

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Hartford**

Minutes

February 9, 2011, Meeting

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, February 9, 2011. The meeting was held at the State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut. Note: Due to inclement weather, the February 2, 2011 meeting was postponed to February 9, 2011.

**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\*  
Patrick Campbell  
William Davenport  
Lynne Farrell  
Theresa Hopkins-Staton  
Patricia Luke  
Neha Mehta  
Brenda Sisco  
Joseph Vrabely  
Jay Voss

Absent: Pamela Partridge West  
Michael Meotti, Ex-Officio

**II. Public Participation**

1. Joshua Starr, Superintendent of Stamford Public Schools and Chairperson of the Connecticut Association of Urban Superintendents (CAUS) spoke to the Board regarding agenda item IX.E., Recommendations of Ad Hoc Committee to Study Education Cost Sharing and Choice Funding. Dr. Starr expressed concerns with the design principles and stated that he cannot endorse them.

2. Jackie Heftman, Stamford Board of Education Member, noted her concerns with the Ad Hoc Committee on Education Cost Sharing and Choice Funding design principles. Ms. Heftman written remarks can be found in the official file of this meeting.
3. Wendy Lecker, Co-President, Stamford Parent Teacher Council, respectfully opposed the adoption of the Ad Hoc Committee on Education Cost Sharing and Choice Funding core values and design principles. A copy of Ms. Lecker's written comments can be found in the official file of this meeting.
4. Cindy Grafstein, Member, Stamford Parent Teacher Council, opposed the adoption of the Ad Hoc Committee on Education Cost Sharing and Choice Funding core values and design principles. A copy of Ms. Grafstein's written comments can be found in the official file of this meeting.
5. Peter Privitera, Director of the Office of Policy and Management for the City of Stamford, requested that the Board reject the Ad Hoc Committee on Education Cost Sharing and Choice Funding core values and design principles.
6. Ralph Mueller, Dean of the College of Education, University of Hartford, addressed the members of the Board in support of the continuing approval of the University of Hartford's Teacher Education Program. A copy of Dean Mueller's written testimony can be found in the official file of this meeting.
7. Dianne Kaplan deVries, Project Director, Connecticut Coalition for Justice in Education Funding (CCJEF), urged the Board to reject the proposed Ad Hoc Committee on Education Cost Sharing and Choice Funding core values and design principles. A copy of Ms. deVries' written comments and written comments submitted by Philip Streifer, President of CCJEF can be found in the official file of this meeting.
8. James Finley, Executive Director, Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM), stated that he served on the Ad Hoc Committee on Education Cost Sharing and Choice Funding and that there is a need to have further clarification of the core values and design principles in relation to their impact on adequately funding public schools for *a//* children.

9. Mary Loftus Levine, Director of Policy and Professional Practice, Connecticut Education Association (CEA), delivered a statement on behalf of CEA Executive Director John Yrchik, Member of the Ad Hoc Committee to Study Education Cost Sharing and Public School Funding. Mr. Yrchik's statement noted "movement of state and local tax revenues to charters and other out-of-district school is not in the public interest – especially when the state faces the massive deficit it does at present." Mr. Yrchik's written comments can be found in the official file of this meeting.
10. Joseph Cirasuolo, Executive Director, Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS), and Member of the Ad Hoc Committee to Study Education Cost Sharing and Public School Funding, stated that the Board needs to look at the core values and the design principles as a set to achieve balance. He also stated that the design principles are not in the proper order and the 50/50 piece should have been first in order for the rest to follow.
11. Sharon Beloin-Saavedra, President, New Britain Board of Education, expressed concern with the lack of fiscal support for public schools and that the design principles are vague and left open to interpretation. Ms. Beloin-Saavedra's written comments can be found in the official file of this meeting.
12. Dr. Jerald Cole, Professor of Education Technology, expressed his concern with the omission of course requirements in Educational Technology in the latest regulations for teacher preparation programs. Dr. Cole's written comments can be found in the official file of this meeting.
13. Sharon M. Palmer, President, AFT Connecticut, submitted written testimony regarding the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee to Study ECS and Choice Funding. Mrs. Palmer's written comments can be found in the official file of this meeting.
14. Steven J. Adamowski, Superintendent, Hartford Public Schools, submitted written testimony regarding the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee to Study ECS and Choice Funding. Dr. Adamowski's written comments can be found in the official file of this meeting.

