

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION*Hartford***Minutes of Meeting****October 3, 2007**

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on October 3, 2007, at the State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

I. Call to Order – Chairman Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:31 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

II. Public Participation

1. Mr. Jack Boyle, Deputy Superintendent, Fairfield Public School, spoke in support of agenda item, X.C., Plan to Correct Racial Imbalance – Fairfield Public Schools.
2. Ann Marie Colebrook, Vice-President Elect of the Connecticut Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, spoke in support of adding one full credit in health to the high school graduation requirements. A copy of Ms. Colebrook's prepared remarks can be found in the official file of this meeting.
3. David Flanagan, President of the Connecticut Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, referenced his letter to Dr. Voss, Commissioner McQuillan and Mr. Taylor, requesting consideration for adding one full credit in health for high school graduation.

IV. Consideration of Minutes of the September 5, 2007, State Board of Education Meeting

Mrs. Bobroske moved, Mrs. Luke seconded, that the Board approves the minutes of the September 5, 2007, State Board of Education meeting with the following edit to page six, under V.B., Denial of Charter -- Dandelion Academy:

"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, Finneran, Hopkins-Staton,
Luke, Voss, Taylor
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: Farrell

Motion carried unanimously.

X. Consent Agenda

Agenda items X.B., Plan to Correct Racial Imbalance – Greenwich Public Schools; X.E., Mid-Term Budget Technical Adjustments, and X.H., Resignation: Associate Commissioner, Division of Teaching, Learning and Instructional Leadership, were removed from the consent agenda.

Mrs. Luke moved, Ms. Bobroske seconded that the Board approves by unanimous consent, agenda items X.A., Appointment to the Connecticut Advisory Council for Teacher Professional Standards; X.C., Plan to Correct Racial Imbalance – Fairfield Public Schools; X.D., Grant to Improve Public Knowledge of and Support for Democracy; X.F., Appointments to Ad Hoc Committee on Commissioner Evaluation; and X.G., Appointments to Ad Hoc Committee on Accountability.

X.A. Appointment to the Connecticut Advisory Council for Teacher Professional Standards

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (b) of Section 10-144d of the Connecticut General Statutes, appoints Dr. Edward W. Malin to serve on the Connecticut Advisory Council for Teacher Professional Standards to complete a one-year term effective October 3, 2007, through September 30, 2008, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

X.C. Plan to Correct Racial Imbalance – Fairfield Public Schools

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-226d of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the Fairfield Board of Education's "Proposed Plan to Address Racial Imbalance" submitted by the Fairfield Board of Education as its plan to correct racial imbalance in McKinley School, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

X.D. Grant to Improve Public Knowledge of and Support for Democracy

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education approves the application for the Grant Competition to Improve Public Knowledge of and Support for Democracy, made available by the U.S. Department of Education under the Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

X.F. Appointments to Ad Hoc Committee on Commissioner Evaluation

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education Chairman establishes an Ad Hoc Committee on Evaluation System for Commissioner of Education; appoints to said committee Alice L. Carolan, Chair; Patricia Luke, Theresa Hopkins-Staten and Allan B. Taylor; and charges said committee with developing and recommending to the full Board an evaluation procedure to be used to evaluate the Connecticut Commissioner of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

The Board voted unanimously to move into executive session at 1:05 p.m. for the purpose of discussing matters defined in subsection (e) of Section 1-225a of the Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.), specifically, pending litigation.

Present at executive session were Board members: Mrs. Bobroske, Mr. Coolican, Ms. Finneran, Mr. Taylor, Dr. Farrell, Dr. Carolan, Dr. Voss, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten, Mrs. Luke, Ms. Bartell and Mr. Blake. Also present were: Commissioner Mark McQuillan, Ralph Urban, Assistant Attorney General, and Ms. Karen Flanagan, Division Director, Division of Legal and Governmental Affairs. Commissioner Lewis was absent.

By unanimous consent, the Board voted to adjourn its executive session at 1:52 p.m. The Board reconvened in public session. Present: Mrs. Bobroske, Mr. Coolican, Ms. Finneran, Mr. Taylor, Dr. Farrell, Dr. Carolan, Dr. Voss, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten, Mrs. Luke, Ms. Bartell and Mr. Blake.

V.A. Approval of Developmental Reading Assessment Performance Levels

Mrs. Luke moved, Mr. Coolican seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Section 10-265g of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the application for the Revision of the Performance Levels for the Developmental Reading Assessment for students in Grades 1-3, inclusive, 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.

V.B. Appointment, Division Director, Division of Legal and Governmental Affairs

Mrs. Bobroske moved, Ms. Finneran seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Article IV of its Bylaws, appoints Karen M. Flanagan as Division Director of the Division of Legal and Governmental Affairs, effective October 8, 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.

