

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

*Hartford*

**Minutes of Meeting  
March 7, 2007**

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on March 7, 2007, at the State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

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

Absent: Edna Chukwurah

Chairperson Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

**II. Public Participation**

Jean Klein, Legislative Chair, Connecticut Reading Association, invited the Board to attend a Legislative Reception on Wednesday, March 28, 2007, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m., in Room 310, of the Capitol Building. Mrs. Klein also informed the Board that, for the second time, Connecticut has won the Five Star Policy recognition award to be presented in Toronto in May.

[\*Commissioner Lewis arrived at 9:38 a.m.]

**IV. Consideration of Minutes of the February 7, 2007, State Board of Education Meeting**

Mrs. Luke moved, Mrs. Bobroske seconded, that the Board approves the minutes of the February 7, 2007, State Board of Education meeting.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

## **VI. Consent Agenda**

Mrs. Bobroske removed consent item VI.B., Nominations for NASBE Board of Directors. Mr. Coolican removed consent item VI.C., Receipt of the Report of the Connecticut Advisory Council for School Administrator Professional Standards.

Mrs. Luke moved, Ms. Finneran seconded, that the Board approves by unanimous consent, agenda items VI.A., Approval of Adult Education State Plan; VI.D., Receipt of the Report of the Connecticut Advisory Council for Teacher Professional Standards; and VI.E., Report of the Study Committee Regarding the Addition of Grades to Regional School District No. 4.

### **VI.A. Approval of Adult Education State Plan**

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to its role as the state education agency (SEA) for Connecticut, approves the revised Connecticut State Plan for Adult Education and Family Literacy, Title II of the Workforce Investment Act for FY2008 (July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008) and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

### **VI.D. Receipt of the Report of the Connecticut Advisory Council for Teacher Professional Standards**

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education receives the 2006 Annual Report of the Connecticut Advisory Council for Teacher Professional Standards, submitted in accordance with the requirements of subsection (b) of Section 10-144d of the Connecticut General Statutes, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

### **VI.E. Report of the Study Committee Regarding the Addition of Grades to Regional School District No. 4**

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-47b of the Connecticut General Statutes, accepts the Report of the Study Committee Regarding the Addition of Grades to Regional School District Number 4, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.



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

Motion carried unanimously.

[\*Mr. Danenhower arrived at 9:45 a.m.]

**VIII.A. Summary Report on Vocational Agriculture Graduates Report**

George Dowaliby, Interim Associate Commissioner, Division of Teaching and Learning Programs and Services, presented the report to the Board. Discussion followed.

[Dr. Farrell arrived at 10:00 a.m.]

**VIII.B. Education Preparation Program Approval Policies**

Frances Rabinowitz, Associate Commissioner, Division of Teaching, Learning and Assessment, presented the report to the Board. Discussion followed.

By unanimous consent, the Board voted to consider agenda number XII.A., Charter School Renewal: ISAAC.

[Mrs. Luke left at 10:55 a.m.]

**XII.A. Charter School Renewal: ISAAC**

Mrs. Bobroske moved, Ms. Finneran seconded, that the Board, pursuant to subsection (g) of Section 10-66bb(e) of the Connecticut General Statutes, grants approval to renew the charter of the Interdistrict School for the Arts and Communication (ISAAC) from July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2010, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

[Mrs. Luke returned at 10:59 a.m.]

### **IX. Report of the Chair**

- Mr. Taylor received a letter from Brian O'Dowd, Assistant General Counsel, Office of State Ethics, regarding an advisory opinion regarding the acceptance of gifts;
- Sloan Danenhower requested that the Board support Bill #5844, allowing student representatives to serve as preferential voting members on local boards of education;
- The Board received in its supplemental folder a copy of the Office of State Ethics – Statement of Financial Interest (2006); the statement is due Tuesday, May 1, 2007.
- On March 8, 2007, Mrs. Bobroske, Ms. Finneran, and Dr. Farrell will appear before the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee for reappointment. John Voss, nominee for the State Board, will also have his hearing beginning at noon at the LOB, Room 1A;
- Mrs. Bobroske, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten and Mr. Taylor will be attending the NASBE Legislative Committee meeting in Alexandria VA, on March 15-17<sup>th</sup>. A meeting has been arranged with Connecticut's Congressional Delegation on March 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m.
- Mrs. Bobroske is now the Chair of the Legislation and Bylaws Committee.

