

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Hartford

**Minutes of Meeting
September 5, 2007**

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on September 5, 2007, at the State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

I. Call to Order – Chairman Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

Present:

- Allan Taylor, Chair
- Whitney Bartell
- James Blake
- Beverly Bobroske
- Alice Carolan
- Donald Coolican
- Lynne Farrell
- Janet Finneran
- Theresa Hopkins-Staten*
- Patricia Luke
- Jay Voss
- Valerie Lewis, Ex-Officio

Mark A. Stapleton, Director, Division of Legal and Governmental Affairs, administered the Oath of Office to Whitney Bartell, student member from West Simsbury and James Blake, student member from Litchfield.

II. Public Participation

1. Jean Klein, Legislative Chair, Connecticut Reading Association, discussed the Reading Conference scheduled for November 1-2, 2007. Mrs. Klein expressed her concern with the quality of the Albertus Magnus alternate route program certifying literacy specialists. A copy of Mrs. Klein's prepared remarks can be found in the official file of this meeting.
2. Meredith Menton, Region 15, Reading Consultant and President of Connecticut Association of Reading Research (CARR), concurred with Mrs. Klein's concerns and noted that she and CARR also withdrew from the alternate route program.

[Mrs. Hopkins-Staten arrived at 9:50 am]

IV.1. Consideration of Minutes of the July 12, 2007, State Board of Education Special Meeting

Mrs. Luke moved, Mrs. Bobroske seconded, that the Board approves the minutes of the July 12, 2007, State Board of Education special meeting.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

IV.2. Consideration of Minutes of the August 1, 2007, State Board of Education Retreat

Mrs. Luke moved, Mrs. Bobroske seconded, that the Board approves the minutes of the August 1, 2007, State Board of Education retreat

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

Motion carried unanimously.

V.A. Adoption of State Board of Education Bylaws 2007-09

Mrs. Luke moved, Ms. Finneran seconded, that the Board of Education adopts the Bylaws of the Connecticut State Board of Education dated September 5, 2007, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

VIII.A. Adequate Yearly Progress Report: Schools and Districts

Commissioner McQuillan presented the report to the Board. Discussion followed.

VIII.B. Presentation by Cambridge Education Assessment

Frances Rabinowitz, Associate Commissioner, Division of Teaching, Learning, and Instructional Leadership introduced Trevor Yates, Vice-President of Cambridge Education. Mr. Yates, Deborah Richards, Acting Bureau Chief, Accountability, Compliance and Monitoring, and Susan Kennedy, Acting Bureau Chief, School and District Improvement presented a power point presentation to the Board. Discussion followed.

By unanimous consent, the Board recessed its meeting at 11:20 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 11:39 a.m. Present: Mrs. Bobroske, Dr. Carolan, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten, Mrs. Luke, Dr. Farrell, Ms. Finneran, Mr. Blake, Dr. Voss, Ms. Bartell, Mr. Taylor, Commissioner Lewis and Mr. Coolican.

By unanimous consent, the Board voted to consider agenda item X., Consent Agenda.

X. Consent Agenda

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten removed item X.E., Approval of Area Cooperative Educational Services (ACES) – Bilingual Education and TESOL Cross Endorsements from the consent agenda.

Mrs. Luke moved, Ms. Finneran seconded that the Board approves by unanimous consent, agenda items X.A., Receipt of Condition of Education Report; X.B., Approval of Educator Preparation Program at Western Connecticut State University (WCSU): 092 Endorsement; X.C., Appointments to State Board of Education Committees; X.D., Appointment of Special Education Hearing Officer and X.F., Approval of Initial Educator Preparation Program at University of New Haven.

X.A. Receipt of Condition of Education Report

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-4(b) of the Connecticut General Statutes, receives *The Condition of Education in Connecticut*, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

X.B. Approval of Educator Preparation Program at Western Connecticut State University (WCSU): 092 Endorsement

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-145d-9(f)(1) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, grants full program approval for the period September 5, 2007, through September 2, 2009, for the purpose of certifying graduates from the Western Connecticut State University Intermediate Administrator/Supervisor Certificate Program leading to recommendation for certification as an educational administrator in Connecticut (endorsement #092), and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

X.C. Appointments to State Board of Education Committees

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Article II, Section 4 of its Bylaws, approves the following assignments to the State Board of Education standing committees:

FINANCE, AUDIT AND DEPARTMENT MATTERS

Patricia Luke, Chair
Alice Carolan
Donald Coolican
Allan Taylor

LEGISLATION AND BYLAWS

Beverly Bobroske, Chair
Janet Finneran
Jay Voss

CONNECTICUT TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOLS

Donald Coolican, Chair
Beverly Bobroske
Alice Carolan
Theresa Hopkins-Staton

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Janet Finneran, Chair
Lynne Farrell
Theresa Hopkins-Staton
Patricia Luke

