

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

Minutes of Meeting
March 4, 2009

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, March 4, 2009. The meeting was held at the State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

I. Call to Order

Acting Chairperson Finneran called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Present: Janet Finneran, Acting Chairperson
Lynne Farrell*
Theresa Hopkins-Staton
Christine Larson
Patricia Luke
Linda McMahon
Kathleen O'Connor
Jay Voss
Michael Meotti, Ex-Officio*

Absent: Allan Taylor, Chair
Beverly Bobroske
Brandt Smallwood

Karen Flanagan, Director, Division of Legal and Governmental Affairs, administered the Oath of Office to Linda E. McMahon, member from Stamford and Kathleen P. O'Connor, member from West Hartford.

II. Public Participation

Robert Hartrandft, Simsbury, distributed his proposal, "An Imperative for These Times: Understanding and Translating" High School Grades and GPAs" to the Board.

[Dr. Farrell and Mr. Meotti arrived at 9:43 am]

IV. Consideration of Minutes of the February 4, 2008, State Board of Education Meeting

Mrs. Luke moved, Dr. Farrell seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the February 4, 2008, State Board of Education meeting.

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten requested that the following language be added under V.A., Quarterly Financial Report: "A detailed discussion followed. Mrs. Hopkins-Staten expressed her concern regarding the consecutive second year of underspending in the critical area of Early Childhood education, and the fact that these dollars are being reallocated to cover other budgetary shortfalls."

VOTE: In Favor: Farrell, Luke, Hopkins-Staten, Finneran, Voss
 Opposed: 0
 Abstained: McMahan, O'Connor
 Absent: Bobroske, Taylor

V.A. Update on State Budget

Mr. Mahoney briefed the Board on the budget for the last month. Dr. McQuillan did a power-point presentation on the State Department of Education's FY 2010-11 Budgets. Discussion followed.

V.B. Update on Federal Stimulus Bill

Dr. McQuillan did a power-point presentation on the Federal Stimulus Package (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) . Discussion followed.

VIII. Consent Agenda

Mrs. Luke moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded, to approve the following consent agenda items: VIII.A., Annual Report of the Connecticut Advisory Council for Teacher Professional Standards; VIII.B., Adult Education Plan; VIII.C., Annual Report of the Connecticut Advisory Council for Administrator Professional Standards; VIII.D., Position Statement on the Career Pathways Initiative; VIII.E., Position Statement and Guidelines on International Education and Exchange; VIII.F., Revised Restraint and Seclusion Regulations; VIII.G., Interim Appointments to State Board of Education Standards Committees and VIII.H., Appointments to Ad Hoc Committee on Accountability.

VIII.A. Annual Report of the Connecticut Advisory Council for Teacher Professional Standards

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education receives the 2008 Annual Report of the Connecticut Advisory Council for Teacher Professional Standards, submitted in accordance with the requirements of subsection (b) of Section 10-144d of the Connecticut General Statutes, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VIII.B. Adult Education State Plan

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to its role as the state education agency (SEA) for Connecticut, approves the revised Connecticut State Plan for Adult Education and Family Literacy, Title II of the Workforce Investment Act for fiscal year 2009 (July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010) and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VIII.C. Annual Report of the Connecticut Advisory Council for Administrator Professional Standards

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education receives the 2008 Annual Report of the Connecticut Advisory Council for School Administrator Professional Standards, submitted in accordance with the requirements of subsection (b) of Section 10-144e of the Connecticut General Statutes, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VIII.D. Position Statement on the Career Pathways Initiative

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education approves the Position Statement on the Career Pathways Initiative dated March 4, 2009, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VIII.E. Position Statement and Guidelines on International Education and Exchange

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education approves the Position Statement on International Education and Guidelines for Policymakers dated March 4, 2009, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VIII.F. Revised Restraint and Seclusion Regulations

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education approves the revisions to the Regulations Concerning Restraint and Seclusion in Public Schools and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VIII.G. Interim Appointments to State Board of Education Standards Committees

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Article II, Section 4, of its Bylaws, approves the following interim committee appointments, to take effect immediately and to continue until such time as the Board conducts its 2009 organizational meeting:

Finance, Audit and Department Matters Committee
Patricia Luke, Chair
Allan Taylor
Kathleen O'Connor

Connecticut Technical High School System Committee
Beverly Bobroske, Interim Chair
Theresa Hopkins-Staton
Janet M. Finneran

VIII.H. Appointments to the Ad Hoc Committee on Accountability

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Article II, Section 4, of its Bylaws, approves the following appointments to the Ad Hoc Committee on Accountability, effective immediately:

John Voss, Chair
Janet M. Finneran
Allan B. Taylor

and charges said committee to (1) review the findings of the school district instructional and fiscal audits of districts in their third or fourth year of improvement, or higher; and (2) make a recommendation concerning approval of each district improvement plan to the State Board of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE	In Favor:	Luke, Farrell, Hopkins-Staten, Finneran, McMahon,
ON		O'Connor, Voss
MOTIONS:	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	0
	Absent:	Bobroske, Taylor

Motions carried unanimously.

