

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Legislation and Bylaws Committee

July 7, 2010
8:30 a.m.
State Office Building
Hartford, CT

MINUTES

Members Present

Theresa Hopkins-Staten, Janet Finneran, Jay Voss, Patrick Campbell and Neha Mehta. Kathleen O'Connor was absent.

Staff Present

Mark McQuillan, George Coleman, Laura Anastasio, Pam Bergin and Janice Dinnall.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:51 a.m.

Approval of June 2, 2010, Meeting Minutes

The June 2, 2010, meeting minutes were approved unanimously on a motion by Janet Finneran, seconded by Jay Voss.

New Student Members of the Board

The two new student members of the Board, Patrick Campbell and Neha Mehta were introduced and welcomed.

Legislative Update

Attorney Laura Anastasio updated the Committee on the status of the implementation chart for new legislation. She also discussed with the Committee that the Elementary and Secondary Education Act ("ESEA") is up for reauthorization with the National Association of State Board's of Education ("NASBE"). NASBE is advocating that the ESEA provide more money and uniform standards for all States.

Deputy Commissioner Coleman recommended that for early childhood education, the goal of the State should be universal preschool.

Update on Phase II RTTT Application

The Commissioner summarized the RTTT (Race to the Top) application. He gave great praise to the quality of the application. Some of the highlights of the application were:

- Measuring student progress,
- Having a “superior” and well planned budget,
- Reform initiatives (Public Act 10-111), and
- Technical High School System structural changes.

The three major themes of the application are:

1. Connecticut Accountability for Learning Initiative (CALI),
2. Secondary School Reform, and
3. Principal and Teacher Improvement.

Commissioner McQuillan shared that a small amount of money has been put aside in the budget for advertising and parent training. Theresa Hopkins Staten suggested getting businesses involved in donating as this would benefit them in the long run having high quality educated employees.

Other Matters

In an upcoming meeting Theresa Hopkins-Staten would like the Committee to discuss having alternate members on all Committees of the State Board of Education.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 a.m.