

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Hartford

**Minutes of Meeting  
June 6, 2007**

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on June 6, 2007, at the State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

**I. Call to Order** – Vice Chairperson Finneran called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Present:

Beverly Bobroske  
Alice Carolan  
Donald Coolican  
Sloan Danenhower  
Lynne Farrell  
Janet Finneran  
Theresa Hopkins-Staton  
Patricia Luke  
Jay Voss  
Valerie Lewis, Ex-Officio

Absent:

Allan Taylor, Chairman  
Edna Chukwurah

**II. Public Participation**

Jean Klein, Legislative Chair, Connecticut Reading Association, stated that for the second time, Connecticut has won the Five Star Policy recognition award.

Commissioner McQuillan acknowledged receipt of a letter from the Stamford Legislative Delegation regarding support for the J.M. Wright Technical High School in Milford.

**III. Executive Session**

The Board voted unanimously to move into executive session at 9:42 a.m. for the purpose of discussing matters defined in subsection (e) of Section 1-225a of the Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.), specifically, personnel matters.

Present at executive session were Board members: Mrs. Bobroske, Mr. Danenhower, Mr. Coolican, Ms. Finneran, Dr. Farrell, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten, Dr. Carolan, Dr. Voss and Mrs. Luke. Also present were: Commissioner Mark McQuillan, Deputy Commissioner George A. Coleman and Valerie Lewis, Commissioner of Higher Education. Ms. Chukwurah and Mr. Taylor were absent.

By unanimous consent, the Board voted to adjourn its executive session and reconvened in public session at 9:52 a.m. Present: Mrs. Bobroske, Mr. Coolican, Mr. Danenhower, Ms. Finneran, Dr. Farrell, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten, Dr. Carolan, Dr. Voss and Mrs. Luke. Ms. Chukwurah and Mr. Taylor were absent.

#### **IV. Consideration of Minutes of the May 2, 2007, State Board of Education Meeting**

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten moved, Mrs. Bobroske seconded, that the Board approves the minutes of the May 2, 2007, State Board of Education meeting.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

#### **V. Financial Matters**

##### **V.A. Request for Finance Advisory Committee Action**

Mrs. Luke moved, Mrs. Bobroske seconded, that the Board, approves the request for Finance Advisory Committee (FAC) actions to transfer a total of \$4,982,400 from ten surplus accounts to cover deficits in the Personal Services (\$1,260,000), Other Expenses (\$450,000), Magnet Schools (\$3,200,000), and Excess Costs (\$72,400) accounts, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**VI. Consent Agenda**

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten removed consent item VI.A., Adoption of the Annual Audit Plan, VI.B., Approval of Regional Education Service Center: EDUCATION CONNECTION; VI.C., Approval of Regional Education Service Center: LEARN and VI.D., Adoption of Graduate Record Examination as Praxis I waiver.

Mrs. Luke moved, Mrs. Bobroske seconded the Board approves by unanimous consent, agenda items VI.E., NASBE State Planning Grant for Adolescent Literacy.

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education approves the one-year application for the State Planning Grant for Adolescent Literacy Network, made available by the National Association of State Boards of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**VI.A. Adoption of the Annual Audit Plan**

Mrs. Bobroske moved, Mrs. Luke seconded, that the State Board, adopts the Annual Audit Plan for the period July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**VI.B. Approval of Regional Education Service Center: EDUCATION CONNECTION**

Mr. Coolican moved, Mrs. Luke seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Section 10-66h of the Connecticut General Statutes, grants continued approval to the Education Connection Regional Educational Service Center for the five-year period July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2012, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**VI.C. Approval of Regional Education Service Center: LEARN**

Mrs. Luke moved, Mr. Coolican seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Section 10-66h of the Connecticut General Statutes, grants continued approval to LEARN Regional Educational Service Center for the five-year period July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2012, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**VIII.A. State Student Advisory Council on Education**

The following students on the State Student Advisory Council on Education (SSACE) presented their report to the Board. They are: Ms. Kendra Albert, Mr. Christopher Snyder, Mr. Kenneth Jameson, Mr. Michael Palmisano, Mr. Matthew Gorman, Ms. Lindsay Fortunato, Mr. Sloan Danenhower and Mr. Gavin Newton-Tanzer. Discussion followed.

