

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

Minutes

June 1, 2011, Meeting

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, June 1, 2011. The meeting was held at the State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

I. Call to Order

Mr. Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

Present: Allan Taylor, Chairperson
Ellen Camhi
Patrick Campbell
Theresa Hopkins-Staton
Terry Jones
Patricia Keavney-Maruca
Estela Lopez
Patricia Luke
Neha Mehta
Ferdinand Risco
Joseph Vrabely
Stephen Wright

Absent: Charles Jaskiewicz
Michael Meotti, Ex-Officio

II. Public Participation

Bruce Ravage, Founder and Director of Park City Preparatory Charter School, spoke in support of Park City's renewal. Mr. Ravage commented that he is proud of the students' results on the CMTs and requested that the Board approve the recommendation for Charter renewal and also asked that the length of the renewal be extended.

III. Executive Session

There were no issues for Executive Session.

Mr. Taylor requested Board approval to **add three recognition resolutions** to the agenda. Mrs. Luke moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, to approve the addition of the three resolutions.

IX.G. Resolution in Honor of Janet D'Onofrio

Mrs. Luke moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staton seconded, that the Board approve the resolution recognizing Mrs. D'Onofrio.

- Whereas, Janet D'Onofrio has been employed by the State Department of Education since 1986; and
- Whereas, She has provided superior administrative support to the State Board of Education for the past twenty years; and
- Whereas, The Board could not have operated without Mrs. D'Onofrio's strong work ethic and careful attention to detail in all areas of responsibility, including preparing for meetings, maintaining the Board's calendar and official records, preparing Board meeting minutes, and keeping track of all correspondence; and
- Whereas, Mrs. D'Onofrio has been a professional colleague and good friend to members of the State Board of Education and her coworkers at the State Department; and
- Whereas, Her warmth, good humor, and courage have won her a place in the hearts of all who have worked with her; now, therefore, be it
- Resolved, That the State Board of Education honors Janet D'Onofrio for her years of commitment, dedication and exemplary service to the Board and public education in the State of Connecticut, and extends to her best wishes for happiness in her retirement.

VOTE:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

IX.H. Resolution in Honor of Patrick Campbell

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten moved, Mrs. Luke seconded, that the Board approve the resolution recognizing Mr. Campbell.

- WHEREAS, Section 10-1 of the Connecticut General Statutes provides for the appointment of two student members to the Connecticut State Board of Education; and
- WHEREAS, Governor M. Jodi Rell appointed Patrick Campbell of Chester, Connecticut, to the State Board of Education for a one-year term commencing July 1, 2010; and
- WHEREAS, During his tenure, Mr. Campbell has served with distinction and has contributed greatly to the Board's discussions of education policy issues; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education extends to Patrick Campbell its appreciation for his commitment to educational excellence and equity in Connecticut public schools and best wishes for success in his future endeavors.

VOTE:

- In Favor: Camhi, Hopkins-Staten, Jones, Keavney-Maruca, Lopez, Luke, Risco, Taylor, Vrabely, Wright

Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: Jaskiewicz

Motion carried unanimously.

IX.I. Resolution in Honor of Neha Mehta

Mrs. Luke moved, Mr. Jones seconded, that the Board approve the resolution recognizing Ms. Mehta.

WHEREAS, Section 10-1 of the Connecticut General Statutes provides for the appointment of two student members to the Connecticut State Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, Governor M. Jodi Rell appointed Neha Mehta of Suffield, Connecticut, to the State Board of Education for a one-year term commencing July 1, 2010; and

WHEREAS, During her tenure, Ms. Mehta has served with distinction and has contributed greatly to the Board's discussions of education policy issues; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education extends to Neha Mehta its appreciation for her commitment to educational excellence and equity in Connecticut public schools and best wishes for success in her future endeavors.

VOTE:

In Favor: Camhi, Hopkins-Staten, Jones, Keavney-Maruca, Lopez, Luke,
Risco, Taylor, Vrabely, Wright

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Jaskiewicz

Motion carried unanimously.

VIII.A. Presentation by the State Student Advisory Council on Education (SSACE) – Global Studies Initiative

David Maloney, Assistant Director of the Connecticut Association of Schools, spoke briefly about SSACE and introduced two student members, Mary Harrison and R.J. Anderson.

Student member of the Board Neha Mehta provided a brief overview of the activities and accomplishments of SSACE, and student member of the Board Patrick Campbell spoke about the global education initiative.

Ms. Harrison, a student at Nonnewaug High School, commented that there is often repetition in social studies courses throughout a student's school life. She stressed the importance of teaching new languages and technology early – possibly age 3 through Grade 3. Ms. Harrison also suggested that the study of geography should begin at early ages.

