

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

Minutes of Meeting
May 6, 2009

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, May 6, 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 9:33 a.m.

Present: Janet Finneran, Acting Chairperson
Beverly Bobroske
Lynne Farrell
Theresa Hopkins-Staten
Patricia Luke
Linda McMahon
Kathleen O'Connor
Brandt Smallwood
Jay Voss
Michael Meotti, Ex-Officio

Absent: Christine Larson

II. Public Participation

1. Kelvin Williams, parent of a former student at Cheney Technical High School in Manchester, spoke to the Board about a bullying situation at his daughter's school.

IV. Consideration of Minutes of the April 1, 2009, State Board of Education Meeting

Mrs. Luke moved, Mrs. Bobroske seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the April 1, 2009, State Board of Education meeting.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

VI. 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)

- **Applications for Student Membership on SBE:** 11 candidates were interviewed, and five names were submitted to the Governor's Office for her consideration. Interviews with the Governor (or staff) will be conducted next month.
- **National Teacher of the Year Ceremony** – Ms. Finneran reported on her attendance at the White House ceremony of the National Teacher of the Year.
- **Charter School Hearings:** Dr. Farrell attended the Elm City Charter School renewal hearing on April 13. Mrs. McMahon attended the Stamford Academy and Trailblazers Academy renewal hearings on April 29; the Amistad hearing has been rescheduled to May 7 – I will chair that hearing.
- **Organizational Meeting of the Board:** This will be included on the June 3 SBE agenda, in accordance with our bylaws. This includes approval of bylaws and standing committee assignments. In addition, the Board may elect its vice chair at the June meeting, but not later than the 3rd meeting following its biennial organizational meeting. Board members were asked to inform Pamela Bergin of their committee preferences.
- Theresa Hopkins-Staten will be attending the **Amistad Celebration** this evening, in New Haven. She will also be serving on the **Dropout Prevention Committee**. The Department has been working with a small committee to begin planning a statewide summit on dropout prevention. The Dropout Prevention Committee along with a Stakeholder Panel, comprised of representatives of important constituencies that can have an effect on reducing our school dropout rate, will have their first meeting on May 8.
- Beverly Bobroske is attending the May 28 **CTHSS Awards Ceremony** at St. Clements Castle, 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm.
- **CTHSS Graduation Ceremonies:** Many Board members have volunteered to attend one or more of the CTHSS graduation ceremonies.
- **NASBE New Board Member Institute** - Mrs. McMahon and Mrs. O'Connor have been invited to attend the NASBE New Board Member Institute, July 24 – 26, in Arlington, VA.

- **Obesity Prevention Summit** – Dr. Farrell will be attending the Obesity Prevention Summit in Washington D.C., May 6-8.
- Mrs. Bobroske invited the Board to review and comment on the State Board of Education Bylaws/ She also encouraged both Mrs. McMahon and Mrs. O'Connor to attend the NASBE New Member Institute.

VII. 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
 - Development and Meetings on Raised Bill 941
- Priority 2: Academic Achievement, Achievement Gaps
 - East Hartford Board of Education Professional Development
- Priority 3: Secondary School Reform
 - Center for 21st Century Skills: Role in Developing Model Curricula
 - Internal Planning for Outreach to 40 Volunteer Districts
- Sheff Comprehensive Management Plan
 - Completion of Lottery
 - Meetings with CREC, Hartford

Operations

- Bureau Meetings to Review Spring Initiatives, Budget
- Weekly Meetings of Communication Committee
- Weekly Meetings on ARRA Guidance
- Preparation of Stabilization Fund Grant Application
- OPM Staffing Reduction Planning
- National Teacher of the Year Ceremonies
- Meeting with Education and Legislative Committees on ARRA

Statewide Meetings

- American Recovery and Reinvestment Workshops, Presentations
- Testimony to Education Committee on Education Legislation
- Convening of first P20 Council Meeting with Commissioner Meotti
- H1N1 (Swine) Flu State/Superintendent Conference Call with CDC; Continual Updates to Superintendents as provided by Public Health and CDC

- Speaker:
 - CT PTA Convention
 - 21st Century Learning
 - State of Black Connecticut Conference
 - Intersection of Race and Education Symposium
 - Hartford University Law School
 - Connecticut Education Association

VIII.A. Quarterly Financial Report

Bruce Ellefsen, Chief, Bureau of Fiscal Services and Annette McCall, Chief, Bureau of Grants Management, presented the report to the Board. Discussion followed.