**VIII.B. High School Qualifying Examination**

David Larson, Executive Director, Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents; Alan Bookman, Superintendent, Glastonbury Public Schools; Chris Clouet, Superintendent, New London; Sharon Palmer, President, AFT Connecticut; Michael Savage, Connecticut Association of Schools; Robert Pitocco, Principal, Rocky Hill High School; Bob Rader, Connecticut Association of State Boards of Education; Arleen Perdone, Bethel Board of Education and Sheila Cohen, Vice-President, Connecticut Education Association shared with the Board their thoughts about the merits of a high school qualifying/competency examination. Discussion followed.

**XII.A. Approval of State Department of Education Reorganization Plan**

Mrs. Luke moved, Mr. Coolican seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Section 10-3a of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the Commissioner's recommended reorganization plan for the State Department of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**XII.B. Appointment of Associate Commissioner, Division of Family and Student Support Services**

Mrs. Luke moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staton seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Article IV of its Bylaws, appoints Charlene Russell-Tucker as Associate Commissioner of the Division of Family and Student Support Services, effective June 6, 2007, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Later in the meeting, Commissioner McQuillan noted that Ms. Russell-Tucker's start date should read July 1, 2007.

Mrs. Luke moved, Mrs. Bobroske seconded, that the resolution be amended as follows:

Mrs. Luke moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Article IV of its Bylaws, appoints Charlene Russell-Tucker as Associate Commissioner of the Division of Family and Student Support Services, effective July 1, 2007, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion, as amended, carried unanimously.

By unanimous consent, the Board recessed its meeting at 12:29 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 1:05 p.m. Present: Mrs. Bobroske, Dr. Carolan, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten, Mrs. Luke, Dr. Farrell, Ms. Finneran, Mr. Danenhower, Dr. Voss and Mr. Coolican. Ms. Chukwurah, Mr. Taylor and Commissioner Lewis were absent.

#### **VII.A. Approval of District Goals and Objectives 2007-2012**

Mr. Coolican moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded, that the Board, approves the Connecticut Technical High School System District Goals and Objectives for 2007-2012, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**VII.B. Authorization of Pilot Advanced Manufacturing Trade**

Mrs. Luke moved, Mr. Coolican seconded, that the Board, pursuant to subsection (c) of Section 10-95i of the Connecticut General Statutes, authorizes the establishment of an Advanced Manufacturing trade for the period September 2007 through June 2010, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**VII.C. Revision to Graduation Requirements for Health Education**

Mr. Coolican moved, Mrs. Luke seconded, that the Board, pursuant to CGS Sections 10-16b and 10-19, approves the revision to the Connecticut Technical High School System's Graduation Credit Requirement for Health Education, effective with the Class of 2011, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**IX. Report of the Chair** Ms. Finneran, Vice Chairperson, reported that:

- Several Board members toured the educational programs at York (Niantic) and Manson (Cheshire) correctional facilities on May 3 and May 4.
- Mr. Taylor, Mrs. Rabinowitz, Mr. Keating and she went to Chicago regarding High School Redesign, May 23-25, 2007. A related memo was distributed to the Board in its supplemental materials folder;
- On May 17, Allan Taylor and Beverly Bobroske joined the recent “graduates” of the SDE Leadership Development Program. Associate Commissioner Frances Rabinowitz oversaw this first year of this program and is to be commended for her efforts and success;
- Starting this past month, the Commissioner, Deputy, Board Chair, Vice Chair and Executive will meet prior to each meeting to review the agenda and plan meetings;
- Reminder that State Board of Education will hold its end-of-year recognition event on June 14 at 6:00 p.m. in the Old Judiciary Room; and that the Board will hold a special meeting on June 25;
- Several members have signed up for the 2007 Connecticut Technical High School System graduation ceremonies;
- On May 29, Dr. Farrell, Dr. Voss and she attended a “swearing in” ceremony in Governor Rell’s Office. Unfortunately, Mrs. Bobroske was out of town;
- Mrs. Rabinowitz and she attended a meeting with U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings during her recent visit to Connecticut;
- Dr. Voss and Dr. Carolan will attend the NASBE New Board Members Institute in July;
- The final version of the Comprehensive Plan is in your supplemental materials folder; and

- Application screening for student applicants for membership on State Board of Education recently completed by the State Student Advisory Council on Education; interviews are scheduled for June 27-28; five students will be recommended to the Governor for her consideration. The Governor will select two for appointment to the Board.

