

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Janet M. Finneran, Chair
Lynne S. Farrell
Hannah Klein
Patricia B. Luke

Minutes

December 16, 2009

Policy Development Committee Meeting

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Janet Finneran called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m. The meeting was held at the State Office Building, Department of Education, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

Committee members Ms. Finneran and Dr. Lynne Farrell were present. Mrs. Patricia Luke and Ms. Hannah Klein were absent.

The following guests attended the portion of the meeting focusing on agenda item III, "Ways to Advance Minority Teacher Recruitment Initiatives": Evan Pitkoff, CES; Esther Bobowick, CES; Timothy Nee, CREC; Denise Holter, CREC. Staff members in attendance for all or part of the meeting were Commissioner Mark K. McQuillan, Deputy Commissioner George Coleman, Associate Commissioner Charlene Russell-Tucker, Associate Commissioner Marion Martinez, Assistant to the Commissioner Pamela Bergin; Equal Employment Opportunity Director Sharon Gaddy; Equal Employment Opportunity Specialist, Melissa Thompson; Bureau Chief Mark Linabury; Education Consultant Janet Foster.

II. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Dr. Farrell, seconded by Ms. Finneran, the committee approved the minutes of the November 16, 2009, committee meeting.

III. Ways to Advance Minority Teacher Recruitment (MTR) Initiatives

Commissioner McQuillan and Deputy Commissioner Coleman concurred that the Board is committed to a more diverse education workforce, and invited attendees to share thoughts about what can be done to become more successful.

Denise Holter distributed a folder containing background information on the Regional Education Service Centers' Minority Teacher Recruiting (MTR) Alliance (copy in official file). Ms. Holter summarized the history of MTR initiatives, including a three-pronged approach: recruitment, retention and "grow your own" programs. She discussed efforts such as the Alternate Route to Certification, Praxis preparation programs and scholarship funds, efforts to zero in on high school and community college students, and the "Pathways to Teaching Program," particularly with regard to the need to form partnerships in Connecticut.

Ms. Holter, Mr. Pitkoff, Mrs. Bobowick and Mr. Nee proposed the following:

- o the need to address the culture of schools to attract and retain minority educators, providing a welcoming and supportive environment;
- o the need to communicate the direct link between diversity (curriculum, students and staff) and reducing the achievement gap;
- o the need to dedicate more resources to support MTR and to release funds already allocated; and
- o efforts to recruit more Hispanic and African Americans, particularly males.

Department staff members discussed with the RESC representatives other potential ways to lend support to the success of MTR: (1) presenting this as a priority of the state, with clear a expectation that districts must show the *results* of their efforts; (2) designating Title II funds for data collection and local district efforts; (3) determining ways to prepare teachers certified in elementary education for shortage areas; and (4) maintaining dialogue between the RESCs and the State Department of Education (including staff from the legal office and certification bureau).

Ms. Finneran noted that the matter will be referred back to Policy Development Committee of the Board, and any related recommendations that require legislative change would be referred to the Legislation Committee.

By unanimous consent, the Policy Development recessed its meeting at 12:00 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 12:10 p.m. Present were: Ms. Finneran and Dr. Farrell, Mrs. Luke was absent. Staff members in attendance for all or part of the meeting were Commissioner Mark K. McQuillan, Deputy Commissioner George Coleman, Associate Commissioner Charlene Russell-Tucker, Associate Commissioner Marion Martinez, Assistant to the Commissioner Pamela Bergin; Bureau Chief, Paul Flinter; Bureau Chief, Harriet Feldlaufer; and Education Consultant Bonnie Edmondson.

IV. Position Statement on Creating a Healthy Learning Environment that is Physically, Emotionally and Intellectually Safe

Paul Flinter, Chief, Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education and Bonnie Edmondson, Education Consultant, presented to the Committee several changes to improve the content and clarity of the position statement. This position statement will be presented to the full Board as a discussion item at the January 6, 2009, meeting.

V. Draft Position Statement on Early Childhood Education

Harriet Feldlaufer, Chief, Bureau of Teaching and Learning, presented the edits made to the position statement. Commissioner McQuillan suggested that the last bullet on page one of the position statement, be moved to the first bullet position. This position statement will be presented to the full Board as a discussion item at the January 6, 2009, meeting.

VI. Adjourn

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.