

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Hartford**

Minutes of Meeting  
December 5, 2007

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

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m.

Present: Allan Taylor, Chair  
Whitney Bartell  
James Blake  
Beverly Bobroske \*  
Alice Carolan  
Donald Coolican  
Lynne Farrell  
Janet Finneran  
Theresa Hopkins-Staton  
Patricia Luke  
Jay Voss

Absent: Valerie Lewis, ex-officio

**II. Public Participation**

Nancy Weissler, Chair of the Greenwich Board of Education, summarized the process that led to the recent adoption by the Greenwich Board of Education of its plan to address racial balance at the New Lebanon School (agenda item V.B.). (A typed transcript was provided and is considered part of the official file.)

**III. Executive Session**

The Board did not meet in Executive Session.

By unanimous consent, the Board voted to consider agenda item V.B., Revised Plan to Correct Racial Imbalance in Greenwich Public Schools.

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**V.B. Revised Plan to Correct Racial Imbalance in Greenwich Public Schools**

Mrs. Luke moved, Ms. Finneran seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Section 10-226d of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the revision to the Greenwich Board of Education's "Plan to Address Racial Imbalance" in the New Lebanon School, as adopted by the Greenwich Board on October 25, 2007, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously

**IV. Consideration of Minutes of the November 7, 2007, State Board of Education Meeting**

Ms. Finneran moved, Mrs. Luke seconded, that the Board approves the minutes of the November 7, 2007, State Board of Education meeting.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

[Mrs. Bobroske arrived at 10:35 a.m.]

**V. Items Requiring Action**

**V.A. Secondary School Improvement Proposal**

Dr. Voss moved, Ms. Finneran seconded, that the Board, accepts from the Ad Hoc Committee on Secondary School Improvement, "The Case For Secondary School Reform in Connecticut," supports the recommended framework to effect systemic reform of Connecticut's secondary schools, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary actions, including preparing any necessary legislative proposals for the 2008 Session of the General Assembly that will culminate in a final proposal for consideration by the General Assembly by December 2008.

Mr. Voss moved, Mr. Coolican seconded, to amend the reference on page 48 of the presentation "The Case for Secondary School Reform in Connecticut, A Matrix of Requirements and Choices," from "US History: 1860-Present" to read "U.S. History".

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

Motion carried.

Ms. Hopkins-Staten moved, Mrs. Luke seconded, to adopt the resolution with the following amendment:

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education accepts from the Ad Hoc Committee on Secondary School Improvement, "The Case For Secondary School Reform in Connecticut," supports the recommended framework to effect systemic reform of Connecticut's secondary schools, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary actions, including seeking funding for the planning and implementation study from the 2008 Session of the General Assembly, that will culminate in a final proposal for consideration by the State Board of Education by December 2008 and transmission to the General Assembly thereafter.

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

Motion carried.

**VI. Report of the Chair – Mr. Taylor reported the following:**

- Jay Voss, James Blake, and Whitney Bartell joined him you at the Teacher of the Year Ceremony;
- The Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) Convention, was held on November 16, 2007. Commissioner McQuillan and Dr. Jay Voss did a presentation on Secondary School Reform in Connecticut. This presentation was followed by a question and answer period;
- The Board will be meeting this afternoon with the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE);
- The Board will meet next Thursday, December 13, 2007, at 6:00 p.m. in the Old Judiciary Room to recognize outstanding educators;
- The January 2nd State Board of Education meeting will be held in the Legislative Office Building. The morning session will be with the Board of Governors for Higher Education; and we will conduct our “regular” business in the afternoon, at the same location.

**VII. Report of the Commissioner**

Commissioner McQuillan reported on the following:

- Sheff: Commissioner McQuillan testified at the hearing which is still under deliberation. The Sheff Office is now fully staffed and is beginning its work to implement the terms of the Agreement. This office will be overseen by Deputy Commissioner Coleman. Ed Linehan has also been hired as a consultant to begin assisting us with a plan. The original settlement called for a joint office of staff from CREC, Hartford Public Schools and the Department.
- Accountability Initiative: Commissioner McQuillan thanked Acting Bureau Chief Deb Richards for all of her work. The Board's Ad Hoc Committee on Accountability will soon begin to review the district improvement plans.
- Reading Summit on November 29, 2007: This summit was very successful and attended by over 400 people.

