

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

Minutes of State Board of Education Retreat
August 1, 2007

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on August 1, 2007, at the Water's Edge Resort, 1525 Boston Post Road, Westbrook, Connecticut 06498.

I. Present: Allan Taylor, Chairman
Whitney Bartell
James Blake
Beverly Bobroske
Donald Coolican
Janet Finneran
Lynne Farrell*
Theresa Hopkins-Staten
Patricia Luke
Jay Voss
Valerie Lewis, Ex-Officio

Absent: Alice Carolan

A. Chairperson Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

[Dr. Farrell arrived at 9:15 am]

B. Reflections on 2006-2007 School Year: Success, Areas to Improve Upon

Commissioner McQuillan invited Board members to comment on past year accomplishments and areas to focus on in 2007-08.

C. Board Operations

Commissioner McQuillan discussed Board operations.

D. Discussion of State Board of Education Bylaws

Board Chairman, Allan Taylor, along with the Board Members, discussed proposed edits to the existing State Board of Education Bylaws.

E. Overview of Connecticut's 2007 Achievement Data: CMT, CAPT, AYP Results

Commissioner McQuillan discussed Connecticut's 2007 achievement data with the Board.

F. Board Interventions for Schools and/or Districts in Corrective Action

Commissioner McQuillan reviewed the Board's and Commissioner's roles and responsibilities regarding those schools in corrective action.

By unanimous consent, the Board recessed its meeting at 12.00 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 12:55 p.m. Present: Mrs. Bobroske, Ms. Finneran, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten, Mrs. Luke, Dr. Farrell, Mr. Taylor, Dr. Voss, Mr. Coolican, Commissioner Lewis, Whitney Bartell and James Blake were present. Dr. Carolan was absent.

G. Selection of Essential Policy Initiatives for 2007-2008

The Board discussed its policy initiatives for the coming year, including the following:

- Evaluating Effectiveness of Comprehensive Plan
- Improving Certification and Testing Requirements for Pre-Service Teachers in Reading, Mathematics and Science
- International Education and Exchange Programs with China and Other Countries
- Regulating and Certifying Alternative Schools and their Teachers
- Secondary School Reform
- Review of Position Statements, beginning with Science Education
- Responsive Assessments to Non-English-speaking Students

H. Secondary School Improvement Update:

Jay Voss, State Board Member and Co-Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Secondary Education, gave an update on the Ad Hoc Committee for Secondary Education. Discussion followed.

I. Sheff Update and Strategic Plan to Integrate Hartford Public Schools

Deputy Commissioner George A. Coleman provided an update on Sheff v. O'Neill and related plans to integrate the Hartford Public Schools.

J. Freedom of Information Act Training

Mr. Thomas Hennick, of the Freedom of Information Commission, provided the State Board Members with an overview of the Freedom of Information Act.

By unanimous consent, the Board adjourned its meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Mark K. McQuillan, Secretary