

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

Minutes

May 5, 2010, Meeting

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, May 5, 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
Beverly Bobroske
Lynne Farrell*
Theresa Hopkins-Staton
Hannah Klein
Patricia Luke
Pamela Partridge West
Jay Voss

Absent: Hunter Kodama
Kathleen O'Connor
Michael Meotti, Ex-Officio

Daniel P. Murphy, Agency Legal Director, Legal and Governmental Affairs, administered the Oath of Office to Pamela Partridge West, member from Farmington.

II. Public Participation

1. Lisa Lessard, Waterbury, expressed concerns regarding Waterbury Public Schools and incidents with the City of Waterbury.
2. Mary Brevigleiri, Board member of Explorations Charter School and parent of graduate of Explorations urged the Board to renew the charter for Explorations. Mrs. Brevigleiri's remarks can be found in the official file of this meeting

[*Dr. Farrell arrived at 9:46 a.m.]

3. Christina Brevigleiri, graduate of Explorations Charter School, asked the Board to renew the charter for Explorations so that other students will have an opportunity and a choice for succeeding in their education.
4. Leah Barnes, Principal at Odyssey Community Charter School and original founder, urged the Board to renew Odyssey's charter.
5. Elaine Stancliffe, Executive Director of Odyssey Community Charter School and former board member, spoke in support of renewal of the Odyssey charter.
6. Marsha Howland, Board of Trustees for the Odyssey Community Charter School, spoke in support of renewal of the Odyssey charter.
7. James Marchaud, Vice President of the Board for Odyssey Community Charter School, spoke in support of renewal of the Odyssey charter.
8. Cheryl Martone, U.S. Concerned Parents and parent of Westbrook Middle School student, urged the Board to support H.B. 5491.
9. Liz Cox, Director, Common Ground Charter School, spoke in support of the renewal of their charter.
10. Celia Lofink, parent of a senior at Explorations, asked the Board to renew the charter for Explorations Charter School.

III. Executive Session

On a motion by Ms. Finneran, seconded by Mrs. Luke, the Board voted unanimously to move into executive session at 10:20 a.m., for the purpose of discussing attorney-client privileged information.

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

On a motion by Mrs. Luke, seconded by Mrs. Hopkins-Staten, the Board voted unanimously to reconvene in public session at 10:45 a.m. Present were Mrs. Bobroske, Dr. Farrell, Ms. Finneran, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten, Ms. Klein, Mrs. Luke, Mrs. Partridge West, Mr. Taylor and Dr. Voss. Commissioner Meotti, Mr. Kodama and Mrs. O'Connor were absent.

IV. Consideration of Minutes of April 7, 2010, State Board of Education Meeting

Mrs. Luke moved, Dr. Farrell seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the April 7, 2010, State Board of Education meeting.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

V.A. Renewal of Charter: Explorations Charter School

Ms. Finneran moved, Mrs. Partridge West seconded, that the Board, pursuant to subsection (g) of Section 10-66bb of the Connecticut General Statutes, renews the charter of Explorations Charter School from July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2015, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

V.B. Renewal of Charter: Common Ground Charter School

Ms. Finneran moved, Mrs. Bobroske seconded, that the Board, pursuant to subsection (g) of Section 10-66bb of the Connecticut General Statutes, renews the charter of Common Ground High School from July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2015, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

V.C. Renewal of Charter: Odyssey Community Charter School

Mrs. Bobroske moved, Mrs. Luke seconded, that the Board, pursuant to subsection (g) of Section 10-66bb of the Connecticut General Statutes, renews the charter of Odyssey Community School from July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2015, and grants approval to expand the grade levels to add Grades K-3, said approval granted subject to available funds for additional seats, acquisition of a suitable location and meeting conditions noted in the Commissioner's May 5, 2010, memorandum, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

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 welcomed new member, Mrs. Pamela Partridge West and
- Mr. Taylor reported on his trip to Washington for the Learning First Alliance Leadership Council Meeting, held on April 22-23.

Mr. Taylor left the meeting at 10:58 a.m. to participate in a conference call with the US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. Vice Chair Janet Finneran acted as Chair during his absence.

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

Commissioner McQuillan introduced Mr. Robert Santy, President of CT Economic Resource Center (CERC) and our strategic communications partner for the RTTT grant. Mr. Santy did a power-point presentation. Discussion followed.

[Mr. Taylor returned at 11:25 a.m.]

