DELAWARE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Townsend Building
401 Federal Street, Suite 2
Dover, Delaware 19901

Meeting Minutes

George Read Middle School Auditorium
314 E. Basin Road, New Castle, Delaware 19720
February 21, 2019
5:00 P.M.

Members Present: Candice Fifer, Vincent Lofink, Wali Rushdan II, Whitney Sweeney

Members Absent: Nina Lou Bunting and Dr. Audrey Noble

Others Present: Dr. Susan Bunting, Secretary of Education and State Board of Education (SBE) Executive Secretary; Rae Mims, Deputy Attorney General, representing the SBE; Jenna Ahner, SBE Executive Director; Dawn McHugh, SBE Administrative Assistant; Leroy Travers, DOE; Emily Cunningham, DOE; Dr. Dusty Blakey, Superintendent, Colonial School District; Dr. Jeffrey Menzer, Colonial School District; Chad Asher, Colonial School District; Cooper Asher; Ted Laws, Colonial School District; Jeff Hew; Justin Reed; Leon Wilson, Colonial School District; Nick Wolfe, Colonial School District; Wendy Turner, Brandywine School District; Thomas Neubauer, DOE/DIAA; Robin Crossan, Colonial School District; Christine Crossan; Representative Kimberly Williams

I. Opening

A. Call to Order: Ms. Sweeney called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

Ms. Sweeney thanked the Colonial School District and Superintendent Dr. Dusty Blakey for hosting the State Board of Education’s meeting.

B. Roll Call

Ms. McHugh conducted roll call for the meeting with 4 members present (Fifer, Lofink, Rushdan, and Sweeney).

C. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Lofink and seconded by Mr. Rushdan to approve the February 21, 2019 agenda. The motion carried (4 Yes to 0 No – Fifer, Lofink, Rushdan, and Sweeney).

D. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes for January 17, 2019

A motion was made by Mr. Lofink and seconded by Mr. Rushdan to approve the January 17, 2019 minutes as presented. The motion carried (4 Yes to 0 No – Fifer, Lofink, Rushdan, and Sweeney).
II. State Board Business

A. Recognition of Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science Teacher Award Finalist

The Board recognized Wendy Turner from the Brandywine School District as one of the recipients of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

B. Committee Reports

Board members provided updates on recent Board business and committee participation. Ms. Sweeney provided an update on the student Board member application, P-20 Council, and recent meetings with education partners. Mr. Rushdan provided an update on the Equalization Committee. He also shared that he attended the Red Clay School District’s public meetings regarding the selection of a new superintendent. Mr. Lofink provided an overview of the State Board’s CTE Subcommittee. Ms. Fifer provided an overview of the Drug and Substance Abuse Prevention Advisory Group.

C. Executive Director’s Report

Ms. Ahner provided an update on recent activities in her office. The application for a student Board member is now open and is available on the State Board of Education’s website.

III. Secretary’s Report

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

IV. Presentations

A. Colonial School District Spotlight

Dr. Dusty Blakey, Colonial School District Superintendent, provided an overview of work underway in the Colonial School District. Dr. Blakey highlighted work underway in the district’s middle schools. Students from the district’s culinary team and Steel Drum Band participated in the presentation.

The Board asked about lessons learned regarding the middle school reorganization.

B. Colonial School District Graduation Advisory Board

Dr. Jeffrey Menzer, Colonial School District Assistance Superintendent, presented on the Graduation Advisory Board. Dr. Menzer provided an overview, timeline, and measures of success.

V. Charter Schools

A. Charter School Annual Report

Leroy Travers of the Charter School Office provided an overview of the 2017-18 Charter School Annual Report. Mr. Travers shared information regarding enrollment, the DSSF, the organizational framework, the financial framework, and innovation and collaboration.
The Board asked questions regarding supports for schools that do not meet expectations on the financial framework. The Board also asked how best practices are being disseminated across district and charter schools.

B. Monthly Charter School Update

Mr. Travers provided update on the work of his office. He provided information on work underway to increase charter and district collaboration and to increase diversity of staff and students in charter schools.

The Board asked questions regarding how the Board can help share best practices across schools.

VI. Department of Education Regulations

A. Regulations for Discussion and Action

1. Regulation 1008 – DIAA Junior High and Middle School Interscholastic Athletics (for Action)

Ted Laws, Thomas Neubauer and Laura Makransky presented Regulation 1008 – DIAA Junior High and Middle School Interscholastic Athletics.

The Board asked questions regarding the variation in fees across sports and the need to revisit fees with changes in inflation.

A motion was made by Mr. Lofink and seconded by Mr. Rushdan to approve Regulation 1008 as presented. The motion carried (4 Yes to 0 No – Fifer, Lofink, Rushdan, and Sweeney).

2. Regulation 1009 – DIAA High School Interscholastic Athletics (for Action)

Ted Laws, Thomas Neubauer and Laura Makransky presented Regulation 1009 – DIAA High School Interscholastic Athletics.

A motion was made by Mr. Lofink and seconded by Mr. Rushdan to approve Regulation 1009 as presented. The motion carried (4 Yes to 0 No – Fifer, Lofink, Rushdan, and Sweeney).

B. Public Comment on Department of Education regulations

No public comment was given.

VII. Formal Public Comment

Representative Kimberly Williams applauded Dr. Dusty Blakey and the Colonial School District for the work that they are doing.

Representative Williams commented on charter school diversity and the need for enrollment preferences and transportation to be considered as part of this conversation.

VIII. Adjournment
A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Lofink and seconded by Mr. Rushdan. The motion carried (4 Yes to 0 No – Fifer, Lofink, Rushdan, and Sweeney).

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Digital recordings of the meeting can be found in the “audio recordings” section of the State Board of Education’s website.

Respectfully Submitted,

[Signature]

Susan S. Bunting, Ed.D.
Executive Secretary and
Secretary of Education