[Commissioner Lewis left at 11:00 a.m.]

### **X. Report of the Commissioner**

- The Board took action regarding the establishment of a Bureau of Early Childhood Education due to the tremendous amount of funding by the Governor.

### **XI. Committee Reports**

- **Audit and Department Matters Committee** – Mrs. Luke reported that the Audit and Department Matters Committee met in the morning. The Highville Mustard Seed School report is expected to be released by the end of the week.
- **Legislation and Bylaws Committee** – Mrs. Bobroske handed out the 2007 Legislative Log of Education Committee Bills and directed questions to Mark Stapleton, Division of Legal and Governmental Affairs.

- **Policy Development Committee** – Ms. Finneran reported that the committee will meet following today's regular meeting.
- **Connecticut Technical High School Committee** – Mr. Coolican reported that the next committee meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2007.
- **NASBE** – Mr. Taylor, Mrs. Bobroske and Mrs. Hopkins-Staten will be attending the NASBE Legislative Conference in Virginia on March 15-17, 2007. Margaret Spellings, Secretary of Education, is scheduled to address the group. The group will also be meeting with the Connecticut Congressional Delegation. Mr. Taylor invited input from the Board.

By unanimous consent, the Board voted to amend the agenda by adding the following two resolutions: XII.D., Recognition of Timothy McDonald, State Board of Education Member, and XII.E., Authority to have Allan B. Taylor, Chairman of the State Board of Education, give testimony on Bill 1354.

#### **XII.B. Report on Dropouts**

Mrs. Luke moved, Ms. Finneran seconded, that the Board adopts the report titled A Review of Programs for Reducing the Dropout and Suspension Rates of Those Students at Risk of Dropping Out or Being Suspended from School, prepared pursuant to Public Act 06-192 of the Connecticut General Statutes, for delivery to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

#### **XII.C. Intent to Amend Regulations Concerning Special Education**

Mrs. Luke moved, Ms. Finneran seconded, that the Board declares it intent to amend: (1) Sections 10-76a-1 to 10-76d-19, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, concerning the provision of special education, by: (a) adopting the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 USC 1400 et. seq., as amended from time to time, for the provision of a free appropriate public

education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment to children with disabilities; (b) repealing state provisions which are duplicative of, or inconsistent with, the Federal requirements; (c) adding new language which clarifies the provision of a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to children removed from their homes by state agencies; (d) clarifying other provisions related to the state administration of special education; and (e) establishing a procedure for a parent to continue to have the ability to make educational decisions for a child over the age of 18 who has not been declared incompetent by a court of competent jurisdiction; (2) Sections 10-76h-1, 10-76h-3 to 10-76h-10, inclusive, and 10-76h-13 to 10-76h-16, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies concerning special education due process, by adopting the IDEA standards for due process and clarifying state provisions related to the advisory opinion process; and, (3) to repeal Section 10-76l-1 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

#### **XII.D. Recognition of Timothy McDonald, State Board of Education Member**

Mrs. Luke moved, Mrs. Bobroske seconded, the following resolution:

WHEREAS: Timothy J. McDonald served as a member of the Connecticut State Board of Education from June 16, 1995, through March 6, 2007; and

WHEREAS: During that time he served as a member of the Connecticut Technical High School Committee, and as chair of the Audit and Department Matters Committee, and the chair of the Legislation and Bylaws Committee; and

WHEREAS: We, his colleagues, have benefited over the years from his wisdom, his calm, and his friendship; and

WHEREAS: The State of Connecticut and especially its school children have benefited from his dedication to the public good.

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the State Board of Education thanks Timothy J. McDonald for his twelve years of service, congratulates him on his recent appointment as President/Chief Advancement Officer of Holy Cross High School in Waterbury, and expresses its gratitude for having had the opportunity to know and work with him.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**XII.E. Authority to have Allan B. Taylor, Chairman of the State Board of Education, give testimony on Bill 1354**

Ms. Finneran moved, Mrs. Bobroske seconded, that the Board expresses its opposition to Proposed Bill 1354, *An Act Concerning the Chairperson of the State Board of Education and the Appointment of the Commissioner of Education*, and directs the Chairperson of the Board to give testimony.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

By unanimous consent, the Board adjourned its meeting at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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George A. Coleman, Secretary