

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION Hartford

Minutes

March 2, 2011, Meeting

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (**hereinafter "Board"**) met on **Wednesday**, March 2, 2011. 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 9:40 a.m.

Present: Allan Taylor, Chairperson
Ellen Camhi
Patrick Campbell
Theresa Hopkins-Staton
Charles Jaskiewicz
Patricia Keavney-Maruca
Estela López
Patricia Luke
Neha Mehta
Ferdinand Risco
Joseph Vrabely
Stephen Wright
Michael Meotti, Ex-Officio

Absent: Terry Jones

Daniel P. Murphy, Legal Director, Legal and Governmental Affairs, administered the Oath of Office to Ellen Camhi, member from Stamford; Charles A. Jaskiewicz, III, member from Norwich; Patricia Keavney-Maruca, member from Watertown; Estela López, member from East Hartford; Ferdinand L. Risco, Jr., member from New Haven; Joseph J. Vrabely, Jr., member from Glastonbury; and Stephen P. Wright, member from Trumbull.

II. Public Participation

1. Janine Fiorillo, ACES, urged the Board to approve agenda item, VI.D., ACES Request for Extension of Continued Approval of Alternate Route to Certification **for Library Media Specialists**. A copy of Ms. Fiorillo's written remarks can be found in the official file of this meeting.

2. David Bauer, private citizen from Middletown, stated that he is exploring the idea of unused land in Middletown for use as a city farm. He also stated that the land can be used as a production farm for educational benefits.

By unanimous consent, the Board added the following resolution to the March 2, 2011, agenda:

IX.C. Board of Education Appreciation Month

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

Whereas, Nearly 1400 local and regional board of education members volunteer their **time and efforts to oversee Connecticut's 166 public school districts** and their 568,500 students; and

Whereas, Each local board of education is charged by state statute to maintain good public elementary and secondary schools and implement the educational interests of the state as defined in Section 10-4a of the General Statutes; and

Whereas, The responsibilities of local school boards are extensive and require members to develop well-informed education policies and budget proposals that best serve the needs of the students, and to provide to the superintendents of schools sound direction that promotes the effective and efficient operation of the local school system; and

Whereas, The National School Boards Association has designated the month of March as Board of Education Appreciation Month; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Connecticut State Board of Education expresses its gratitude to **Connecticut's local boards of education for their dedication, extraordinary time commitment, and contributions to the continuous improvement of public education.**

VOTE: In Favor: Camhi, Hopkins-Staten, Jaskiewicz, Keavney-Maruca,
López, Luke, Risco, Taylor, Vrabely, Wright
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: Jones

Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Consideration of Minutes of February 9, 2011, State Board of Education Meeting

Mrs. Luke moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded, that the Board approves the minutes of the February 9, 2011, State Board of Education meeting.

VOTE: In Favor: Hopkins-Staten, Luke, Taylor, Vrabely
Opposed: 0
Abstained: Camhi, Jaskiewicz, Keavney-Maruca, López, Risco, Wright
Absent: Jones

Motion carried.

V. 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 members and stated he was pleased that Mr. Vrabely has been reappointed.
- Mr. Taylor thanked outgoing Board members for their years of service.
- Mr. Taylor notified new members that they are invited to the School-Family-Community Engagement Forum (related materials in their supplemental materials folder) notify Pamela Charland if they wish to attend.

VI. Consent Agenda

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten moved, Mrs. Luke seconded, the following consent agenda items: VI.A., Adult Education State Plan; VI.B., Annual Report of the Connecticut Advisory Council for Teacher Professional Standards; VI.C., Annual Report of the Connecticut Advisory Council for Administrative Professional Standards; and VI.D., ACES Request for Extension of Continued Approval of Alternate Route to Certification for Library Media Specialists.

VI.A. Adult Education State Plan

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to its role as the state education agency (SEA) for Connecticut, approves the revised Connecticut State Plan for Adult Education and Family Literacy, Title II of the Workforce Investment Act for fiscal year 2011 (July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012) and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VI.B. Annual Report of the Connecticut Advisory Council for Teacher Professional Standards

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education receives the 2010 Annual Report of the Connecticut Advisory Council for Teacher Professional Standards, submitted in accordance with the requirements of subsection (e) of Section 10-144d of the Connecticut General Statutes, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VI.C. Annual Report of the Connecticut Advisory Council for Administrative Professional Standards

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education receives the 2010 Annual Report of the Connecticut Advisory Council for School Administrator Professional Standards, submitted in accordance with the requirements of subsection (e) of Section 10-144e of the Connecticut General Statutes, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VI.D. ACES Request for Extension of Continued Approval of Alternate Route to Certification for Library Media Specialists

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-145d-9(f)(1) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, extends program approval to September 30, 2013, to the Alternate Route to Certification for Teachers to Become Library Media Specialists (ARCLMS), administered by the Area Cooperative Educational Services (ACES), and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE	In Favor:	Camhi, Hopkins-Staten, Jaskiewicz, Keavney-Maruca,
ON		López, Luke, Risco, Taylor, Vrabely, Wright
MOTIONS:	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	0
	Absent:	Jones

Motions carried unanimously.