Mr. Anderson, a student at Cheshire High School, spoke about the importance of learning foreign languages at early ages.

Ms. Mehta also noted that extracurricular activities should reflect the diversity of all students. Leadership and professional development for teachers/administrators are also very important.

In summary, Mr. Campbell urged the Board to consider global awareness through curriculum, foreign languages, extracurricular enrichment, and technology.

Board members thanked Mr. Maloney and the SSACE members for the informative presentation.

IX.A. Biennial Organization Meeting

1. Adoption of Bylaws

Mrs. Luke moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded, that the Board adopts the Bylaws of the Connecticut State Board of Education dated June 1, 2011, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Election of Vice Chairperson

Mrs. Luke nominated Mrs. Hopkins-Staten to serve as Vice Chairperson. Mrs. Luke moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 2 of Article II of its Bylaws, elects Theresa Hopkins-Staten to serve as Vice-Chairperson of the Board effective June 1, 2011, until the next biennial organizational meeting or until a successor has been appointed, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten accepted the nomination and thanked Board members.

3. Appointment of Standing Committees

Mrs. Luke moved, Mr. Risco seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Article II, Section 4 of its Bylaws, approves the following assignments to the State Board of Education standing committees:

FINANCE, AUDIT AND DEPARTMENT MATTERS

Patricia Luke, Chair
Allan Taylor
Stephen Wright

LEGISLATION AND BYLAWS

Theresa Hopkins-Staten, Chair
Ellen Camhi
Terry Jones
Ferdinand Risco

CONNECTICUT TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOLS

Joseph Vrabely, Chair
Ellen Camhi
Theresa Hopkins-Staten
Charles Jaskiewicz
Patricia Keavney-Maruca

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Estela Lopez, Chair
Charles Jaskiewicz
Patricia Luke
Stephen Wright

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of 2012 Meeting Schedule

Mrs. Luke moved, Mr. Risco seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 1-225 of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the following meeting schedule for the period July 2011 through December 2012:

July 6, 2011
August 3, 2011
September 7, 2011
October 5, 2011
November 2, 2011
December 7, 2011
January 4, 2012
February 1, 2012
March 7, 2012
April 4, 2012

May 2, 2012
June 6, 2012
July 11, 2012
August 1, 2012
September 5, 2012
October 3, 2012
November 7, 2012
December 5, 2012

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Consideration of Minutes of the May 4, 2011, State Board of Education Meeting

Mrs. Luke moved, Mr. Wright seconded, that the Board approves the minutes of the May 4, 2011, State Board of Education meeting.

VOTE:

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

Motion carried.

V. Report of the Chair

Mr. Taylor's report was distributed to the Board and is included in the official file of the June 1, 2011, meeting.

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten reported that she attended a meeting with Elsa Nunez, President of Eastern Connecticut State University, regarding assistance with turning around Windham Public Schools.

VI. Consent Agenda

Mrs. Luke removed items VI.C., VI.D., VI.E., and VI.F. from the consent agenda. Mrs. Hopkins-Staten removed item VI.A. from the consent agenda.

VI.B. Charter School Enrollment Report

Mrs. Luke moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-66bb(c) of the Connecticut General Statutes, pending final state budget authorization and legislative

action, approves the distribution of 622 additional seats among the existing charter schools for the 2011-12 school year, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VI.G. Application for Funds: Literacy Intervention Tutoring Program Grant

Mrs. Luke moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-95 of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the Norwich Technical High School "*Literacy Intervention Tutoring Program*" grant application, as recommended by the Connecticut Technical High School Committee at its meeting on May 18, 2011, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON MOTIONS:

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

Motions carried unanimously.

VI.A. Rolling Capital Equipment Plan – Connecticut Technical High School System (CTHSS)

Mrs. Luke moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded, that the Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-95i of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the Connecticut Technical High School System's Rolling Capital Improvement and Capital Equipment Plan 2012-2016, and directs the Acting Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

It was noted that the Introduction needs to be rewritten to accurately portray the status of the equipment in the Technical High School System. Superintendent Ciccone stated she will revise the introduction accordingly.

Recognition Items (VI.C., VI.D., VI.E., VI.F.1, VI.F.2, VI.F.3, VI.F.4)

Mrs. Luke moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded, that the State Board of Education approve all seven recognition items on the Consent Agenda.

