

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

Minutes of Meeting
July 1, 2009

(approved September 2, 2009)

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, July 1, 2009. The meeting was held at the State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

I. Call to Order

Vice Chairperson Finneran called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

Present: Janet Finneran, Vice Chairperson
Beverly Bobroske
Lynne Farrell (arrived at 10:10 a.m.)
Theresa Hopkins-Staton
Hannah Klein
Hunter Kodama
Patricia Luke
Linda McMahon
Kathleen O'Connor (arrived at 9:40 a.m.)
Jay Voss

Absent: Allan Taylor, Chairperson
Michael Meotti, Ex-Officio

II. Public Participation

1. Joan Venditto from the Albertus Magnus College spoke in favor of the approval of the Educator Preparation Program at Albertus Magnus College.
2. Saylor Heidmann from the Albertus Magnus College spoke in favor of the approval of the Alternate Route to Certification Program at Albertus Magnus College.
3. Jaya Vijayasekar from the Connecticut Council of Language Teachers (CT COLT), discussed the critical nature of the Department's vacant World Language Consultant position due to the retirement of Dr. Mary Ann Hansen. Ms. Vijayaseker's written testimony and additional printed handout can be found in the official file of this meeting.

Mrs. Kathleen O'Connor arrived at 9:40 a.m.

- Ms. Finneran, Mr. Taylor and Mrs. Luke attended an informative session with Dr. Pat Levitt, Director of the Zilkah Neurogenetic Institute at USC. Dr. Levitt spoke about the impact that early experiences have on the brain's architecture and functioning – both emotionally and cognitively – and the importance of addressing issues very early on (beginning in pregnancy) to achieve the greatest success.
- The Board's retreat will be held on August 5. Directions to the meeting site and related materials will be sent to the Board in advance. The Commissioner, Board Chair and Mariana Haynes (of NASBE) are coordinating the agenda for the day.
- Congratulations to Mrs. Bobroske on being selected for the NASBE Distinguished Service Award.

VII. Report of the Commissioner – Commissioner McQuillan distributed a written report which is in the official file of this meeting. Commissioner McQuillan highlighted a few important items:

- He acknowledged the tremendous teamwork involved with the Department's reorganization structure and expressed his disappointment in seeing a lot of people leave due to retirements.
- He is working through discussions with the Federal government regarding the Migrant program.
- He attended a very positive meeting with Hartford Public School personnel.
- Discussions have taken place with the University of Hartford regarding the possibility of an international school. There is widespread interest in international education in the State.
- Commissioner McQuillan was asked to serve on a "Black in America" panel hosted by Dr. Stephen Perry. Dr. Perry had great success at the Capital Preparatory Magnet School, and Commissioner McQuillan congratulated that school on its success.
- Commissioner McQuillan gave a brief summary about the meeting on Algebra I. The group was concerned about model curriculum. It was a productive meeting, and the group is about halfway in the process of developing a curriculum which will be shared with Board. Federal standards are expected to be out in July.
- The New England Consortium was recently organized, and Connecticut is considering becoming a member of the Consortium. Commissioner McQuillan noted that there is no cost associated with membership.

VIII. Financial Matters

IX. Consent Agenda

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten requested that agenda item IX.A., Report on Readiness Need and Costs to Serve all 3- and 4-Year-Old Children in Priority School Districts, be removed from the Consent Agenda.

X. Technical High School System

XI.A. Discussion of Draft Position Statement on Coordinated Approach to School Health

Associate Commissioner Charlene Russell-Tucker, Dr. Bonnie Edmonson and Dr. Cheryl Resha presented the position statement. Discussion followed. It was suggested that “abstinence” be incorporated into the Student Responsibility section. It was also noted that when the document is resubmitted to the Board, the Board will be acting only on the Position Statement and not the guidelines.

XI.B. Proposed Certification Regulations: House Bill 6901 and Other Matters

Commissioner McQuillan, Dr. Marion Martinez, Ms. Georgette Nemr, and Attorney Jennifer Widness discussed the proposed certification regulations. Commissioner McQuillan stated that the Ad Hoc Committee on Certification met on June 25 to discuss issues pertaining to the regulations, including House Bill 6901. Discussion ensued. The Committee will meet in July to discuss middle school certification and the integrated/blended certification of special education and regular education. The first draft of the regulations should be available in September.

XII. Committee Reports

- A. Finance, Audit and Department Matters – Mrs. Luke stated that the Committee is not scheduled to meet for a while, and awaits the 2008-09 audit report due in August. Mrs. Luke expressed concern that Sharon Gaddy, Affirmative Action Administrator, recently retired and her position is now vacant.
- B. Legislation and Bylaws – Mrs. Hopkins-Staten stated that the Committee met before the Board meeting. The Committee will be streamlining the process regarding the areas of legislation that need to be considered by the legislature. Areas of priority will be looked at more thoroughly at the August retreat.
- C. Policy Development – Ms. Finneran stated that the Committee will meet on August 4. They will no longer be bringing guidelines to the full Board for a vote. The Board will only deal with position statements.
- D. Connecticut Technical High Schools – Mrs. Bobroske stated that the Committee met on June 16 at Bristol Technical High School. Community members and students strongly support Bristol Tech and would like to see the school remain open. The Committee will not meet in July.
- E. NASBE – Mrs. Bobroske stated that Mr. Taylor attended the Government Relations Committee meeting; she served on the nominations committee to review the qualifications of candidates; and Mrs. Hopkins-Staten attended a focus group on Dropout Prevention which will issue a report this Fall.
- F. Ad Hoc Committee on Accountability – Mr. Voss said the Committee has not met, but will reconvene in the Fall.
- G. Ad Hoc Committee on Educator Certification – Commissioner McQuillan stated the Committee will meet on July 29. A first draft of the regulations should be ready in mid-August and will subsequently be presented to the Board in September.

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Prepared by: _____
Mark K. McQuillan, Secretary