VII. Report of the Superintendent

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

By unanimous consent, the Board recessed its meeting at 12:20 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 1:15 p.m. Present were Ms. Camhi, Mr. Campbell, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten, Mr. Jaskiewicz, Mrs. Keavney-Maruca, Mrs. López, Mrs. Luke, Ms. Mehta, Mr. Risco, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Vrabely, Mr. Wright and Commissioner Meotti. Mr. Jones was absent.

VIII.B. Discussion of Budget Proposal

Brian Mahoney, Chief Financial Officer, presented the Governor's 2011-2013 Proposed Biennial Budget. Discussion followed.

[Ms. Mehta left at 1:25 p.m.]

VIII.C. Draft Position Statement on Culturally Responsive Education

Marion Martinez, Associate Commissioner, Division of Teaching, Learning and Instructional Leadership and William Howe, Education Consultant, Bureau of Accountability and Improvement, presented the report to the Board. Discussion followed.

VIII.D. Governor's Proposal Concerning the Transfer of the Connecticut Technical High Schools

George Coleman, Acting Commissioner of Education and Patricia Ciccone, Superintendent of the Connecticut Technical High School System, updated the Board regarding the Governor's proposal. Discussion followed.

IX.A. Adoption of New Tests and Passing Standards for Praxis II in English Language Arts and Visual Arts

Mr. Risco moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded, that the Board establishes a passing standard for the new Praxis II Art: Content and Analysis test and the Praxis II English Language, Literature and Composition: Content and Analysis test, effective September 1, 2011, in accordance with Subsection (d) of Section 10-145f of the Connecticut General Statutes, and directs the Commissioner to take necessary action.

VOTE: In Favor: Camhi, Hopkins-Staten, Jaskiewicz, Keavney-Maruca,
López, Luke, Risco, Taylor, Vrabely, Wright
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: Jones

Motion carried unanimously.

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:

- On February 8, Governor Malloy announced his biennial budget. Commissioners have been briefed on the budget direction and liaisons from OPM are assigned to each agency to discuss details. We look forward to having that meeting to **better understand the Governor's operational vision, especially as it relates to the Connecticut Technical High School System and the proposed transfer of the SDE School Facilities Unit.**
- On February 17, members of the department and I met with Education Committee Co-Chairs, Representative Fleishman and Senator Stillman, joined by Representative Abercombie and Senator Looney to discuss the need to strengthen current legislation regarding bullying.
- On February 23 and 28, members of the department and I met with the Education Committee of the Legislature to provide public testimony on legislative proposals; copies of my written testimony was provided to you in your weekly mailing.
- On February 28, I met with Hartford-area superintendents to inform them of pending legislation and concerns about Sheff participation. A request for a survey to determine what funding districts believed is necessary to participate at the level required to meet and maintain compliance was suggested. The department will take the suggestion under advisement.
- On March 1, I provided testimony to the Appropriations Committee of the **Legislature on priority areas of the department's Results Based Accountability** status. Items of particular concern to the Committee are: Data System development status, its characteristics and completion schedule; the Kindergarten Inventory and when the department can report on the benefit of preschool and children in priority school districts readiness for kindergarten; the **department's organizational structure and plans to integrate the** DSS childcare systems into the SDE preschool and education systems delivery and supports; and the Connecticut Technical High School System and the planning associated with its proposed transfer.

- On March 1, 2011, the SDE hosted the quarterly meeting with the Sheff Plaintiffs per the requirements of the Stipulated Agreement. Detailed reports and discussions included application for the lottery having been received by more than 12,891 students - 4,757 from Hartford and 8,134 from suburban school districts. Ongoing challenges regarding how the department manages **the "wait list" and new federal racial classifications, among other matters of mutual concern**, were also discussed.
- The teacher certification regulations passed by the Board in December 2010 were forwarded to the Attorneys General Office for review in January 2011. **After preliminary review by the AG's Office and at the request of the** department, the Regulations were returned to address technical concerns identified by the reviewer and to address subsequently identified legal issues related to the authority of the department to require or impose requirements that exceeds the statutory requirement for particular professional certificates. **The opinions of the AG's Office are being reviewed; conferences with the AG's** office are scheduled to explain our understanding and to clarify the context for acquiring and utility of each certificate.
- It is with regret that I announce having received notice that Ray Inzero, SDE Director of Internal Audit, informs the department of his intended retirement, **effective April 1, 2011. Mr. Inzero's fidelity to his responsibilities and his** adherence to the highest professional standards associated with the auditor profession has been an asset to the department. We thank him for his career of public service and for the many years he elected to serve the Connecticut State Department of Education.

XII. Committee Reports

- **Finance, Audit and Department Matters** – Mrs. Luke reported that the next committee meeting is scheduled for March 16.

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Prepared by: _____
George A. Coleman, Secretary