VI.C. Recognition of General Education Development Scholar

WHEREAS, Roberta J. Maiorano, a resident of Greenwich, has demonstrated exceptional skill and proficiency in the five subject areas of the high school equivalency examination by attaining a score of 3860 on the General Educational Development Tests in 2010; and

- WHEREAS, She is the Connecticut resident with the highest score on the examination; and
- WHEREAS, Her achievement will receive national attention as Connecticut's outstanding General Educational Development participant; and
- WHEREAS, She has brought honor to herself, to the State Board of Education and the State of Connecticut; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That the Connecticut State Board of Education honors Roberta J. Maiorano with great appreciation for her accomplishment in a major adult education endeavor.

VI.D. Recognition of Connecticut Association for Adult Continuing Education Students

- WHEREAS, Adult education exemplifies the concept of lifelong learning with over sixteen thousand Connecticut residents in adult basic education/secondary school completion programs and over fourteen thousand Connecticut residents in English as a second language and U.S. Citizenship preparation programs;
- WHEREAS, The Connecticut Association for Adult and Continuing Education (CAACE), through its CAACE Student Award, recognized four individuals who have overcome numerous obstacles and hardships to persist and succeed in adult education; and
- WHEREAS, These individuals exemplify the spirit and determination necessary to achieve a goal and serve as role models to all adult and young learners in our communities; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That the Connecticut State Board of Education recognizes the following individuals for their accomplishment in this major adult education endeavor:
- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| Marie Guerda Carrenard | Stamford Adult Education |
| Lisa Everts | East Shore Regional Adult and Continuing Education |
| Miguel Garcia | Middletown Adult Education |
| Kettly Maignan | Norwich Regional Adult Education |

VI.E. Recognition of Career and Technical Student Organizations Community Service Awards

- WHEREAS: Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) are a co-curricular, integral part of the local, state and national career and technical education programs; and
- WHEREAS: The development of individual student leadership skills is the keystone of these organizations; and
- WHEREAS: All CTSO chapters were asked to identify an outstanding service project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION RECOGNIZES THE FOLLOWING CONNECTICUT CAREER AND TECHNICAL STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS' OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS:

Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA), Hamden High School, Hamden

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Lewis S. Mills High School, Burlington

Formerly known as Future Farmers of America (FFA), Housatonic Valley Regional High School, Falls Village

Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), Bunnell High School, Stratford

VI.F.1 Recognition of Blue Ribbon Schools

WHEREAS: The Dr. Robert H. Brown Middle School in Madison, Connecticut, has demonstrated dramatic improvement in student performance on state assessments in reading and mathematics; and

WHEREAS: This school was honored as a 2010 Blue Ribbon School by the United States Department of Education; and

WHEREAS: The Dr. Robert H. Brown Middle School has brought great honor to Madison and the State of Connecticut; and

WHEREAS: The school was honored at festivities in Washington, D.C., on November 17, 2010.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION HONORS THE DR. ROBERT H. BROWN MIDDLE SCHOOL WITH GREAT APPRECIATION FOR ITS ACHIEVEMENTS.

VI.F.2

WHEREAS: The Hebron Elementary School in Hebron, Connecticut, has demonstrated dramatic improvement in student performance on state assessments in reading and mathematics; and

WHEREAS: This school was honored as a 2010 Blue Ribbon School by the United States Department of Education; and

WHEREAS: The Hebron Elementary School has brought great honor to Hebron and the State of Connecticut; and

WHEREAS: The school was honored at festivities in Washington, D.C., on November 17, 2010.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION HONORS THE HEBRON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WITH GREAT APPRECIATION FOR ITS ACHIEVEMENTS.

VI.F.3

WHEREAS: The Smith Middle School in Glastonbury, Connecticut, has demonstrated dramatic improvement in student performance on state assessments in reading and mathematics; and

WHEREAS: This school was honored as a 2010 Blue Ribbon School by the United States Department of Education; and

WHEREAS: The Smith Middle School has brought great honor to Glastonbury and the State of Connecticut; and

WHEREAS: The school was honored at festivities in Washington, D.C., on November 17, 2010.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION HONORS THE SMITH MIDDLE SCHOOL WITH GREAT APPRECIATION FOR ITS ACHIEVEMENTS.

VI.F.4

WHEREAS: The Thompson Brook School in Avon, Connecticut, has demonstrated dramatic improvement in student performance on state assessments in reading and mathematics; and

WHEREAS: This school was honored as a 2010 Blue Ribbon School by the United States Department of Education; and

WHEREAS: The Thompson Brook School has brought great honor to Avon and the State of Connecticut; and

WHEREAS: The school was honored at festivities in Washington, D.C., on November 17, 2010.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION HONORS THE THOMPSON BROOK SCHOOL WITH GREAT APPRECIATION FOR ITS ACHIEVEMENTS.