15. Patrice McCarthy, Deputy Director and General Counsel, Connecticut Association of Board of Education (CABE), submitted written testimony regarding the Ad Hoc Committee to Study ECS and Choice Funding. Mrs. McCarthy's written comments can be found in the official file of this meeting.

**IX.A. Approval of Plan to Correct Racial Imbalance in the Fairfield Public Schools**

Mrs. Luke moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Section 10-226d of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the Fairfield Board of Education's "2010 Plan to Address Racial Imbalance" submitted by the Fairfield Board of Education and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE: In Favor: Davenport, Farrell, Finneran, Hopkins-Staten, Luke, Sisco,  
Taylor, Voss, Vrabely  
Opposed: 0  
Abstained: 0  
Absent: Bobroske, Partridge West

Motion carried unanimously.

**III. Executive Session**

By unanimous consent, the Board recessed its meeting at 10:30 a.m. to go into executive session to discuss the Terms of State Board of Education Members. Present in Executive Session were: Mr. Taylor, Ms. Finneran, Mrs. Bobroske (\*arrived at 10:37 a.m.), Mr. Campbell, Mr. Davenport, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten, Dr. Farrell, Mrs. Luke, Mr. Vrabely, Ms. Mehta, Dr. Voss and Ms. Sisco. Acting Commissioner Coleman and Daniel Murphy, Chief, Legal and Governmental Affairs Office, were also present. Commissioner Meotti and Mrs. Partridge West were absent.

The meeting reconvened in public session at 11:00 a.m. Present were: Mr. Taylor, Ms. Finneran, Mrs. Bobroske, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten, Dr. Farrell, Mrs. Luke, Mr. Campbell, Mr. Davenport, Mr. Vrabely, Ms. Mehta, Mrs. Sisco and Dr. Voss. Commissioner Meotti and Mrs. Partridge West were absent.

**IV. Consideration of Minutes of January 5, 2011, State Board of Education Meeting**

Mrs. Luke moved, Ms. Finneran seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the January 5, 2011, State Board of Education meeting with the following corrections:

On page 14, agenda item IX.B., Approval of Plan to Correct Racial Imbalance in the Enfield Public Schools, replaced the word "RESOLVED" with "Mrs. Bobroske moved, Mrs. Luke seconded"; and

On page 15, agenda item IX.C., Amendment to Plan to Correct Racial Imbalance in the Groton Public Schools, replaced the word "RESOLVED" with "Ms. Finneran moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded".

VOTE ON	In Favor:	Bobroske, Davenport, Farrell, Finneran, Hopkins-Staten,
MINUTES AS		Luke, Sisco, Taylor, Voss, Vrabely
CORRECTED:	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	0
	Absent:	Partridge West

Motion, as corrected, carried unanimously.

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

- Neha Mehta and Patrick Campbell appeared before the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee for their confirmation hearing on February 8, 2011. Ms. Mehta noted that Representative Kirkley-Bey suggested that the students visit an urban school district in Hartford.
- Mr. Taylor congratulated Patrick Campbell on recently earning the distinction of becoming an Eagle Scout.
- Both student members participated in a NASBE webinar with Secretary Duncan, and also had discussions with other student state board of education members nationwide. Another webinar is scheduled for March 2011.



**VII. Report of the Superintendent**

Patricia Ciccone, Superintendent of the Connecticut Technical High School System, presented her report on the following items:

- Snow removal from the roofs of the Connecticut Technical High Schools;
- LPN Program;
- Assistant Principal postings;
- Connecticut Technical High School System busses; and
- Lack of School Resource Officers (SROs)

**IX.B. Continuing Approval of Teacher Preparation Program: University of Hartford**

Mrs. Luke moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Section 10-145d-9(g)(1)(B) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, grants provisional program approval for the period October 1, 2011, through September 30, 2012, with an interim visit required in Spring 2012, for the purpose of certifying candidates from the University of Hartford in the following areas:

<u>Program</u>	<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>Program Level</u>	<u>Program Type</u>
Early Childhood Education	Birth - K	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Early Childhood Education	Nursery - 3	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Elementary Education	K - 6	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Elementary and Special Education	K - 6 & K - 12	Initial	Undergraduate
Music	PK - 12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
English	7 - 12	Initial	Undergraduate
Mathematics	7 - 12	Initial	Undergraduate
School Psychology	PK - 12	Advanced	Graduate

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE: In Favor: Bobroske, Davenport, Farrell, Finneran, Hopkins-Staten, Luke, Sisco,  
Taylor, Voss, Vrabely  
Opposed: 0  
Abstained: 0  
Absent: Partridge West

Motion carried unanimously.

