

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Hartford

Minutes of Meeting  
(approved December 2, 2009)

November 4, 2009

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, November 4, 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 9:45 a.m.

Present: Allan Taylor, Chairperson  
Janet Finneran, Vice Chairperson  
Beverly Bobroske  
Lynne Farrell (arrived at 10:00 a.m.)  
Theresa Hopkins-Staten  
Hunter Kodama  
Linda McMahon  
Michael Meotti, Ex-Officio (arrived at 11:35 a.m.)  
Kathleen O'Connor  
Jay Voss

Absent: Hannah Klein  
Patricia Luke

Ms. Finneran moved, Mrs. Bobroske seconded, that the Board add to the agenda a resolution (Item V.E.) regarding J.M. Wright Technical High School.

Motion carried unanimously.

II. Public Participation – None.

III. Executive Session – None.

V. Items Requiring Action

**V.A. District Improvement Plan: Stamford**

[Dr. Lynne Farrell arrived at 10:00 a.m.]

Ms. Finneran moved, Mrs. McMahon seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Section 10-223e of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves and directs the Stamford Board of Education to implement the District Improvement Plan for the Stamford Public School System, and directs the Commissioner to take necessary action.





**VI. Report of the Chair**

Mr. Taylor distributed a written report, which is in the official file of this meeting, and includes the following:

Upcoming activities of the Board:

Mr. Taylor and Commissioner McQuillan will attend the "Forum on Education Reform in New England" on November 10 in Bedford, New Hampshire. The focus will be on USDE Reform Priorities and ARRA Opportunities.

The "Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science" will be given on November 10 at the Connecticut Science Center in Hartford.

The CABE/CAPSS Convention is scheduled for November 20-21. The annual "Dialogue with the State Board" session will take place on Friday, November 20 at 10:30 a.m., followed by a luncheon.

Mr. Taylor also distributed and discussed a study from the National Center for Education Statistics entitled "Mapping State Performance Standards". Of particular concern to Mr. Taylor, are Connecticut's standards for proficient performance in both reading and mathematics.

Ways to improve our status were discussed. Commissioner McQuillan stated that the Secondary School Reform plan was designed to raise expectations, enhance graduation requirements, etc. A serious look should also be taken at how early childhood curriculums are delivered. There was further discussion regarding "proficiency" versus "goal".

**VII. Report of Commissioner**

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

Priority 1: Early Childhood Education  
Priority 2: Academic Achievement, Achievement Gaps  
Priority 3: Secondary School Reform  
Sheff Comprehensive Management  
Internal Operations  
Statewide Meetings

He also thanked Board members for their involvement in the very successful Dropout Prevention conference.

Commissioner McQuillan noted that he anticipates filling the position of head of the Legal Office in the near future.

**XI. Items for Discussion**

**XI.A. NCATE Standards**

Marion Martinez, Associate Commissioner, introduced Donna Gollnick, Senior Vice President of NCATE. Ms. Gollnick showed a PowerPoint presentation and spoke about the six NCATE standards. She also noted two options for continuing visits: Continuous improvement (offsite reviews and onsite visits) and Transformation Initiatives (engagement initiative for self improvement). Discussed ensued.

[Mrs. O'Connor left the meeting at 1:30 p.m.]

**XI.B. Regulations Concerning State Educator Certificates, Permits and Authorizations**

Commissioner McQuillan provided an overview of the Board report and noted that the regulations will be on the agenda once again for discussion in December.

Marion Martinez, Associate Commissioner, Nancy Pugliese, Bureau Chief, and Georgette Nemr, Education Consultant, summarized the major changes in the proposed regulations. Discussed ensued.

Commissioner McQuillan distributed a memo dated October 30, 2009, regarding the proposed revisions. He noted that the Ad Hoc Committee on Educator Certification already had lengthy discussions regarding certain proposals presented in the memo, and additional input is needed from all Board members on the following proposals.

1. Eliminate the overlap between the K-6 and 6-12 elementary and secondary certificates; separate elementary certificates decisively by granting a K-6 certificate and a 7-12 certificate.

After much discussion, there was consensus, to keep the regulation as is: K-6 and 6-12 elementary and secondary certificates.

2. Eliminate the overlap between the PreK-3 certificate and the K-6 certificate; separate the two by granting a PreK-2 certificate and a Grade 1-6 certificate.

[Dr. Farrell and Mrs. Hopkins-Staten left the meeting at 2:50 p.m.]

After much discussion, there was consensus, to keep the regulation as is: PreK-3 certificate and K-6 certificate.

3. Eliminate the "integrated" certificate; create two distinct certificates – one for regular education teachers and one for special education teachers.

The Ad Hoc Committee reached consensus on this issue, and Board members agreed.

4. Lower the number of hours for administrative internships under the 092 certificate from 600 hours to 400 hours.

This item was discussed and consensus was reached to lower the number of hours required.

