

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION Hartford

Minutes

April 7, 2010, Meeting

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, April 7, 2010. 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 9:38 a.m.

Present: Allan Taylor, Chairperson
Janet Finneran, Vice Chairperson
Theresa Hopkins-Staten
Hannah Klein
Hunter Kodama
Patricia Luke
Kathleen O'Connor
Michael Meotti, Ex-Officio*

Absent: Beverly Bobroske
Lynne Farrell
Jay Voss

[Mrs. Hopkins-Staten left at 9:41 a.m.]

II. Public Participation

1. Sharon Palmer, President, AFT Connecticut, spoke against the proposed corrective order requested by the Hartford Board of Education. Mrs. Palmer's written statement can be found in the official file of this meeting.
2. Andrea Johnson, President of the Hartford Federation of Teacher, spoke against the proposed corrective order requested by the Hartford Board of Education. Mrs. Johnson's written statement can be found in the official file of this meeting.
3. Joshua Hall, 1st Vice-President, Hartford Federation of Teachers, urged the Board to reject the Hartford Board of Education's proposed corrective order.

4. Jay Gutierrez, 2nd Vice-President, Hartford Federation of Teachers, urged the Board to reject the Hartford Board of Education's proposed corrective order.
5. Edwin Vargas, Jr., former teacher and President of the Hartford Federation of Teachers, and parent and grandparent of Hartford students, stated that Hartford's problems are complex and the Superintendent's solution will not solve Hartford's issues.
6. Bill Hagan, retired Hartford Public School teacher, urged the Board to reject the Superintendent's request. Mr. Hagan's remarks can be found in the official file of this meeting.
7. Mary Loftus Levine, Director of Policy and Professional Practice, Connecticut Education Association (CEA), spoke in support of the Hartford Federation of Teachers' right to seniority. Ms. Levine's remarks can be found in the official file of this meeting.
8. Roch Girard, President, Connecticut Federation of School Administrators (CFSA), stated that the issue is one of honoring an agreement that was negotiated by both parties during contract talks. The CFSA urged the Board not to honor the Hartford Board's request.
9. Larry Deutsch, Hartford City Council, stated that system-based seniority must be maintained, and noted that the April 1 deadline for teacher notification has already passed.
10. Luis Davila, Member, Hartford Board of Education, stated that the Hartford Board of Education's job is fiscal responsibility and management. Reform must be sustained in order to successfully operate within the budget.
11. Timothy Davenport, owner of a heating and air conditioning company in Connecticut and member of the CTHS Foundation, stated that the Connecticut Technical High School System was one of the greatest asset in the State, as evidenced by the waiting list for these technical schools. Mr. Davenport noted that more support is required to ensure that the CTHS students have adequate resources to become successful.

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

- Mr. Taylor attended the NASBE Preconference session on Extending the Reach of School Improvement Initiatives: Scaling Teacher and Leader Effectiveness to Promote Student Learning, in Washington on March 16, 2010;
- The NASBE Legislative Conference was held in Washington on March 18-20. Mr. Taylor met with Congressmen Murphy and Courtney;

- Mrs. Hopkins-Staten attended the NASBE session on "For the Common Good Study Group", in Washington on March 19, 2010;
- Thanks to all who volunteered to chair the hearings on the renewal of charter school applications;
- Board members received the schedule of the hearings on proposed certification regulations and are welcome to attend any of those sessions;
- Mr. Taylor and Mr. Voss attended a NESSC Focus Group meeting on March 24;
- Board members are invited to attend the Black and Hispanic/Latino Male Forum on April 29 at the Farmington Marriott, from 5 to 8 p.m.;
- Board members are invited to attend the Symposium on Closing Connecticut's Achievement Gaps: The Intersection of Race and Education, to be held on April 30, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Farmington Marriott. Copies of the conference announcements are in your supplemental folders.

VII. Report of Commissioner -- Commissioner McQuillan distributed a written report, which is in the official file of this meeting, and includes the following:

Comprehensive Plan Priorities

Priority 1: Early Childhood Education

- Head Start Grant Applications for Early Childhood Cabinet
- Early Childhood Challenge Grants removed from President's budget

Priority 2: Academic Achievement, Achievement Gaps

- Submission of School Improvement Grants (SIG) for 5% lowest performing schools
- Meeting with Commission on Connecticut's Achievement Gap
- Release of 2009 NAEP results for Reading 4th and 8th grade

Priority 3: Secondary School Reform

- NCEE Board Examinations statewide meetings
- Secondary School Webinar Series

Sheff Comprehensive Management Plan

- Reorganization of RESCO Office with new personnel
- Completion of Lottery and adjustments to Hartford Public School enrollments
- Court hearing on Plaintiffs' appeal of Judge Berger's February decision

Operations

- Regular meetings with Cabinet and Administrative Council
- Regular meetings of Race to the Top Steering Committee
- Requests for waivers for 180-day school requirement
- Op-Ed pieces for Courant
- Radio and television interviews on Race to the Top

Statewide Meetings

- Statewide meetings on RttT Round 2 Application
- Attendance at CCSSO Annual Policy Meeting
- Organizational work on RttT Statewide Implementation Committees
- Regular meetings with RttT Coalition on supporting legislation for Phase 2 application

X. Connecticut Technical High School System

Patricia Ciccone, Superintendent of the Connecticut Technical High School System (CTHSS), distributed a written report covering the following items: CTHSS Fiscal Executive Summary; Skills USA; and an Executive Summary on the CTHSS. A copy of Ms. Ciccone's report is contained in the official file of this meeting.

