

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

**Minutes of Meeting
November 7, 2007**

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, November 7, 2007, at the State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:35 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

* Dr. Farrell arrived at 9:45 a.m.

II. Public Participation

1. Lisa Lessard, a Waterbury parent, voiced her concerns that the City of Waterbury is not incorporating an IEP health plan in her child's school and is noncompliant with the 504 plan. She has requested an oversight board for the City of Waterbury.
2. John Tozan spoke in support of the charter application submitted by the Connecticut Academy for Mathematics and Science, and told the Board that advancing instruction in math and science in Hartford will help close the achievement gap.

III. Executive Session

The Board did not meet in Executive Session.

IV. Consideration of the Minutes of the October 3, 2007, State Board of Education meeting

Ms. Finneran moved, Mrs. Luke seconded, that the Board approves the minutes of the October 3, 2007, State Board of Education meeting.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

V. Items Requiring Action

A. Proposal Concerning J.M. Wright Technical High School

Mrs. Bobroske moved, Ms. Finneran seconded, that this item be tabled.

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

Motion to table carried unanimously.

B. 2008 Legislative Proposals

Mrs. Luke moved, Mr. Voss seconded, that the Board adopts the non-budget legislative proposals for 2008, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

V.C. Application for Charter: Connecticut Academy for Math and Science

Mrs. Luke moved, Mr. 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 Connecticut Academy of Mathematics and Science (CAMS), and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Items for Discussion

VI.A. Draft Recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on Secondary School Improvement

Commissioner McQuillan presented the report to the Board, and acknowledged the work and dedication of Jay Voss on this committee. Discussion followed.

VI.B. Summary of November 6, 2007, Sheff Hearing

Commissioner McQuillan reported that the hearing began on November 6, 2007. Three witnesses testified: Leonard Stevens, an expert witness for the plaintiffs; Professor Jack Dougherty, a professor at Trinity College; and Bruce Douglas, Executive Director of CREC.

VII. Report of the Chair

Mr. Taylor reported on the following:

NASBE Convention – Mrs. Bobroske and he attended this year's convention in Philadelphia in mid-October. One of the highlights of the convention was a trip to the Philadelphia "School of the Future."

Teacher of the Year Ceremony will be held on November 15 at Central Connecticut State University, at Welte Hall.

CABE/CAPSS Convention will be held on November 16. The Commissioner and Mr. Voss will give a presentation on the high school reform initiatives and a discussion period with the State Board of Education will follow. Joining Mr. Taylor at the convention will be Jay Voss, Beverly Bobroske, Lynne Farrell, and Pat Luke. Deputy Commissioner George Coleman will receive the "Friend of Public Education Award" at the convention.

The Reading Summit will take place on November 29 at the Waterbury Grand Hotel.

The Board will hold a special meeting to recognize outstanding educators on December 13 at 6:00 p.m. in the State Capitol Building.

VIII. Report of the Commissioner

Commissioner McQuillan reported on the following:

He has been speaking with several groups concerning accountability (e.g., Graustein Parents' Group, the Bridgeport Child Advocacy Council, the Connecticut Reading Association, and the local chapter of Phi Delta Kappa).

He has been talking at length with other groups regarding high school reform, including CAPSS and CBIA. A lot of the response has been positive, although there is an interest in finding out what type of support (financial and otherwise) will be provided to support the proposed initiatives. He will also be speaking with the State Student Advisory Council on Education.

He is working with Steven Adamowski, Hartford Superintendent, and representatives from CREC to follow through on the Settlement Agreement. This includes the establishment of a joint office between SDE, CREC and Hartford to help integrate schools. A group of suburban superintendents were invited to join in the discussion.

He attended a conference in Boulder, Colorado on October 29-30, "Workshop: Improving the Effectiveness of P-16 Councils". Plans are underway to reorganize, expand and staff the P-16 Council.

IX. Financial Matters

A. Mid-Term Budget Expansion Options

Ms. Finneran moved, Ms. Bobroske seconded, that the State Board of Education approves the 2008-09 Mid-Term Budget Expansion Options as submitted to the Office of Policy and Management, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Ms. Finneran moved, Ms. Luke seconded, to amend the budget options by striking proposal #6 (\$100,000 to Study Post-secondary Scholarships to DRG I Students) and replacing it with the following: \$100,000 to Evaluate the Costs Associated with the Implementation of Secondary School Reform.

The Board also considered a technical amendment to proposal #4, as follows: reword the first sentence to read, "The Department is requesting funds to provide grants to various high schools, including the CTHSS, in DRGs H and I for developing and implementing in-school suspension programs."

