

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

*Hartford*

**Minutes of Meeting**

**January 3, 2007**

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on January 3, 2007, at Rensselaer @ Hartford, Hartford, Connecticut.

- I. Present: Allan Taylor, Chairman  
Alice Carolan  
Edna Chukwurah\*  
Donald Coolican  
Janet Finneran  
Lynne Farrell\*  
Theresa Hopkins-Staton  
Patricia Luke  
Valerie Lewis, Ex-Officio\*
- Absent: Sloan Danenhower  
Timothy McDonald  
Beverly Bobroske

Chairperson Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

**VIII.A. Status of Settlement Agreement in the P.J., et al v. State of Connecticut.**  
**Board of Education**

George Dowaliby, Associate Commissioner, Division of Teaching and Learning Programs and Services, introduced the members of the Expert Advisory Panel (EAP). They are: Dr. Leonard Burrello, Professor of Education, Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at Indiana University; Dr. W. Alan Coulter, Associate Professor, Department of Interdisciplinary Training, and Program Director, Human Development Center, Louisiana University Medical Center; and Dr. Wayne Sailor, Senior Scientist, Beach Center on Disability/Schiefelbusch Institute on Life Span Studies, University of Kansas. The panel discussed the implementation of the P.J., et al v. State of Connecticut Board of Education.

[Commissioner Lewis arrived at 9:40 am]  
[Ms. Chukwurah arrived at 9:45 am]  
[Dr. Farrell arrived at 9:50 am]

#### **IV.1 Consideration of Minutes of the December 6, 2006, State Board of Education Meeting**

Mrs. Luke made the following correction on page 6, under XI. Committee Reports, Audit and Department Matters Committee, remove the following:

Mrs. Luke reported that the committee met this morning regarding the Highville report. The report is now being reviewed by the Attorney General's office and will then go to the Office of Public Accounts.

and insert:

Mrs. Luke reported that the committee met this morning. The Highville report is now being reviewed by the Attorney General's office and will then go to the Auditors of Public Accounts.

Mr. Taylor made the following correction on page 5, third bullet to add an "s" on the word "hope."

Ms. Finneran moved, Mrs. Luke seconded, that the Board approves the minutes, as corrected, of the December 6, 2006, State Board of Education meeting.

VOTE: In Favor: Carolan, Coolican, Farrell, Finneran, Luke, Hopkins-Staten,  
Taylor  
Opposed: 0  
Abstained: 0  
Absent: Bobroske, McDonald

Motion carried unanimously.

#### **IV.2 Consideration of Minutes of the December 18, 2006, State Board of Education Meeting**

Ms. Luke moved, Ms. Finneran seconded, that the Board approves the minutes of the December 18, 2006, State Board of Education meeting.

VOTE: In Favor: Carolan, Coolican, Farrell, Finneran, Luke, Hopkins-Staten,  
Taylor  
Opposed: 0  
Abstained: 0  
Absent: Bobroske, McDonald

Motion carried unanimously.

### **VII.A. Biennial Summary Report**

Mrs. Luke moved, Mr. Coolican seconded, that the Board, pursuant to subsection (b) of Section 10-95k of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the 2004-05 and 2005-06 Biennial Summary Report, as recommended by the Connecticut Technical High School Committee, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE: In Favor: Carolan, Coolican, Farrell, Finneran, Luke, Hopkins-Staten,  
Taylor  
Opposed: 0  
Abstained: 0  
Absent: Bobroske, McDonald

Motion carried unanimously.

### **III. Executive Session**

The Board unanimously voted to move into executive session at 10:30 a.m. for the purpose of discussing matters defined in subsection (e) of Section 1-225a of the Connecticut General Statutes (C.C.S.), specifically, pending litigation (Sheff v. O'Neill).

