

# **CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION Hartford**

## **Draft Minutes September 7, 2011, Meeting**

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, September 7, 2011. The meeting was held at the Legislative Office Building, Hearing Room 1-E, Hartford, Connecticut.

### **I. Call to Order**

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

Present: Allan Taylor, Chairperson  
Ellen Camhi\*  
Simon Brewer  
Joshua Friedman  
Charles Jaskiewicz  
Terry Jones  
Patricia Keavney-Maruca  
Estela López  
Patricia Luke  
Michael Meotti, Ex-Officio\*  
Ferdinand Risco, Jr.  
Joseph Vrabely, Jr.  
Stephen Wright

Absent: Theresa Hopkins–Staten

### **II. Public Participation**

No one from the public signed up to address the Board.

### **III. Executive Session**

The Board did not meet in executive session.

**IV. Consideration of Minutes of the State Board of Education Meeting:**  
**A. August 3, 2011, State Board of Education Meeting;**  
**B. August 9, 2011, Special State Board of Education Meeting**

Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, to approve the minutes of the August 3, 2011, and August 9, 2011, State Board of Education Meetings.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**V. Report of the Chair**

No report was given.

Mrs. Luke requested that Item VI.C., DHE Alternate Route to Certification Programs, be removed from the consent agenda.

**VI. Consent Agenda**

Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, to approve the following consent agenda items:

**A. Appointment of Impartial Arbitrators**

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (a) of Section 10-153f of the Connecticut General Statutes, recommends to the Governor the following individuals as impartial arbitrators representing the interests of the public in general:

Laurie Cain, J. Larry Foy, Susan E. Halperin, Richard Kosinski, William Logue, Susan Meredith, Glenn Powell, Emanuel Psarakis, Steven Rolnick, Gerald Weiner, Leslie A. Williamson, Jr., and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

**B. Application for Funds: 2011 State Personnel Development Grant**

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education approves the 2011 grant application entitled "State Personnel Development Grant" for submission to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motions carried unanimously.

**C. DHE Alternate Route to Certification Programs**

Mrs. Luke moved, Mr. Jaskiewicz seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-145d-9(g)(1) (c) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, grants probationary approval for the Department of Higher Education (DHE) Alternate Route to Certification (ARC I & II) Program for the period September 30, 2011, through September 30, 2014, with interim reports describing progress towards meeting NCATE standards due every six months until the point of an on-site visit, to be conducted before fall 2014 when DHE ARC is prepared, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

**VII. Connecticut Technical High School Matters**

Superintendent of Schools Patricia Ciccone reported on a successful opening of schools, construction plans at H.H. Ellis and Wilcox Technical High Schools, growth on the Connecticut Academic Performance Test results since 2007,

approval to refill 94 vacancies, and a temporary allocation of funds to reinstate fall sports.

### **VIII. Items for Discussion**

#### **A. Overview of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) and the State Regulatory Process**

Associate Commissioner Charlene Russell-Tucker, Division of Family and Student Support Services; Special Education Bureau Chief Anne Louise Thompson; and Attorney Theresa DeFrancis, Bureau of Special Education, presented the report. Discussion followed.

\*Commissioner Meotti arrived at 10:40 a.m.

The Board recessed the meeting at 10:45 a.m., and reconvened in Public Session at 10:55 a.m. All members, except Mrs. Camhi and Mrs. Hopkins-Staten, were present.

#### **B. Presentation by Council on Education Reform**

Steven J. Simmons, former Chair of the Connecticut Commission on Educational Achievement and currently serving on the Connecticut Council on Education Reform, and Council members Shana Kennedy, Pei Pei Ma, and Ramani Ayer, presented an overview of the work of the Commission and the Council, and gave a power point presentation titled, "Eliminating the Achievement Gap in Connecticut," prepared by the Council. Mr. Simmons summarized the proposed priorities for State Board of Education consideration. Discussion ensued.

\*Mrs. Camhi arrived at 11:05 a.m.

The Board recessed its meeting at 12:15 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened at 1:20 p.m. All members, except Mrs. Hopkins-Staten and Mr. Meotti, were present.

**IX. Items Requiring Action**

**A. Manchester Racial Imbalance Plan**

Attorney Laura Anastasio, Division of Legal and Governmental Affairs, State Department of Education, reported that the Manchester Board of Education voted 7:0 against approval of the proposed Racial Imbalance Plan. Discussion ensued. The Board agreed to continue discussion of this item, following its consideration of agenda item IX.B.

On a motion by Dr. López, seconded by Mr. Risco, the Board voted unanimously to consider agenda item IX.B. at this time.