5. Reorganize the regulations document: move Part XIX "competencies," and Part XX "professional responsibilities" from the end to the beginning.

The Ad Hoc Committee reached consensus on this issue, and Board members agreed.

6. Introduce new language requiring all "planned programs" for certification to be NCATE accredited; or State reviewed using NCATE standards, and SPA program review standard. Language shall be applicable to all relevant certificates. Teacher candidates from other states offering certificates that are not NCATE accredited can be certified if they meet the new credit and competency requirements of the new proposed 2014 certification regulations.

The Ad Hoc Committee reached consensus on this issue, and Board members agreed.

7. Introduce language that will require the continuous application and use of NCATE standards in the awarding of the Provisional and Professional Certificates.

The Ad Hoc Committee reached consensus on this issue, and Board members agreed.

8. Revise and introduce language in Part XVIII permitting the Commissioner of Education greater authority to award teaching and administrative certificates based on equivalent or comparable experiences.

This proposal was discussed but will not be included in the draft regulations. It may be more appropriate to propose a change to the statutes.

#### **VIII.A. Financial Matters – Quarterly Financial Report**

The Fiscal Year 2010 First Quarter Financial Report was provided by Brian Mahoney, Chief Financial Officer.

#### **IX. Consent Agenda**

Ms. Finneran moved, Mrs. McMahon seconded, that the Board approve the following items on the Consent Agenda: IX.A., Commitment from the GE Foundation, to Support Department's Application for Race to the Top Funds ; IX.B., Receipt of Funds from the Nellie Mae Education Foundation; IX.C., Petition for Declaratory Ruling in the Matter of Barbara Amerson, et al; IX.D., Position Statement on School, Family and Community Partnerships; IX.E., Position Statement on Measuring Success; and IX.F., Designation of Use of 6.25% Funds by Regional Educational Service Centers.

#### **IX.A. Commitment from the GE Foundation to Support Department's Application for Race to the Top Funds**

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-11 of the Connecticut General Statutes, authorizes the Commissioner of Education to receive from the GE Foundation \$100,000 to assist Connecticut in its application for the 2010 Race to the Top funds, expresses its gratitude to the Foundation for its support, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

#### **IX.B. Receipt of Funds from the Nellie Mae Education Foundation**

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-11 of the Connecticut General Statutes, gratefully receives from the Nellie Mae Education Foundation \$50,000 to assist Connecticut in its application for the 2010 Race to the Top funds, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

#### **IX.C. Petition for Declaratory Ruling in the Matter of Barbara Amerson, et al.**

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, 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 Barbara Amerson, et al., concerning whether they are qualified and are part of the teachers' unit represented by the Norwich Teachers' League pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-153b(a)(2), and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

**IX.D. Position Statement on School, Family and Community Partnerships**

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education adopts the Position Statement on School-Family-Community Partnerships for Student Success, dated November 4, 2009, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

**IX.E. Position Statement on Measuring Success**

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education adopts the Position Statement on Measuring Student Success, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

**IX.F. Designation of Use of 6.25% Funds by Regional Educational Service Centers**

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (c) of Section 10-66j of the Connecticut General Statutes, directs that each regional educational service center shall annually expend at least six and one quarter percent of the amount received to: (A) support the state obligation to reduce racial, ethnic and economic isolation in accordance with subsection (3) of Section 10-4a of the Connecticut General Statutes; and (B) support the Board's *Five-year Comprehensive Plan for Education 2006-2011* by targeting resources for one or more of the following activities:

- (1) minority teacher recruitment activities and outcomes;
- (2) data collection and analysis of school district efforts to reduce the racial, ethnic and economic isolation of students;
- (3) professional development opportunities for teachers in educating students from diverse racial, ethnic and economic backgrounds, including evaluating the efficacy and outcomes of these sessions;
- (4) support for students participating in the Open Choice program; and
- (5) support for interdistrict magnet schools operated by the regional educational service centers, at the direction of the Commissioner;

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motions carried unanimously.

**XII. Committee Reports**

- A. Finance, Audit and Department Matters
- B. Legislation and Bylaws - Three different charter school designs will be provided to the Policy Committee for consideration: 1) parity of charter school funding per pupil; 2) contemplate model for charter school expansion based on Massachusetts' funding model; and 3) a model for expansion and collaboration with local charters.
- C. Policy Development – A meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 16, 2009.
- D. Connecticut Technical High Schools – A meeting is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, November 10, 2009, at Cheney Tech in Manchester.
- E. NASBE – Mr. Taylor and Mrs. Bobroske attended the annual convention in Ohio. Mrs. Bobroske is very appreciative of the award she received, and Mr. Taylor has been elected as NASBE's President-Elect.
- F. Ad Hoc Committee on Accountability – Completed.

- G. Ad Hoc Committee on Educator Certification – Another meeting(s) will be scheduled before the Committee's work is completed in January.

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mark K. McQuillan, Secretary