

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

**Minutes of Meeting
October 7, 2009**

(approved 11.4.09)

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, October 7, 2009. The meeting was held at the State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

Present: Allan Taylor, Chairperson
Janet Finneran, Vice Chairperson
Beverly Bobroske
Lynne Farrell
Theresa Hopkins-Staton
Hannah Klein
Hunter Kodama
Patricia Luke
Linda McMahon
Michael Meotti, Ex-Officio (arrived at 11:15 a.m.)
Kathleen O'Connor
Jay Voss

Absent: None

II. Public Participation

Marilyn White from the Connecticut Reading Association spoke about the certification requirements of administrators. Ms. White asked the Board to adopt the regulations for administrator certification including the recommendations from the International Reading Association. Ms. White's written testimony can be found in the official file of this meeting.

Chris Hankins, Legal Counsel for the Connecticut Education Association, spoke about the request for declaratory ruling by the Guilford Education Association. Mr. Hankins asked the Board to rule in favor of the request.

Mr. Taylor moved, Mrs. Luke seconded, that the Board consider Item XI.A., Report of the State Advisory Council on Special Education, out of order.

Motion carried unanimously.

- Commissioner McQuillan, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten, Mrs. Luke, Commissioner Meotti, Mr. Coleman and Mr. Taylor attended the annual back-to-school meeting with CABE's Board of Directors on September 23, 2009.
- Board members are invited to attend the annual CABE/CAPSS convention, to be held November 20-21, 2009, at the Mystic Marriott in Groton. The "Dialogue with the State Board of Education" is scheduled to take place on Friday, November 20, from 10:30 to 11:50 a.m.
- Mrs. Hopkins-Staten will participate on the breakfast panel at the October 19, 2009, Summit on Dropout Prevention; Ms. Finneran will attend the summit.
- All Board members are invited to the New England Conference on Multicultural Education on October 21, 2009, 8:30 a.m. to Noon, at the University of Hartford. (A conference brochure was provided.)
- A copy of the annual report from each RESC was provided to all Board members.
- All Board members received an invitation to the annual Teacher of the Year Ceremony, to be held October 29, 2009, at Central Connecticut State University, Welte Hall, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

VII. Report of the Commissioner

Commissioner McQuillan focused on two major topics: (1) The Department's Race to the Top Application. Commissioner McQuillan showed a PowerPoint presentation regarding Race to the Top (RTTT). A copy of the presentation can be found in the official file of this meeting. Discussion followed; and

(2) Prospectus for a State Consortium on Board Examination Systems (National Center on Education and the Economy, 2009). Commissioner McQuillan referred to the draft "Memorandum of Understanding," which reflects the mutual understandings of the state partners and the NCEE have of the purposes of the State Consortium, as well as the obligations of member states. The overall goal of the consortium is to install in the member states a system based on international best practices that will greatly increase the numbers of high school students who are able to do college-level work upon leaving high school. Commissioner McQuillan stated that this proposal takes the secondary school reform one more step. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Meotti arrived 11:15 a.m.

Commissioner McQuillan also distributed a written report which is in the official file of this meeting and includes information on the following:

- Comprehensive Plan Priorities: 1) Early Childhood Education; 2) Academic Achievement, Achievement Gaps; 3) Secondary School Reform
- Sheff Comprehensive Management Plan
- Internal Operations
- Statewide Meetings
- Race to the Top Meetings

VIII.A. Financial Matters – State and Federal Funding

Brian Mahoney, Chief Financial Officer for the Department, provided a summary of fiscal year 2009-10 state and federal funding. Discussion followed.

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten requested a report showing retirements represented in salaries, vacancies, refills, Department positions, and J.M. Wright staff.

There was additional discussion regarding the use of ARRA funds and, specifically, a recent newspaper article about Connecticut's application for State Fiscal Stabilization Funds (SFSF). Commissioner McQuillan stated that the State's SFSF application was indeed approved by the U.S. Department of Education and disagrees with the interpretation of the Office of the Inspector General that SFSF funds are not being used appropriately.

IX. Consent Agenda – Mr. Taylor requested that agenda item IX.B., Request for Declaratory Ruling by Guilford Education Association, be removed from the Consent Agenda.

IX.A. Adoption of Position Statement on Public School Choice

Mrs. Luke moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded, that the Board adopts the Position Statement on Public School Choice, dated October 7, 2009, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

IX.B. Request for Declaratory Ruling by Guilford Education Association

Ms. Finneran moved, Mrs. McMahon seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Section 4-176 of the Connecticut General Statutes and Section 10-4-21 of the Connecticut Regulations of State Agencies, declines to rule on the Petition for Declaratory Ruling filed by the Guilford Education Association concerning whether the provision under Section 10-153d(b) that requires local boards of education to file contracts with the town applies to agreements made in mid-term negotiations under Section 10-153f(e), and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

XI.E. Draft Position Statement on Measuring Success

Barbara Beaudin, Associate Commissioner of the Division of Assessment and Accountability, presented the draft position statement and summarized the changes made from the previous statement. A suggestion was made to change language on the top of page 2 to read "... collects statewide, district and school level data ...".

XII. Committee Reports

- A. Finance, Audit and Department Matters – Mrs. Luke stated that the Committee will meet sometime between now and December. She also reported that she will be meeting with the State Auditors of Public Accounts.
- B. Legislation and Bylaws – Mrs. Hopkins-Staton summarized the Committee's discussion earlier in this meeting.
- C. Policy Development – Ms. Finneran cancelled today's afternoon meeting due to time constraints.
- D. Connecticut Technical High Schools – Mrs. Bobroske said a meeting is scheduled for October 14. A search will be conducted for the new Superintendent, and it is hoped that a decision can be made by January 2010.
- E. NASBE – Mr. Taylor asked Board members to review the information concerning 2010 study groups.
- F. Ad Hoc Committee on Accountability – The reports of three Districts in Need of Improvement are due this month and will be presented for approval by the Board in November.
- G. Ad Hoc Committee for Educator Certification – Commissioner McQuillan stated that the Committee will meet for two more months to discuss certain aspects of the regulations. Draft regulations should be presented at the November meeting.

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Prepared by: _____
Mark K. McQuillan, Secretary