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

Motion to amend carried unanimously.

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

Motion as amended carried unanimously.

IX.B. Quarterly Financial Report

Mr. Mahoney presented the report to the Board. Discussion followed.

X. Consent Agenda

Ms. Finneran moved, Ms. Luke seconded, to approve the consent agenda with the exception of items B and E.

A. Reappointments to Impartial Hearing Board Concerning School Accommodations and Student Expulsions

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Sections 10-186(b)(2) and 10-233d(b) of the Connecticut General Statutes concerning school accommodations and student expulsions, hereby:

1. reappoints Mr. Joseph Elder and Mr. Stanton Lesser to the Impartial Hearing Board for terms beginning November 7, 2007, and ending August 8, 2009;
2. authorizes the Commissioner to designate, as appropriate, one or more persons from the Impartial Hearing Board to conduct hearings as required; and
3. directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

C. Application for Funds: Improving the Health, Education and Well Being of Young People through Coordinated Health Programs

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 317(k)(2) of the Public Health Services Act, 42 U.S.C. Section 247b(k)(2) approves the 2008-2013 Cooperative Agreement application entitled "Improving Health and Educational Outcomes for Young People" for submission to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

D. Application for Funds: Response to Intervention Research Grant

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Public Law 108-446, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act, Section 300, approves the application to the Institute of Education Sciences of the United States Department of Education for the "Response to Intervention Research" grant and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motions carried unanimously.

X.B. Designation of Use of 6.25% Restricted Funds by Regional Educational Service Centers

Ms. Finneran moved, Ms. Bobroske seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (c) of Section 10-66j of the Connecticut General Statutes, directs that each regional educational service center shall annually expend at least six and one-quarter percent of the amount received to: (A) support the state obligation to reduce racial, ethnic and economic isolation in accordance with subsection (3) of Section 10-4a of the Connecticut General Statutes; and (B) to support the Board's Five-year Comprehensive Plan for Education 2006-2011 by targeting resources for one or more of the following activities: (1) minority teacher recruitment activities and outcomes; (2) data collection and analysis of school district efforts to reduce the racial, ethnic and economic isolation of students; (3) professional development opportunities for teachers in educating students from diverse racial, ethnic and economic backgrounds, including evaluating the efficacy and outcomes of these sessions; (4) support for students participating in the Open Choice program; and (5) support for interdistrict magnet schools operated by the Regional Educational Service Centers, at the direction of the Commissioner; 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. Intent to Adopt Regulations Concerning Marriage and Family Therapist

Ms. Finneran moved, Mrs. Luke seconded, that the State Board of Education declares its intent to adopt new regulations for the certification of School Marriage and Family Therapists, Sections 10-XXX-1 to 10-XXX-6, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut Agencies, and directs the commissioner to take necessary action.

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

Motion carried.

XI. Connecticut Technical High School Matters

None.

Commissioner McQuillan noted that the Greenwich Board of Education had revised its Plan to Correct Racial Imbalance, after the State Board approved it on October 3, 2007.

By unanimous consent, the Board voted to add to its December 5 agenda consideration of the revised plan.

XII. Committee Reports

- A. Finance, Audit, and Department Matters – no report
- B. Legislation and Bylaws – no report
- C. Policy Development – Ms. Finneran noted that the committee will meet this afternoon to discuss a draft position statement on science education.
- D. Connecticut Technical High Schools – Mr. Coolican noted that the committee will meet in Waterbury on November 14.
- E. NASBE – Mrs. Bobroske noted that Secretary Margaret Spellings has been receptive to Brenda Welburn, Executive Director of NASBE, in terms of her positions on national educational issues.
- F. Ad Hoc Committee on Secondary Education – Mr. Voss noted that the committee will meet on November 26 to hear presentations on senior projects. Also on the agenda will be a discussion of teacher shortages, and Commissioner will talk about the schedule of outreach meetings with various constituents.
- G. Ad Hoc Committee on Commissioner Evaluation – Dr. Carolan reported that the committee has met twice and has reviewed evaluation instruments from several other states. A lot of the information in the evaluation form used by Colorado and Alaska was used in the development of a draft form to evaluate the Connecticut Commissioner. Upon completion, the Committee will share with the full board the draft procedures and evaluation form.
- H. Ad Hoc Committee on Accountability – Dr. Carolan reported that the committee will convene soon.

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Prepared by: _____
Mark K. McQuillan, Secretary