**IX.C. Recognition of Former Commissioner of Education**

Mrs. Bobroske moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded, the following resolution:

Whereas, Mark K. McQuillan served as Connecticut's Commissioner of Education from April 2007 to January 2011; and

Whereas, He dedicated forty years to the improvement of public education in Massachusetts and Connecticut; and

Whereas, under Commissioner McQuillan's leadership, Connecticut has raised its standards for educators and students; provided additional supports to districts; adopted enhanced certification requirements; implemented a system of accountability for results and continuous improvement; initiated secondary school reform measures that better prepare students for college and the workplace; and made notable progress toward closing the achievement gaps; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Connecticut State Board of Education accepts with deep regret the resignation of Dr. Mark K. McQuillan and extends to him its appreciation for his years of service to the State of Connecticut and best wishes for continued success in his professional endeavors.

VOTE: In Favor: Bobroske, Davenport, Farrell, Finneran, Hopkins-Staten, Luke, Sisco,  
Taylor, Voss, Vrabely  
Opposed: 0  
Abstained: 0  
Absent: Partridge West

Motion carried unanimously.

**IX.D. Appointments to Personnel Search Committee**

Mrs. Luke moved, Mrs. Finneran seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Section 10-3a and Section 1-200 of the Connecticut General Statutes, appoints to a Personnel Search Committee the members of the State Board of Education whose terms extend beyond March 10, 2011, and those whose nomination by the Governor to serve a term that extends beyond March 10, 2011 is pending, and Alvin Wilson, Director of Operations, Office of the Governor; and

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education charges said Personnel Search Committee with responsibility for conducting a search for a Commissioner of Education; and submitting to the Board for its consideration a candidate for Commissioner of Education, whose appointment shall be recommended to the Governor.

VOTE: In Favor: Bobroske, Davenport, Farrell, Finneran, Hopkins-Staten, Luke, Sisco,  
Taylor, Voss, Vrabely  
Opposed: 0  
Abstained: 0  
Absent: Partridge West

Motion carried unanimously.

**IX.E. Recommendations of Ad Hoc Committee to Study Education Cost Sharing and Choice Funding – Substitute Resolution**

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education (Board) approves the proposed Core Values and Design Principles prepared by the Ad Hoc Committee to Study Education Cost Sharing and Choice Funding (Ad Hoc Committee) and directs the Commissioner to commend them to the Governor and General Assembly to guide their efforts in designing a funding system for public education in Connecticut; and

RESOLVED, That the Board, in response to the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee, directs the Commissioner to request the Connecticut Alliance of Regional Educational Service Centers and a representative of the Connecticut Technical High School System to conduct a study of a regional school transportation system and common school calendar in Connecticut, and to submit its report to the State Board of Education by August 30, 2011; and

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education extends its appreciation to the members of the Ad Hoc Committee for their time and commitment to addressing the State's public school financing system, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Mrs. Luke moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded to table this motion.

VOTE        In Favor: Bobroske, Davenport, Farrell, Finneran, Hopkins-Staten, Luke, Sisco,  
TO                                Voss, Vrabely  
TABLE:    Opposed: Taylor  
   Abstained: 0  
   Absent:     Partridge West

Motion to table carried.

**X. Report of the Commissioner**-- Acting Commissioner Coleman distributed a written report, which is in the official file of this meeting and includes the following:

- **Recall of SBE approved Certification Regulations:** The Department was advised by the Office of the Attorney General to recall, without prejudice, the SDE teacher certification regulations to correct technical issues noticed by reviewers. Failure to recall would result in a rejection of the document and delay future consideration of the regulations by the AG's Office and its movement through the approval process. The SDE has prioritized addressing the observed concerns and anticipates resubmission as soon as the concerns have been addressed.
- **NAEP Science Results:** The 2011 results of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Science Assessment scores were released to states on January 25<sup>th</sup>. Forty percent (40%) of Connecticut's fourth graders scored at or above the NAEP proficient level while thirty-five percent (35%) of eighth grade students met or exceeded the proficient benchmark. Overall, Connecticut's students performed above their national peers, but racial sub-group gaps are clearly apparent.