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

- **STATE E-MAIL ACCOUNTS:** For security reasons, the Department of Information Technology (DOIT), DOIT will not provide a notice to our personal e-mail account to notify us as to when mail has been received in our newly established state e-mail accounts. . This requires us to access the state e-mail account on a daily basis to check for incoming mail.
- **CABE/CAPSS CONVENTION:** Board members are welcome to attend the two-day conference (November 16-17) at the Mystic Marriott. The time ordinarily earmarked for "Dialogue with the State Board of Education" will be used for a specific topic this year (i.e., Cambridge Assessments). An agenda will be forwarded to SBE members when finalized by CABE.
- **RECOGNITION CEREMONY IN DECEMBER:** Board members were asked to notify the Office of Board Matters concerning their availability on December 13 or 17. The recognition ceremony will be held in the Old Judiciary Room, State Capitol Building, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.
- **READING SUMMIT:**
Board members are invited to attend the Reading Summit on November 29, 2007, at the Connecticut Grand Hotel, Waterbury. Approximately 400 attendees are expected to discuss PK-12 reading and successful practices to increase reading achievement.

VII. Report of the Commissioner

Commissioner McQuillan reported the following:

- He has been meeting with superintendent groups, including the Connecticut Association of Urban Superintendents, superintendents of small/rural districts, and Hartford area superintendents to facilitate discussion and “ownership” of integration efforts.
- The PK-16 Council meeting has been postponed to November. The Council will review the recommendations proposed by the Ad Hoc Committee on Secondary School Improvement. Commissioner McQuillan noted that he anticipates that there will be changes to the membership of the Council.
- He has participated in several meetings across the state to vet the work of the Secondary School Improvement committee, including a recent speaking engagement to students enrolled in Board Member Voss’ class at Sacred Heart University.
- Through the Early Childhood Cabinet, additional space has been identified to accommodate preschool children.
- The Department has recently received awards for the quality of two publications: the Condition of Education report and the Student Recruitment Brochure. Dr. McQuillan commended graphic artist Andrea Wadowski for her work.
- The Department is continuing its recruitment and hiring efforts to fully staff the Department’s organization plan;
- Board members are invited to the Reading Summit on November 29 at the Waterbury Grand Hotel.

VIII.B Preliminary List of Legislative Proposals for the 2008 Session

Karen Flanagan, Division Director, Division of Legal and Governmental Affairs, presented the report to the Board. Discussion followed.

VIII.C. Discussion of Work of Ad Hoc Committee on Secondary School Improvement

Jay Voss, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Secondary School Improvement, and Commissioner Mark McQuillan reported on the committee's discussions at the September 17 and September 24 committee meetings. Discussion followed.

VII.E. Progress Report on Comprehensive Plan for Education: Priority I – High-quality Preschool Education for All Students

Commissioner Mark McQuillan and Harriet Feldlaufer, Acting Bureau Chief, Bureau of Early Childhood, presented the report to the Board. Discussion followed.

IX.A. Mid-Term Budget Reduction Options

Mrs. Luke moved, Ms. Finneran seconded, that the Board approves the October 3, 2007, statement developed by the Commissioner of Education in response to the budget instructions from the Office of Policy and Management concerning the 5 percent budget reduction options, 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.

X.E. Mid-Term Budget Technical Adjustments

Ms. Finneran moved, Ms. Bobroske seconded, that the Board accepts the 2008-09 Mid-Term Budget Technical Adjustments as submitted to the Office of Policy and Management, 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.

X.B. Plan to Correct Racial Imbalance – Greenwich Public Schools

Ms. Finneran moved, Ms. Bobroske seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Section 10-226d of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the Greenwich Board of Education's "Proposed Plan to Address Racial Imbalance" as its plan to correct racial imbalance in the New Lebanon School, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Mr. Coolican moved, Dr. Carolan seconded, to amend the resolution by inserting the following sentence after the word "action":

This approval is conditional upon adoption by the Greenwich Board of Education of one of the options proposed by the RISE task force on or before November 1, 2007, as proposed in the plan.

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

Amendment carried unanimously.

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

Motion as amended carried unanimously.

X.H. Resignation: Associate Commissioner, Division of Teaching, Learning and Instructional Leadership

Mrs. Luke moved, Ms. Finneran seconded, that the Board accepts with regret the resignation of Frances Rabinowitz, Associate Commissioner, Division of Teaching, Learning and Instructional Leadership, effective the close-of-business on September 21, 2007, and wishes her continued success in her future endeavors.

Board members expressed their appreciation for Ms. Rabinowitz's significant contributions to the Department and to the improvement of public education.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

XII. Committee Reports

- A. Finance, Audit and Department Matters – no report
- B. Legislation and Bylaws – Mrs. Bobroske reported that the proposals had been discussed with the Board, and invited Board members to direct any further concerns regarding the Board's legislative package to Karen Flanagan or Katherine Nicoletti.
- C. Policy Development – Ms. Finneran noted that the meeting scheduled for this afternoon has been cancelled due to time constraints.
- D. Connecticut Technical High Schools – Mr. Coolican noted that the committee will meet on October 10, to discuss the future of J.M. Wright. He stated that a proposal concerning J.M. Wright would be brought to the full board for consideration at its November meeting.
- E. Ad Hoc Committee on Secondary School Improvement - no report (Discussed earlier in the meeting.)

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Prepared by:

Mark K. McQuillan, Secretary