IX. Report of the Chair – Janet Finneran distributed a written report, including the following: (A copy can be found in the official file of this meeting)

- Welcome to Kathleen O'Connor and Linda McMahon, and pleased to learn that Allan Taylor has been nominated to serve another term.
- Search for next year's student members is underway. Applications are due March 20. A committee of the State Student Advisory Council will review applications in late March, and interviews will be conducted in late April. Both Christine Larson and Brandt Smallwood will serve on the interview panel.
- Hearings on renewal applications submitted by four charter schools (Stamford Academy, Stamford – 3/31; Trailblazers Academy, Stamford – 4/8; Elm City College Preparatory School, New Haven – 4/13; and Amistad Academy, New Haven – date to be confirmed soon) have been scheduled. Hearings will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The process requires that these hearings be chaired by a member of the State Board of Education.
- Theresa Hopkins-Staten will attend the NASBE Study Group Session on Community Partnerships, and Allan Taylor will attend the Board of Directors Meeting next week.
- Board members have been invited to attend the Connecticut Technical High School System "Student of the Year" celebration on May 21, from 11:00 to 1:30 p.m., at Platt Technical High School in Milford.

X. Report of the Commissioner – Commissioner McQuillan distributed a written report, including the following. (A copy can be found in the official file of this meeting).

- Comprehensive Plan Priorities

Priority 1: Early Childhood Education

- March 2nd Early Childhood Education Cabinet presentation to Appropriations Committee was postponed due to weather and has been rescheduled for the morning of March 24th.
- Toured Eastern Connecticut State University Family and Early Childhood Center with Chancellor Carter

Priority 2: Academic Achievement, Achievement Gaps

- "Intersection of Race and Education," May 1 and 2 at the Farmington Marriott; description of the conference in "supplemental materials folder," focusing on closing the achievement gap; Keynote speaker Pedro Noguera of NYU, on May 1, and Dr. Sonia Nieto of UMASS – Amherst, on May 2.

Priority 3: Secondary School Reform

- Internal preparation and outreach activities for over 30 voluntary school districts.
- Plans to reconvene the Ad Hoc Committee to review implementation steps of Secondary Reform Proposal and other voluntary options.

Sheff Comprehensive Management Plan

- New Director of Regional School Choice Office – Dr. John Bayless
- Presentations to Manchester and Portland Boards of Education

Operations

- Continued meetings with Bureau Chiefs and staff regarding state financial crisis, goals and expectations.
- Meeting with U.S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, regarding stimulus funds.

- Regular meetings with Governor Rell and agency representatives regarding stimulus funds.
- Attending CCSSO Legislative Conference March 8-10.

Statewide Meetings

- March 17th meeting at the Hartford Marriott with Superintendents and school business officials to inform them of Entitlement and Competitive Funds available to K-12 under the ARRA; outline of meeting; topics to be covered.
- March 24th - First organizational meeting of P20 Council. Allan Taylor will attend to represent the Board.

XI. Committee Reports

- **Finance, Audit and Department Matters** – Mrs. Luke reported that the Committee will meet on March **11** to discuss the ongoing development of a new Audit Plan and a new Affirmative Action Plan. Mrs. Luke welcomed Mrs. O'Connor to the Finance, Audit and Department Matters Committee.
- **Legislation and Bylaws Committee:** Mrs. Finneran, Acting Chair, reported that the committee discussed pending legislation. She stated that CAFE will be sending the Board legislative updates.
- **Policy Development** – Ms. Finneran reported that the committee met on February 24 to discuss revisions to the Position Statement on Mathematics and also discussed key concepts for new statements. Immediately following the regular meeting today, the committee will continue its discussion of the Mathematics Position Statement.
- **Connecticut Technical School System** -- Mrs. Hopkins-Staten reported that the committee met on February 11 and discussed 1) the approval of the technology plan; 2) career development course and 3) discussion of Title i school plans.

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

Prepared by: _____
Mark K. McQuillan, Secretary