recent activities in her office. She noted that the CTE Subcommittee will be presenting a draft state plan, open to public comment to the SBE at the December 19th meeting.

Board members asked questions concerning the types of documents which will be shared with members and with students. Those documents include minutes and power points of presentations. Ms. Ahner suggested reaching students by inviting Student Councils to attend meetings.

III. Secretary’s Report

Dr. Susan Bunting provided her report, highlighting the Department’s work and visits within the last month.

Dr. Bunting informed the Board that she attended the 2019 Teachers of the Year farewell luncheon, dedication of Georgetown’s Richard Allen School as a National Historical Landmark, attended the House Education Committee at an Out-of-Session meeting regarding school financing, and participated in a Family First Prevention Service Act planning meeting.

IV. Presentations

A. Sussex Tech School District Presentation

Stephen Guthrie, Superintendent of Sussex Tech School District and Dr. John Demby, Principal of Sussex Tech High School made the presentation to the Board. Mr. Guthrie provided background on the career and technical programs offered at the high school. Students begin in 9th grade with 1,250 students in attendance this school year. The school maintains a strategic plan focus to ensure career and technical education growth; academic growth; maintain a high-quality workforce; provide a positive learning and working environment; and engages the school community.

Board members asked questions regarding the need to retain qualified teachers and the qualifications necessary for technical teachers. Dr. Demby pointed out that Sussex Tech High School continues with a positive school climate. The teachers feel they have ownership in the school and have pride in the culture. Dr. Demby indicated that they obtain their teachers right from industry with degrees. Their students move right from the classroom into their new careers.
Mr. Guthrie provided that the school completes a straight lottery for entrance into the school including 18% pharmacy students, 7% special education, while specifics don’t match demographics. Everyone has equal opportunity.

Dr. Demby indicated that he is a member of the CTE National Leadership Academy.

B. Charter School Update

Mr. Leroy Travers, Charter School Office, Department of Education, provided an update on Odyssey Charter School. Odyssey Charter School established a “Compliance Committee” comprised of three OCS Board members and three non-OCS Board members. There is one member of the AHEPA family on the committee. The Compliance Committee has four sub-committees as follows: By-laws: governance; The Board asked questions regarding why the school closed early and how many students need to be transitioned. The Board asked about the audit that must be conducted when a charter school closes, who selects the organization that completes that audit, and if the audit procedures must be approved by DDOE. Members asked if there have been concerns about audits missing information in the past.

V.

A. Public Comment on Regulations

No public comments were received.

VI.

Mr. Travers provided an update on his office’s review of the financial framework for charter schools. He discussed membership of a proposed committee to review and recommend updates to the framework, a suggested timeline, and the time commitment expected from members.

The Board asked questions regarding the membership and asked if there is a conflict in having individuals who will be measured by the framework responsible for developing it. The Board asked if best practices from elsewhere will be considered and if the academic and organizational frameworks will also be revisited.

A. Odyssey Charter School

Mr. Travers provided an update on the process regarding Odyssey Charter School’s formal review.

Ms. Sweeney outlined the process and requirements for discussion of Odyssey Charter School, noting that specific items in the PIC opinion must be discussed in Executive Session. She shared that Dr. Noble is a non-voting member of CSAC and represents the voice of the State Board of Education. She encouraged the Board to consider questions or resources that the Board would like to be included as a part of the public record that will come before the Board on July 18th. Dr. Noble will bring comments or questions from the Board to the June 24th CSAC meeting.
Board members asked for clarification regarding what the recommendations or conditions may include. Members noted that public comment received so far focuses heavily on the academics of the school and that is important to be clear that the school has been placed on formal review due to financial and governance concerns.

Board members shared concerns regarding the misappropriation of state funds, specifically the state funding used to support an early learning center since its charter is focused on K-12. Members also raised concerns regarding conflicts of interest among Odyssey Charter School Board members. Members discussed other charter schools in the state that partner with outside organizations that support their missions but do not control the governance of their organizations.

The Board discussed financial and governance concerns. Board members discussed that the Board President is chosen in a non-public meeting that is not open to females. Members discussed concerns about unclear financial records that demonstrate how funding was spent and that the school has admitted to spending money on items outside of its state charter.

The Board raised concerns regarding the response provided by the Public Integrity Commission (PIC) to Odyssey’s initial plan to address PIC opinions.

The Board discussed the desire to move into Executive Session to discuss the PIC documents following public comment.

VII. Formal Public Comment

Kendall Massett, Executive Director at Delaware Charter Schools Network, provided public comment. Ms. Massett provided information regarding DCSN’s work with Design Thinking Academy as they wrap up the school year. Ms. Massett also provided comment on the Board’s discussion regarding SB 159. She shared concerns regarding the process the bill creates and that the bill could encourage unfounded investigations. She discussed the ability of the Auditor to request specific procedures to be included in charter school audits.

VIII. Odyssey Charter School

A motion to move to Executive Session to discuss the PIC opinion regarding Odyssey Charter School was made by Dr. Noble and seconded by Mr. Rushdan. The motion carried (7 Yes to 0 No - Bunting, Fifer, Lofink, Noble, Powell, Rushdan, and Sweeney).

The Board discussed the PIC documentation regarding Odyssey Charter School.

A motion to return to public session was made by Mrs. Bunting and seconded by Mr. Rushdan. The motion carried (7 Yes to 0 No - Bunting, Fifer, Lofink, Noble, Powell, Rushdan and Sweeney).

Ms. Sweeney noted that CSAC is meeting on Monday and encouraged members to follow-up with Dr. Noble with any further comments or questions regarding that meeting. Board members asked questions regarding CSAC’s ability to conduct interviews with staff or former Board members. Board members also discussed the November and December audio recordings from the Odyssey Charter School Board, which are available on the school website.

The Board asked how often the Department of Education requests a PIC opinion. Dr. Bunting shared that this is the first one she is aware of during her time at the Department.

IX. Adjournment
A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Fifer and seconded by Mrs. Bunting. *The motion carried* (7 Yes to 0 No Bunting, Fifer, Lofink, Noble, Powell, Rushdan, and Sweeney).

The meeting adjourned at 9:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan S. Bunting, Ed.D.

Executive Secretary and

Secretary of Education