[Mrs. Hopkins-Staten returned at 10:40 a.m.]

[Mr. Meotti arrived at 10:40 a.m.]

IV. Consideration of Minutes of March 3, 2010, State Board of Education Meeting

Mrs. Luke moved, Mrs. O'Connor seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the March 3, 2010, State Board of Education meeting.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

IX. Consent Agenda

Mrs. Luke moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded, that the Board approve the following items on the Consent Agenda: IX.A., Racial Imbalance Report; IX.B., Designation of Teacher Shortage Areas; IX.C., Adoption of Position Statement on Nutrition and Physical Activity; and IX.D., Adoption of Position Statement on Student Support Services.

IX.A. Racial Imbalance Report

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-226a of the Connecticut General Statutes, accepts the Racial Imbalance Report, dated March 2, 2010, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

IX.C. Adoption of Position Statement on Nutrition and Physical Activity

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education adopts the Position Statement on Nutrition and Physical Activity, dated April 7, 2010, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

IX.D. Adoption of Position Statement on Student Support Services

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education adopts the Position Statement on Student Support Services, dated April 7, 2010, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motions carried unanimously.

XI.A.1. Update on Connecticut's Race to the Top Application

Commissioner McQuillan presented to the Board an overview of the Race to the Top Application (Phase II). Discussion followed.

XI.A.2. Connecticut's Race to the Top Application: Reflections by Superintendent of the Year and High School Principal of the Year

Commissioner McQuillan introduced Dr. David Title, Superintendent, Bloomfield Public Schools and Superintendent of the Year; and Dr. Timothy Breslin, Principal, Farmington High School and High School Principal of the Year, who shared their perspectives on Connecticut's application and the impact of the proposals on their school districts. Discussion followed.

III. Executive Session

On a motion by Mrs. Luke, seconded by Mrs. Hopkins-Staten, the Board voted unanimously to move into executive session at 12:21 p.m., for the purpose of discussing attorney-client privileged information.

Present at executive session were Board members: Ms. Klein, Mr. Kodama, Mrs. O'Connor, Ms. Finneran, Mrs. Luke, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten and Mr. Taylor. Also present was Commissioner of Education Mark K. McQuillan, Deputy Commissioner George Coleman, Agency Legal Director Daniel Murphy and Attorney Laura Anastasio. Dr. Farrell, Dr. Voss, Mrs. Bobroske and Commissioner Meotti were absent.

The Board reconvened in public session at 12:50 p.m. Present were Ms. Klein, Mr. Kodama, Mrs. O'Connor, Ms. Finneran, Mrs. Luke, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten and Mr. Taylor. Dr. Farrell, Dr. Voss, Mrs. Bobroske and Commissioner Meotti were absent.

By unanimous consent the Board voted to add item XI.B., Hartford Board of Education's Proposed Corrective Order to the agenda.

XI.B. Hartford Board of Education's Proposed Corrective Order

Mrs. O'Connor moved, Mrs. Luke seconded, the following resolution:

Whereas, the Board of Education and Superintendent of the Hartford Public Schools have requested that the State Board of Education enter an order under Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-233e overriding the existing collective bargaining agreements between the Hartford Board of Education, the Hartford Federation of Teachers, and the Hartford Principals' and Supervisors' Association to require that seniority for the purpose of implementing reductions in force be applied on a school-by-school rather than a system-wide basis; and

Whereas, that request has been considered by the Ad Hoc Committee on Accountability and discussed by the full State Board; and

Whereas, the State Board believes that a resolution of the issues raised by Hartford would better serve the students and staff of the Hartford Public Schools if such resolution was reached independently between the Hartford Board of Education and the impacted teacher and administrator unions than would a decision by vote of the State Board of Education,

Now, therefore, be it RESOLVED

1. That the Connecticut State Board of Education strongly requests and encourages the Hartford Public Schools and its teachers and administrators to enter into discussions looking toward a consensual resolution of the seniority issues raised by the Hartford Public Schools; and

2. That the Commissioner of Education offer his good offices and such assistance as he can to facilitate such discussions; and

3. That the Connecticut State Board of Education may place the request of the Hartford Public Schools on its agenda for action in May and urges the parties to reach their own resolution before May 5.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

XII. Committee Reports

- **Finance, Audit and Department Matters** – Mrs. Luke reported that the minutes of the March 17 meeting can be found in the board packet for today's meeting. She asked members to pay attention to items III.C., Auditors of Public Accounts Findings and the Department's response and III.G., Staff Certification.
- **Legislation and Bylaws Committee** – Mrs. Hopkins-Staten reported that the committee met this morning on the following items: Update on Ad Hoc Committee to Study Funding Public School Choice Programs; Update on Race to the Top Legislative Proposals and Update on Race to the Top Application.
- **Policy Development Committee** -- Ms. Finneran reported that the committee will be meeting following the regular meeting to discuss the revised draft Statement on Education of Students Who Are English Language Learners.
- **Connecticut Technical High School Committee** -- Mrs. Hopkins-Staten reported that the committee will meet next week.
- **Ad Hoc Committee on J.M. Wright Technical High School** – Commissioner McQuillan reported that the committee just completed its fifth meeting and recommendations are scheduled to come to the State Board in June 2010.

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Prepared by: _____
Mark K. McQuillan, Secretary