- Commissioner McQuillan called to the Board's attention, "A Time for a New Day", Broadening Opportunities for Massachusetts Schoolchildren, Expanded Learning Time Initiation 2006-1007 Annual Report.

### **VIII. Financial Matters**

No financial matters were discussed.

### **IX. Consent Agenda**

Dr. Carolan removed agenda item IX.E., Extension of Approval Period for Educator Preparation Program: Eastern Connecticut State University, from the consent agenda.

Mrs. Luke moved, Mr. Coolican seconded, to approve the consent agenda items, IX.A., Appointments to Teacher Preparation Program review Committee; IX.B., Five-Year Rolling Capital Equipment Plan – Connecticut Technical High School System; IX.C., Addendum to Plan to Correct Racial Imbalance in Groton Public Schools and IX.D., Appointments to the Connecticut Advisory Council for School Administrator Professional Standards.

#### **IX. A. Appointments to Teacher Preparation Program review Committee**

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-145d-9(f)(1) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, appoints Ian Banner and Janet Garagliano to serve on the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) Review Committee for the Approval of Connecticut Educator Preparation Programs from December 5, 2007, through September 1, 2010, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

#### **IX.B. Five-Year Rolling Capital Equipment Plan – Connecticut Technical High School System**

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-95i of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the Connecticut Technical High School System's Rolling Capital Improvement and Capital Equipment Plan 2009-2013, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

**IX.C. Addendum to Plan to Correct Racial Imbalance in Groton Public Schools**

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

**IX.D. Appointments to the Connecticut Advisory Council for School Administrator Professional Standards**

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (b) of Section 10-144e of the Connecticut General Statutes, appoints Dr. J. A. Camille Vautour and Dr. Gary Alger to serve as State Board of Education representatives to the Connecticut Advisory Council for School Administrator Professional Standards through January 15, 2010, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motions carried unanimously.

**IX.E. Extension of Approval Period for Educator Preparation Program: Eastern Connecticut State University**

Mrs. Luke moved, Mr. Coolican seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Section 10-145d-9(f)(1) of the regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, extends program approval to September 30, 2010, to the following teacher preparation programs at Eastern Connecticut State University:

<u>Program</u>	<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>Program Level</u>	<u>Program Type</u>
Early Childhood Education	N-3	initial	undergraduate/graduate
Elementary Education	K-6	initial	undergraduate/graduate
English	7-12	initial	undergraduate/graduate
History & Social Studies	7-12	initial	undergraduate/graduate
Mathematics	7-12	initial	undergraduate/graduate
Biology	7-12	initial	undergraduate/graduate
Earth Science	7-12	initial	undergraduate/graduate
Physical Education	PK-12	initial	undergraduate/graduate

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**X. Connecticut Technical High School Matters**

No items were reported.

**XI. Items for Discussion**

**XI.A. Update on Early Childhood Cabinet**

Commissioner McQuillan reported on the Early Childhood Cabinet. An Early Childhood Bureau is now staffed and operating, and we have now have staff dedicated directly for the Early Childhood Cabinet. The Cabinet has begun to conduct an analysis of space across the state to see where the program can be expanded.

**XII. Committee Reports**

- **Finance, Audit and Department Matters** – Mrs. Luke noted that the committee met today, and discussed a biennial budget request timeline. An additional meeting will be held in February before the Board meeting to discuss Affirmative Action/EEO issues.

- **Legislation and Bylaws** – Ms. Finneran spoke about the Legislative Review Committee’s report on the BEST Program. Members felt that the State Board of Education should have an opportunity for input before the Legislative Review Committee issues a report. Dr. Carolan requested that the BEST portfolio be added to an upcoming meeting agenda.
- **Policy Development** – The committee will meet this afternoon to review the second draft science education position statement.
- **Connecticut Technical High Schools** – The committee is meeting in Wolcott on Wednesday, December 12.
- **NASBE** – Chairman Taylor is the Northeast Director effective January 1, 2008.
- **Ad Hoc Committee on Secondary Education** – Dr. Voss noted that the Committee’s next meeting will be scheduled in January 2008.
- **Ad Hoc Committee on Commissioner Evaluation** – Dr. Carolan reported that the committee has been working on an evaluation instrument and process, and will present the proposal to the full Board for its consideration.

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mark K. McQuillan, Secretary