**B. Recommendation of Candidate for Appointment as Commissioner of Education**

Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Mrs. Luke seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-3a and Sections 4-5 to 4-7, inclusive, of the Connecticut General Statutes, recommends to the Governor the appointment of Stefan Pryor to the position of Commissioner of Education, and directs the Chairperson to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

At 2:05 p.m., Governor Malloy announced his appointment of Stefan Pryor as Connecticut's Commissioner of Education, effective October 2011. A press conference followed.

**A. Manchester Racial Imbalance Plan (continued)**

Discussion continued.

Mr. Risco moved, Mr. Jaskiewicz seconded that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-4b of the Connecticut General Statutes, hereby initiates a complaint against the Manchester Board of Education for failure to implement the educational interests of the state in accordance with Section 10-4a as a result of its failure to submit a racial imbalance plan as directed by the State Board of Education. The State Board of Education further directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**C. Support for Candidates for NASBE Board of Directors**

Mrs. Luke moved, Mr. Risco seconded, that the State Board of Education endorses the following candidates for appointment to the 2012 National Association of State Boards of Education Board of Directors: Patrick A. Guida, President-elect; Robin C. Hovis, Secretary-Treasurer; and Ilan Plawker, Northeast Area Director; and directs the Chairperson to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**X. Report of the Commissioner**

Commissioner Coleman reported the following:

- Many schools had delayed openings due to Hurricane Irene;
- The results of the Waterbury investigation regarding the CMT scores at Hopeville Elementary School are expected soon; if necessary, we will retest students to gain accurate information about their performance;
- Special Master Steven Adamowski has begun his duties in the Windham school system; and
- The new Bridgeport Board of Education has been established, and is meeting to determine its priorities.

**XI. Financial Matters**

**A. 2011 End-of-year Financial Report**

**B. State and Federal Funding, Fiscal Year 2012**

Commissioner Coleman made brief remarks about the reports (copy of each in official file).

**XII. Committee Reports**

**A. Finance, Audit and Department Matters**

Mrs. Luke noted that the committee is scheduled to meet on September 14<sup>th</sup>, and expects to act on the final audit plan which, in turn, will be presented to the full Board for adoption.

**B. Legislation and Bylaws**

Mr. Risco noted that the committee discussed 2012 legislative proposals and received an update on legislative reports at its meeting earlier today. He noted that a summary of the proposals is expected in late fall 2011.

**C. Policy Development**

Dr. López noted that time constraints prohibit the committee from meeting today; the committee will conduct a telephone conference call, which will be noticed with the Secretary of State and on the agency's web site.

**D. Connecticut Technical High Schools**

Mr. Vrabely stated that the committee will meet on September 21, 2011, at 10:00 a.m. in the Superintendent's Office, Middletown. He thanked Superintendent Ciccone for her efforts in ensuring a successful opening of schools.

**E. NASBE**

Mr. Taylor informed the Board that he, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten and Mr. Risco will be attending the Annual Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, in October.

**F. Ad Hoc Committee on Accountability**

Mrs. Camhi reported that two meetings have been scheduled (September 21 and October 19) to meet with Windsor, Hamden, and West Haven to review their District Improvement Plans.

On a motion by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mrs. Luke, the Board voted unanimously to add to and consider the following agenda item:

**IX.D. Resolution in Honor of George A. Coleman**

*Whereas,* George A. Coleman served with distinction as Connecticut's Acting Commissioner of Education from August 2006 through April 2007, and from January 2011 through September 2011; and

*Whereas,* Mr. Coleman served as Deputy Commissioner of Education, Associate Commissioner of the Division of Teaching and Learning Programs and Services, Chief of the Bureau of Curriculum and Instruction, Chief of the Bureau of Early Childhood Education and Social Services, and Education Consultant in kindergarten and the primary grades; and

*Whereas,* Mr. Coleman's clear vision, strong leadership, and thoughtful decisions during his twenty-four years of service have resulted in significant improvements to the quality of public education for all students in Connecticut; and

*Whereas,* Mr. Coleman's vast knowledge of public education, his firm belief in the abilities of all students and his advocacy on their behalf, coupled with his consistently high standards and support for all those stakeholders who share responsibility for student success, will be greatly missed; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved,* That the Connecticut State Board of Education accepts with deep regret the announcement of Mr. Coleman's retirement, and extends to him its gratitude for his service to the State of Connecticut and its fervent wish that he enjoy many more years of happiness, good health and rewarding experiences.

The resolution was approved by standing acclamation.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

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