**X. Report of the Commissioner.** Commissioner McQuillan reported that:

- Deputy Commissioner Coleman and Associate Commissioner Rabinowitz are to be commended for the work they did regarding the Data Showcase;
- He has been doing public outreach with several different educational organizations. He has met twice with Secretary of Education, Margaret Spellings. The first meeting was with the Board of Higher Education and Business Council, and the second meeting was a NCLB forum in Stamford;
- He was also in receipt of the Secretary's decisions regarding waivers for ESL students; districts in need of improvement offering supplemental services; and Connecticut's request to introduce a growth model into its assessment of AYP.
- A summary of the Sheff decision has been placed in your supplemental folder; and
- A letter from me to the Board of Directors of Highville has also been placed in the supplemental folder.

**XI. Committee Reports**

- **Audit and Department Matters Committee** – Mrs. Luke reported that the committee met in the morning regarding the Annual Audit Plan. Our internal auditors are reviewing work done by independent auditors and the quality of work being done on state and federal grants.
- **Legislation and Bylaws Committee** – Mrs. Bobroske reported that the committee updated the legislative log and it can be found in your supplemental folder. Mrs. Bobroske asked that the Board look over the current bylaws and submit any proposals to the Office of Legal and Governmental Affairs or to the Commissioner.

- **Policy Development Committee** – Mrs. Finneran stated that a Policy Development Committee will be meeting immediately following the regular meeting. The committee will discuss Attendance Definition and High School Reform.
- **Connecticut Technical High School Committee** – Mr. Coolican reported that the committee will not be meeting for the rest of the school year.
- **NASBE** – The NASBE New State Board Member Institute will be held on July 20-22, 2007 in Arlington, Virginia. The NASBE National Convention will be held on October 10-13 in Philadelphia.

**XII.C. Standard Setting for Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT3)**

Mr. Coolican moved, Mrs. Luke seconded, that the Board approves the achievement standards for the Third Generation Connecticut Academic Achievement Test (CAPT3).

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**XII.D. Approval of Charter School Enrollments 2007-08**

Mr. Coolican moved, Mrs. Bobroske seconded, that Board, pursuant Section 10-66bb(c) of the Connecticut General Statutes, pending final state budget authorization, approves the distribution of 376 additional seats among the existing charter schools for the 2007-08 school year, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**XII.E. Renewal of Charter: Explorations Charter School**

Mrs. Luke moved, Mr. Coolican seconded, that the Board, pursuant to subsection (g) of Section 10-66bb of the Connecticut General Statutes, renews the charter of Explorations High School (Explorations) from July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2010, with interim visits conducted by the Charter School Office in the spring of 2008 and 2009 to ensure that Explorations is addressing the issues raised in this report, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten moved to amend the resolution by giving Explorations High School a two-year approval. Due to a lack of a second, the motion failed.

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

Motion carried.

**XII.F. Renewal of Charter: New Beginnings Charter School**

Mrs. Bobroske moved, Mr. Coolican seconded, that the Board, pursuant to subsection (g) of Section 10-66bb of the Connecticut General Statutes, renews the charter of the New Beginnings Family Academy (NBFA) from July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2010, with interim visits conducted by the Charter School Office in the spring of 2008 and 2009 to ensure that NBFA is addressing the issues raised in this report, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.



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Lynne Farrell read a proclamation from Governor M. Jodi Rell to Barbara Hall and by unanimous consent, the Board asked Dr. Farrell to extend its best wishes to Ms. Hall.

By unanimous consent, the Board adjourned its meeting at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Mark K. McQuillan, Secretary