VIII.B. Request to Finance Advisory Committee to Transfer Funds

Mrs. Luke moved, Dr. Farrell seconded, that the Board approves the request for Finance Advisory Committee (FAC) actions to transfer a total of \$13,261,000 from surplus accounts to cover deficits in the Personal Services (\$1,200,000), Other Expenses (\$350,000), Basic Skills Exam (\$60,000), Teacher Standards (\$150,000), Mastery (\$1,200,000), Excess Cost (\$6,300,000), OPEN Choice (\$301,000), and Magnets (\$3,700,000) accounts, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

IX. Consent Agenda

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten removed agenda item IX.A., Intent to Amend Regulations Concerning the Administration of Medications from the consent agenda.

Mrs. Bobroske moved, Mrs. Luke seconded, to approve the following consent agenda items: IX.B., Reappointments and Appointments to the Impartial Hearing Board Concerning School Accommodations and Student Expulsions and IX.C., Adoption of Position Statement and Guidelines on Mathematics Education.

IX.B. Reappointments and Appointments to the 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, respectively, hereby:

1. appoints Ms. Ann Bird, Ms. Courtney Nadler-Covici, Ms. Mary Oppenheim, Ms. Michaela Rosenberger, Ms. Patricia Strong and Mr. Frederick Ury to the Impartial Hearing Board for a four-year term beginning August 8, 2009;
2. reappoints Mr. Ruben Acosta, Mr. David Biklen, Ms. Elisabeth Borrino, Mr. R. Thomas Clark, Mr. Donal Collimore, Mr. Joseph Elder, Ms. Mary Gelfman, Ms. Janis Jerman, Mr. Thomas McNeill, Jr., Ms. Peggy Pschirrer, Mr. Steve Rolnick, and Mr. Stanton Lesser to the Impartial Hearing Board for a four-year term beginning August 8, 2009; and

directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

IX.C. Adoption of Position Statement and Guidelines on Mathematics Education

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education approves the Position Statement on Mathematics Education and Guidelines for Policymakers dated May 6, 2009, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motions carried unanimously.

IX.A. Intent to Amend Regulations Concerning the Administration of Medications

Mrs. Bobroske moved, Mrs. O'Connor seconded, that the Board, declares its intent to amend Sections 10-212a-1 through 10-212a-10 of the Regulations of the Connecticut State Agencies, concerning the administration of medications by school personnel and administration of medications during, before- and after-school programs and school readiness programs, and directs the Commissioner to take necessary action.

XII. Committee Reports

- **Finance, Audit and Department Matters** – Mrs. Luke reported that Annual Audit Plan will be considered at the June 3, 2009. The committee will be meeting between May 6 and June 3. The March 11, 2009 committee meeting minutes can be found in your board materials for today's meeting.
- **Legislation and Bylaws Committee:** Mrs. Bobroske thanked the department staff for the updates on legislation. She suggested that if the Board had any comments, they should contact Pamela Bergin.
- **Policy Development** – Ms. Finneran reported that the committee will be meeting this afternoon to continue its discussion on the Position Statement on Coordinated Approach to School Health and the Position Statement on Students Who are English Language Learners. The committee will also discuss revisions to Position Statement on Educational Leadership.
- **Connecticut Technical School System** -- Mrs. Bobroske reported that the committee will meet on May 13, at 11:30 am at Norwich Technical High School.
- **NASBE** – Mrs. Bobroske reported that she along with Mr. Taylor and Mrs. Hopkins-Staton will be attending NASBE meetings in Arlington, Virginia, June 11-13, 2009.
- **Ad Hoc Committee on Accountability:** Dr. Voss reported that the committee will be meeting on May 14 and May 19. The follow-up meeting that was scheduled for May 22 has been rescheduled to the afternoon of May 19, 2009.

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Prepared by: _____
Mark K. McQuillan, Secretary