V.D. Authorization to Submit Application for Funds: Phase II Race to the Top

Ms. Finneran moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded, that the Board authorizes the Commissioner of Education to submit the Application for Funds for Phase II of "Race to the Top" to the U.S. Department of Education.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

By unanimous consent, the Board voted to add item V.E., Appointment to Connecticut Technical High School Committee, to the May 5, 2010 agenda.

V.E. Appointment to Connecticut Technical High School Committee

Mrs. Bobroske moved, Mrs. Luke seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Section 4 of its Bylaws, approves the membership of Pamela Partridge West to the Connecticut Technical High School Committee, effective immediately, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

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

- Integration of CT's Early Childhood Standards into Common Core

Priority 2: Academic Achievement, Achievement Gaps

- Implementation School Improvement Grants (SIG) for 5% lowest performing schools
- Pilot of Academic Growth Model in SIG Schools

Priority 3: Secondary School Reform

- NCEE Board Examinations statewide meetings, sign-up process
- SDE Meetings with New England Secondary School Consortium

Sheff Comprehensive Management Plan

- Posting of new position for RSCO Office
- Lottery Results and School Assignments Near Completion
- RSCO Office Reorganization

Operations

- Regular meetings with Cabinet and Administrative Council
- Regular meetings of RTTT Steering Committee
- Requests for waivers for 180-day school requirement
- Radio and television interviews on RTTT

Statewide Meetings

- Statewide meetings on RTTT Round 2 Application
- Organizational work on RTTT Statewide Implementation Committees
- Regular meetings with RTTT Coalition on supporting legislation for Phase 2 application

[Ms. Klein left the meeting at 12:00 noon]

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 and CTHSS Inventory Executive Summary. A copy of Ms. Ciccone's report is contained in the official file of this meeting.

By unanimous consent, the Board recessed its meeting at 12:32 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 1:25 p.m. Present were Mrs. Bobroske, Dr. Farrell, Ms. Finneran, Mrs. Luke, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten, Mr. Taylor and Dr. Voss. Commissioner Meotti, Mr. Kodama, Ms. Klein, Mrs. Partridge West and Mrs. O'Connor were absent.

VIII. Financial Matters

VIII.A. Quarterly Financial Report

Brian Mahoney, Chief Financial Officer, presented the report to the Board.
Discussion followed.

VIII.B. Request to Finance Advisory Committee to Transfer Funds

Dr. Farrell moved, Ms. Finneran seconded, that Board approves the request for Finance Advisory Committee (FAC) action to transfer a total of \$8,210,000 from surplus accounts to cover deficits in the Other Expenses (\$4,700,000), Personal Services (\$3,200,000), Equipment (\$200,000), Public School Transportation (\$65,000), and Excess Cost-Student Based (\$45,000) accounts, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

IX. Consent Agenda

Ms. Finneran moved, Mrs. Bobroske seconded, that the Board approve the following item on the Consent Agenda: IX.A., A Report of School Readiness Need and the Costs To Serve All 3- and 4-year-old Children in 19 Priority School Districts

IX. A. Report of School Readiness Need and the Costs To Serve All 3- and 4-year-old Children in 19 Priority School Districts

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-4(d) of the Connecticut General Statutes, receives *A Report of School Readiness Need and the Costs to Serve All 3- and 4-Year-Old Children in 19 Priority School Districts* and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

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

Daniel P. Murphy, Agency Legal Director, Division of Legal and Governmental Affairs, presented the report to the Board. Discussion followed.

XII. Committee Reports

- **Finance, Audit and Department Matters** – Mrs. Luke reported that the committee will be meeting later this month.
- **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. Bobroske distributed Substitute Bill 379 and amendments to the full board. The next committee meeting will be held at W.F. Kaynor Connecticut Technical High School in Waterbury on June 9.
- **NASBE** – Mrs. Hopkins-Staten will be attending the Common Good Study Group meeting and Mr. Taylor will be attending the NASBE Board of Director meeting in Arlington, VA on June 10-12, 2010.
- **Ad Hoc Committee on Educator Certification** -- Mr. Taylor and Ms. Finneran attended the public hearing at ACES on April 29. Dr. Voss attended the public hearing on April 6 at CES.
- **Ad Hoc Committee on Funding for Public School Choice** – Mr. Taylor reported that the committee had a discussion regarding the scope of the charge. The committee might recommend to the State Board of Education that it expand the charge and coordinate efforts with the Governor's Achievement Gap Commission.

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Mrs. Hopkins-Staten recommended that the Board hear a presentation on 1) the education of children in juvenile detention centers; and 2) the HIV Grant which the Department received from NASBE.

Mrs. Luke asked if the Board member will have input for the Board's Retreat.

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Prepared by: _____
Mark K. McQuillan, Secretary