Present at executive session were Board members: Mr. Coolican, Ms. Finneran, Ms. Chukwurah, Mr. Taylor, Dr. Farrell, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten, Dr. Carolan and Mrs. Luke. Also present were Commissioner of Higher Education Valerie Lewis, Interim Commissioner George A. Coleman, Mark A. Stapleton, Chief, Office of Legal and Governmental Affairs, Ralph Urban, Assistant Attorney General, Ms. Karen Flanagan, Attorney for the Department of Education, Mr. William Magnotta, Consultant, Bureau of Educational Equity, and Pamela Bergin, Assistant to the Commissioner for Board Matters. Mr. McDonald, Mr. Danenhower and Mrs. Bobroske were absent.

By unanimous consent, the Board voted to adjourn its executive session and reconvene in public session at 12:00 p.m. Present: Mr. Coolican, Ms. Finneran, Ms. Chukwurah, Mr. Taylor, Dr. Farrell, Mrs. Hopkins-Staton, Dr. Carolan and Mrs. Luke. Mr. McDonald, Mr. Danenhower and Mrs. Bobroske were absent.

**IX. Report of the Chair –**

- The Board received in a weekly mailing packet the conference brochure on Improving School Climate to Diminish Bullying (Regional Workshop Series). Please notify the Office of the State Board, if you would like to attend one of these sessions.
- Upcoming NASBE meetings:
  - Beverly Bobroske will attend Board of Directors meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup>; and
  - Allan Taylor will attend Governmental Affairs meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Mrs. Bobroske, Mrs. Hopkins-Staton and Chairman Taylor will attend the session on "Closing the Achievement Gap" on January 17 at the Rocky Hill Marriott from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. This is part of the series being held for superintendents and board leaders of urban districts.
- The first meeting of the PreK-16 Education Council will be held on January 10, 2007, at CREC in Hartford from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.
- There will be a follow-up meeting with the Deans of Education at the end of January to discuss goals of revising the accreditation process.

**X. Report of the Commissioner –**

- We are in the middle of our budget season and Interim Commissioner Coleman looks forward to working with the Board as we present and defend our proposed budget.

**XI. Committee Reports**

- **Audit and Department Matters Committee** – Mrs. Luke reported that the committee did not meet. The Highville report is still being reviewed by the Attorney General's office and the Auditors of Public Accounts.

- **Legislation and Bylaws Committee** – none
- **Policy Development Committee** – Ms. Finneran reported that the committee will meet this afternoon if time permits.
- **Connecticut Technical High School Committee** – Mr. Coolican reported that the next committee meeting is scheduled for January 10<sup>th</sup> at Cheney Technical High School in Manchester.

**XII.A. Adoption of Five-Year Comprehensive Plan for Education 2006-2011**

Mrs. Luke moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded, that the Board, pursuant to subsection (c) of Section 10-4 of the Connecticut General Statutes, adopts *A Superior Education for Connecticut's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learners: Connecticut's Comprehensive Plan for Education 2006-2011*, for submission to the Governor and the Education Committee of the General Assembly, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

The Board requested that the Department make editorial changes to the document before submitting it to the Governor, Education Committee and the general public.

VOTE: In Favor: Carolan, Coolican, Farrell, Finneran, Luke, Hopkins-Staten,  
Taylor  
Opposed: 0  
Abstained: 0  
Absent: Bobroske, McDonald

Motion carried unanimously.

**XII.B. Legislative Proposal Concerning Interventions by State Department Of Education Regarding Districts Failing to Make Adequate Yearly Progress**

Ms. Finneran moved, Mrs. Luke seconded, that the Board, approves the legislative proposal for interventions in school districts that fail to make adequate yearly progress (AYP) pursuant to the No Child Left Behind Act for at least four consecutive years, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

The Board requested that the Department specify the time frame within which certain actions occur consistent with the provisions of No Child Left Behind.

VOTE: In Favor: Carolan, Coolican, Farrell, Finneran, Luke, Hopkins-Staten,  
Taylor  
Opposed: 0  
Abstained: 0  
Absent: Bobroske, McDonald

Motion carried unanimously.

By unanimous consent, the Board adjourned its meeting at 12:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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George A. Coleman, Secretary