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

V.B. Denial of Charter -- Dandelion Academy

Ms. Finneran moved, Dr. Voss seconded, that the Board pursuant to subsection (f) of Section 10-66bb of the Connecticut General Statutes, accepts the Commissioner's recommendation to not grant approval of a state charter to Dandelion Academy Charter School, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

The Board discussed at length the Charter School Application process. It was suggested that the Department communicate with the applicants early on in the process, if there are any issues with their application.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

V.C.1. Acceptance of Retirement – Mark A. Stapleton

Ms. Finneran moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded that the Board, accepts with regret the retirement of Mark A. Stapleton, Director of the Division of Legal and Governmental Affairs, effective the close of business on September 30, 2007, extends its appreciation for his dedicated leadership to the State Department of Education and public schools of Connecticut, and wishes him continued success in his future endeavors.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

V.C.2. Acceptance of Retirement – George Dowaliby

Ms. Finneran moved, Mrs. Luke seconded, that the Board, accepts with regret the retirement of George Dowaliby, Interim Associate Commissioner, Division of Assessment and Accountability, Teaching, Learning, Programs and Services, effective the close of business on August 31, 2007, extends its appreciation for his dedicated leadership to the State Department of Education and public schools of Connecticut, and wishes him continued success in his future endeavors.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

V.D. Approval of Charter -- Achievement First Hartford Academy

Ms. Finneran moved, Mrs. Bobroske 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 Hartford Academy for the period July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2013, said approval granted subject to the conditions noted in the Commissioner's September 5, 2007, memorandum to the State Board of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Ms. Finneran moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded, to amend by substituting condition #4 in the Commissioner's September 5th, 2007 memorandum to the State Board of Education, regarding "Granting a New Charter School to Achievement First Hartford Academy to read as follows:

4. receipt of a long-range plan that provides for the school's participation in a contemplated K-12 structure of Achievement First schools affiliated with the Sheff choice program. As the first component of this K-12 structure, the Hartford Achievement First Academy will not be deemed a "Sheff school" under the terms of the second Sheff v. O'Neill Agreement dated May 29, 2007.

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

Motion on amendment carried unanimously.

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

Motion as amended carried unanimously.

Dr. Farrell recused herself from participation in the discussion and voting on agenda items V.E., Approval of AARC Advanced Reading/Language Arts Program at Albertus Magnus and V.F., Approval of Initial Educator Preparation Program at Albertus Magnus, as she is a member of the Albertus Magnus Board of Directors.

By unanimous consent, the Board voted to consider agenda item V.E., Approval of AARC Advanced Reading/Language Arts Program at Albertus Magnus and V.F., Approval of Initial Educator Preparation Program at Albertus Magnus.

V.E. Approval of AARC Advanced Reading/Language Arts Program at Albertus Magnus

Ms. Finneran moved, Mrs. Bobroske seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Section 10-145d-9(f)(1) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, grants probationary approval for the period October 1, 2007, through September 30, 2008, for the Albertus Magnus College Advanced Alternative Route to Certification Literacy Specialist Program in Reading and Language Arts, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried.

V.F. Approval of Initial Educator Preparation Program at Albertus Magnus

Ms. Finneran moved, Mrs. Bobroske seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Section 10-145d-9(f)(1) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, grants probationary approval for the period October 1, 2007, through September 30, 2008, for the following Albertus Magnus College educator preparation programs:

PK-12

- Art

Middle Grades (4-8)

- General Science
- English
- History/Social Studies
- Mathematics
- Spanish

Secondary Education (7-12)

- General Science
- English
- History/Social Studies
- Spanish
- Mathematics
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Business

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried.

**X.E. Approval of Area Cooperative Educational Services (ACES) –
Bilingual Education and TESOL Cross Endorsements**

Mr. Coolican moved, Ms. Finneran seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Section 10-145d-9(f)(1) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, grants full program approval for the period September 5, 2007, through September 1, 2010, for the purpose of certifying graduates from the Area Cooperative Educational Services Alternate Route to Certification for Teachers of English Language Learners Program leading to either a cross endorsement in TESOL and/or bilingual education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

[Mr. Coolican left the meeting at 12:57 p.m.]

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

Motion carried unanimously.

By unanimous consent, the Board recessed its meeting at 1:00 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 1:50 p.m. Present: Mrs. Bobroske, Dr. Carolan, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten, Mrs. Luke, Dr. Farrell, Ms. Finneran, Mr. Blake, Dr. Voss, Ms. Bartell, Mr. Taylor and Mr. Coolican. Commissioner Lewis was absent.

