

II.B. Consideration of Minutes of the June 14, 2007, Special State Board of Education Meeting

Ms. Finneran moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded, that the Board approves the minutes of the June 14, 2007, Special State Board of Education meeting.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

III.A. Joint Meeting with Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) Board of Directors

Robert Rader, Executive Director of CABE, and Mr. Taylor, Chair of the State Board of Education conducted, a joint meeting of the two boards on June 25, 2007. The focus of their conversation was on high school assessments, districts' efforts to close the achievement gaps and the Sheff v. O'Neill Order. In attendance from CABE were: John Prins, Branford; Gary Brochu, Berlin; Bates Lyons, Torrington; John Pica-Sneeden, Broad Brook; Beverly Washington, Groton; and Ann Gruenberg, Hampton. Discussion followed.

[Mrs. Luke arrived at 9:45 am]

By unanimous consent, the Board recessed its meeting at 10:52 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 11:07 a.m. Present: Mr. Taylor, Dr. Carolan, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten, Mrs. Luke, Dr. Farrell, Ms. Finneran, Mr. Danenhower and Dr. Voss. Mrs. Bobroske, Ms. Chukwurah, Mr. Coolican and Commissioner Lewis were absent.

By unanimous consent, the Board voted to consider agenda item IV.B., Granting Charter to Achievement First Bridgeport Academy.

VI.B. Granting Charter to Achievement First Bridgeport Academy

Mrs. Luke moved, Dr. Farrell seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Section 10-66bb of the Connecticut General Statutes, accepts the Commissioner's recommendation and grants approval of a state charter to Achievement First Bridgeport Academy for a five-year period, said approval being contingent on the school opening in school year 2007-08 or 2008-09 and subject also to the following conditions:

1. receipt of funding from the General Assembly, which must be in addition to funding received for expansion of existing schools;
2. receipt of documentation relating to facility requirements including safety, liability and insurance certifications;
3. receipt of documentation relating to incorporation status and identification of governing board members; and
4. contingent approval dependent on the school opening in school year 2007-08 or 2008-09.
5. Ken Paul will not be allowed to serve on the Achievement First Bridgeport Academy's Board of Directors.
6. a waiver of tenure requirements for teachers will not be granted.
7. the Board's policies and procedures for fiscal management will incorporate a quarterly review process involving the Bureau of Choice to ensure the effective management of the school's finances and financial resources.

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

IV.A.1. Adoption of State Board of Education Bylaws

Mrs. Luke moved, Dr. Farrell seconded, that the Adoption of State Board of Education Bylaws be postponed and placed on the August 2007 retreat agenda as a discussion item.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

IV.A.2. Election of Vice Chairperson

Mrs. Luke nominated Janet Finneran as Vice-Chairperson of the State Board of Education. There were no further nominations.

Mrs. Luke moved, Dr. Farrell seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Section 2 of Article II of its Bylaws, elects Janet Finneran to serve as Vice-Chairperson of the Board effective June 25, 2007, until the next biennial organizational meeting or until a successor has been appointed, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

IV.A.3. Appointments to Standing Committees

Ms. Finneran moved, Mrs. Luke seconded that the Appointments to Standing Committees be postponed and placed on the August 2007 retreat agenda as a discussion item.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

IV.A.4. 2008 Meeting Schedule

Ms. Finneran moved, Mrs. Luke seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Section 1-225 of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the following schedule of meeting dates for calendar year 2008:

January 2, 2008
February 6, 2008
March 5, 2008
April 2, 2008
May 7, 2008
June 4, 2008
July 2, 2008
August 6, 2008
September 3, 2008
October 1, 2008
November 5, 2008
December 3, 2008

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

IV.C. Acceptance of Charge to the Ad Hoc Committee on Secondary School Redesign

Ms. Finneran moved, Dr. Voss seconded, that the Board establishes an Ad Hoc Committee to Study High School Redesign, appoints State Board of Education members Jay Voss and Janet M. Finneran to chair the committee, and charges said committee with developing recommendations to be incorporated into legislative proposals for submission to the 2008 General Assembly that will:

- o improve Connecticut's high school graduation rate; and
- o prepare graduates for successful entry into college or the workplace, predicated on the completion of required full- and half-year courses, end-of-course examinations, authentic assessments, and career paths reflecting the individual needs and aspirations of each student;

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

By unanimous consent, the Board recessed its meeting at 11:58 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 12:12 p.m. Present: Mr. Taylor, Dr. Carolan, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten, Mrs. Luke, Dr. Farrell, Ms. Finneran, and Mr. Danenhower. Dr. Voss, Mrs. Bobroske, Ms. Chukwurah, Mr. Coolican and Commissioner Lewis were absent.

VI.D. Request for Consideration of Reinstatement of Educator Certificate in the Matter of Orlando Hernandez, Former Certificate Holder

Mr. Taylor moved, Dr. Carolan seconded, that Commissioner McQuillan schedule a meeting with Attorney John Gesmonde, representing Orlando Hernandez; and Mr. Timothy Dutton, Director of The Bridge Academy; to discuss potential conditions under which the Board might consider reinstating Mr. Hernandez's professional educator certificate, and present such recommendation to the Board at its special meeting on July 12, 2007.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

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By unanimous consent, the Board adjourned its meeting at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Mark K. McQuillan, Secretary