VOTE ON MOTION:

In Favor: Camhi, Hopkins-Staten, Jones, Keavney-Maruca, Lopez, Luke, Risco, Taylor, Vrabely, Wright

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Jaskiewicz

Motion carried unanimously.

IX.C. Renewal of Charter: Park City Preparatory School

Mr. Taylor suggested considering agenda Item IX.C. at this time. Mrs. Hopkins-Staten moved, Mr. Wright seconded to consider agenda Item IX.C., Renewal of Park City Preparatory School Charter School.

Mrs. Keavney-Maruca told Board members about the outstanding public participation at a recent public hearing at Bridgeport City Hall. She stated that the public spoke passionately about the school and the impact on students' lives and their commitment to the school. Staff and the administration should be commended for their work.

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten moved, Mr. Risco seconded that the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (g) of Section 10-66bb of the Connecticut General Statutes, renews the charter of Park City

Prep Charter School from July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2014, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE:

In Favor: Camhi, Hopkins-Staten, Jones, Keavney-Maruca, Lopez, Luke, Risco, Taylor, Vrabely, Wright

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Jaskiewicz

Motion carried unanimously.

VII. Connecticut Technical High School Matters (CTHSS)

Superintendent Ciccone introduced Angelo Velez, a Drafting Instructor at Abbott Technical High School. Mr. Velez then introduced students (Robby Durkin, Priscilla Gomes, Samantha Anderson, Jacqueline Coraizacasaka) who spoke to the Board and made a presentation on enhanced technology use.

Board members thanked Mr. Velez and the four students for their enlightening presentation.

VII.A. Report of the Superintendent

Superintendent Ciccone informed the Board that CTHSS does not have auto refill status for vacant positions at this time. She is concerned with the upcoming retirements and having staff in place prior to schools opening in August 2011. She noted that a meeting is scheduled with Benjamin Barnes, Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, to review and discuss the entire CTHSS plan regarding vacancies and refills. This meeting will take place on June 14, and Superintendent Ciccone will update the Board after such meeting.

Superintendent Ciccone took questions from Board members regarding the state of school-year ending and school-year beginning matters as impacted by personnel retirements and other vacancy producing activities.

VIII.B. Special Education Presentation: State Performance Plan

Charlene Russell-Tucker, Associate Commissioner; Anne-Louise Thompson, Bureau Chief; and Michael Tavernier, Education Consultant, provided the Board with a PowerPoint presentation.

VIII.C. Update on HIV Prevention Policy Grant Activities

Charlene Russell-Tucker, Associate Commissioner, and Bonnie Edmonson, Education Consultant, provided a PowerPoint presentation to the Board. They both acknowledged the efforts of the CTHSS for leadership and vision in this HIV initiative.

IX.B. Approval of Interim Audit Plan

Raymond Inzero and Richard Lemay noted that this is an interim plan based on the budget implementation. It was noted that the Chief of the Office of Internal Audit (OIA) reports directly to and is hired by the Board.

Mrs. Luke moved, Mrs. Lopez seconded, that the State Board of Education adopts the Interim Annual Audit Plan for the period of July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2012, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

IX.D. Renewal of Charter: Integrated Day Charter School

Mrs. Luke moved, Mr. Wright seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (g) of Section 10-66bb of the Connecticut General Statutes, renews the charter of Integrated Day Charter School from July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2017, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

IX.E. Renewal of Charter: Side by Side Charter School

Mrs. Luke moved, Mr. Wright seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (g) of Section 10-66bb of the Connecticut General Statutes, renews the charter of Side by Side Charter School from July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2017, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

IX.F. Adoption of Charter School Audit Regulations

Mrs. Luke moved, Mrs. Keavney-Maruca seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-66mm of the Connecticut General Statutes, adopts Sections 10-66-1 to 10-66-7, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

XI. Financial Matters

No report was given.

XII. Committee Reports**Finance, Audit and Department Matters**

Mrs. Luke reported that this Committee will not meet until a constructive audit plan is in place.

Legislation and Bylaws

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten reported that the Committee will meet briefly after the Board meeting.

Policy Development

Dr. Lopez reported that a meeting is scheduled for 2:00 on June 13.

Connecticut Technical High Schools

Mr. Vrabely reported that a meeting is scheduled for 10:00 on June 15 at Oliver Wolcott.

NASBE

Mr. Taylor noted that he and Mrs. Hopkins-Staten will attend a NASBE meeting later in June.

Ad Hoc Committee on Accountability

Nothing is currently scheduled, but this Committee will reconvene shortly.

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

As a final comment at their last official Board meeting, Mr. Campbell and Ms. Mehta again thanked all Board members and said they were honored to serve as student representatives in 2010-2011.