VI. Report of the Chair -- Mr. Taylor reported that:

- **Visits to Schools with the Teacher of the Year:** Several SBE Members have responded to Chris Poulos' (Teacher of the Year) invitation to go on a "school tour" with him:

September 10 th	Daisy Ingraham School in Westbrook	Pat Luke
September 27 th	Bethel High School	Jay Voss
October 1 st	Middle School of Plainville	Beverly Bobroske
November 5 th	Samuel Staples Elementary School - Easton	Beverly Bobroske

- **NASBE Draft Bylaws and Public Policy Positions:** Board members received from NASBE, a copy of the Draft Bylaws and Public Policy Positions. These Bylaws and Policy Positions will be voted on at the NASBE Conference in October.
- **Recognition Event – Connecticut Technical High School System:** Board members are invited to attend an October 17, 2007, reception and dinner at Saint Clements Castle in Portland, CT., in honor of the following individuals: CTHSS Teacher of the Year; Principal and Asst. Principal of the Year; Nurse of the Year; Building Maintenance Supervisor of the Year; and Alumnae of the Year. The reception will begin at 4:15 p.m. Please notify Janet D'Onofrio if you plan to attend.
- **Ad Hoc Committee on Accountability:** Janet Finneran, Alice Carolan and I will serve as members of an Ad Hoc Committee on Accountability, and will conduct a lot of the preliminary work required before the district accountability plans are submitted to the State Board of Education for its consideration.
- **State E-Mail Accounts for SBE members** – are being set up this week; Instructions on how to access your state account will be included in the weekly mailing package.

VII. Report of the Commissioner. Commissioner McQuillan reported that:

- **SBE RETREAT:** The August retreat was very productive and lead to today's meeting regarding accountability and the presentation of the Cambridge Education Assessment.

- **OPENING OF SCHOOLS:** He met with the Superintendents and attended a number of school openings, did some radio spots and outreach efforts. He also sent out three circular letters on test results.
- **SCHOOLS IN NEED OF IMPROVEMENT:** He is working with the Superintendents and Board Chairs of the 12 districts in their fourth year of improvement.
- **HIGHVILLE:** The Highville Charter has been transferred to a new corporation that will assume all debts and build a budget and policies around that. The school will open at the old site for approximately 300 students.
- **READING SUMMIT:** There has been tremendous interest in the Reading Summit which is scheduled for November 2007. This summit will focus on how to close the achievement gap.
- **Adequate Yearly Progress –** We received all reports on AYP. At the national level, Congress is reauthorizing the No Child Left Behind Act.
- Commissioner McQuillan congratulated Frances Rabinowitz, Associate Commissioner for the Division of Teacher, Learning & Instruction Leadership, on her new position as Superintendent of the Hamden Public School System.

Deputy Commissioner George Coleman introduced Jackee Bryant, Delta Sigma Thata, who is facilitating reading improvement at the local level.

IX.A. Fiscal Year 2007 End-of-Year Financial Report

Brian Mahoney, Chief Financial Officer, Finance & Internal Operations, presented the report to the Board. Discussion followed.

IX.B. State and Federal Funding 2007-2008

Brian Mahoney, Chief Financial Officer, Finance & Internal Operations, presented the report to the Board. Discussion followed.

XI.A. Oral Report on Opening of Schools

Abigail Hughes, Superintendent of the Connecticut Technical High School System, presented the report to the Board. Discussion followed.

XI. Committee Reports

- **Finance, Audit and Department Matters Committee** – Mrs. Luke reported that the Finance, Audit and Department Matters Committee met in the morning. “Finance” will now be included in their responsibilities. The committee was updated on Highville Charter School. Mrs. Luke stated that the committee received good news from the Federal Department of Education regarding cash management of grants. The Committee also reviewed the Affirmative Action Log.
- **Legislation and Bylaws Committee** – Mrs. Bobroske reported that the General Assembly is still in Special Session concerning bond funds, Sheff and the budget. The committee set their meeting schedule for the coming year. The committee acknowledged the retirement of Mark A. Stapleton, Director, Division of Legal and Governmental Affairs, and commended him for all his work.
- **Policy Development Committee** – Ms. Finneran reported that the committee will meet following today’s regular meeting. They will review the Definition of Attendance, Policy Initiatives; Measuring Progress of the Board’s Five-Year Plan and discussion of the Position Statement on Science Education.
- **Connecticut Technical High School Committee** – Mr. Coolican reported that the next committee meeting is scheduled for September 12, 2007, at JM Wright Technical School in Stamford.
- **NASBE** – Mrs. Bobroske congratulated Mr. Taylor on his appointment to the NASBE Board of Directors. He will be serving as the Area Director of the New England Region effective January 2008. The NASBE Board of Directors will be evaluating the Executive Director, Brenda Welburn. The National Conference is scheduled for October 10-13 in Philadelphia, PA. Mr. Taylor, Mrs. Bobroske and Dr. Voss will be attending.

- **Ad Hoc Committee on Secondary Education.** Mr. Voss reported that the committee met twice in August and they are still in the presentation mode. The committee has had presentations on the PK-16 Council, Career Path Initiatives and Connecticut Technical High School Models. The committee also reviewed other states endeavors regarding graduation requirements. Dr. Voss presented to the committee the beginning plan regarding what assessment might look like.

By unanimous consent, the Board adjourned its meeting at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Mark K. McQuillan, Secretary