The percentage of white students performing at or above proficiency is approximately five times that of black students. Additional policy considerations and resources must be focused on this disparity to effectively raise performance indicators above 50% in the immediate future and to address college preparedness and workforce readiness among Connecticut's students.

- **Board Authority to Address School Calendar:** Section 10-15 of the C.G.S. authorizes the State Board of Education to approve applications from school districts requesting an abbreviated school calendar (less than the required 180 days) due to inclement weather. Over the past weeks school superintendents have inquired regarding the probability of the Board exercising its authority to grant local waivers under the legislation. Guidance to date to school districts includes: 1) plan to adjust vacation and Holiday breaks to retrieve instructional days, 2) plan to extend the existing calendar beyond the scheduled school closing date, up to June 30, and as a last resort, and 3) establish in an application how the required 900 hours of instruction can be accomplished and the scope of learning expectations and opportunities be met by all students.
- **Snow Removal on Flat Roof School Buildings:** At the urging of the Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security the SDE was mobilized to notify all school superintendents to prioritize the removal of snow from the roofs of school buildings to protect children and minimize property damage. Superintendents worked over the weekend to accomplish this objective. This non-reimbursed expense will further strain the local budgets.
- **State Testing Schedule Concerns:** Recently we have received requests to consider moving back CMT and CAPT testing dates. I have reinforced with superintendents that there are only 3 assigned test dates and that otherwise, they are free to use the entire 20-day window to accommodate test preparation and test administration. SDE contractual obligation to vendors and previously established reporting and notification deadlines to the USDOE, and others, including local school districts, makes changing the testing window unlikely at this time.
- **School Governance Councils:** Public Act 10-111 required that certain school districts establish school governance councils by January 15, 2011. Of the 14 schools required to establish a council, eight councils have been established thus far. Other schools are in the process of elections.

CABE has been contracted by the SDE to provide an initial series of training on an approved School Governance Council model for new school governance councils. Other technical assistance provided to councils by CABE via the SDE contract includes the development of model bylaws. Other guidance will be developed by the SDE consistent with need or at the request of the School Governance Council Advisory Committee.

The SDE is careful to encourage compatible and collaborative roles between school governance councils and local boards of education.

- **REL-Webinar:** Through United States Department of Education authorization under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), Regional Education Laboratories are funded across the nation to regionally serve states in research and data-driven decision-making and to disseminate effective scientifically proven educational practices. Connecticut is served by the Regional Education Laboratory for New England and the Islands (REL-NEI). RELs are funded for five years. During this 6<sup>th</sup> year of funding extension the REL is conducting a webinar to engage Connecticut educators and state education stakeholders in a dialogue about needs that can be accomplished this year and that might be represented in a new contract, upon ESEA reauthorization and continuation of REL funding under the Act. Notices have been sent to Board members and members are encouraged to participate.
- **Meetings with Legislative Education Committee Co-Chairs and Administration Officials:** Thank you members of the Board for your participation in discussions with members of the new Legislature and Malloy administration. As a result of these meetings I believe they have a working understanding of SDE budget priorities.

## **XI. Financial Matters**

### **XI.A. Quarterly Financial Report**

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

**XII. Committee Reports**

- **Finance, Audit and Department Matters** – Mrs. Luke reported that the draft minutes of the December 8, 2010, committee meeting can be found in the supplemental folder of this meeting. The next committee meeting is scheduled for March.
- **Legislation and Bylaws Committee** – Mrs. Hopkins-Staten reported that the committee met this morning and they received an update on the revisions to the State Board Bylaws. They discussed the composition of the Board and the possible addition of alternate members on each committee. Acting Commissioner Coleman introduced Jessica Andrews Walsh the new Legislative Liaison for the Department. Mrs. Walsh gave the full Board a legislative update.
- **Policy Development Committee** – Ms. Finneran reported that the committee will be convening today after the regularly scheduled meeting.
- **Connecticut Technical High School Committee** -- Mr. Vrabely reported that the meeting scheduled for today at Norwich Technical High School was cancelled. The next scheduled meeting will be held in Middletown on March 9, 2011.
- **NASBE** – Mrs. Hopkins-Staten will be chairing the NASBE Study Group on Teacher Preparation, Evaluation, Continuation, and Compensation.

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_  
George A. Coleman, Secretary