

IV.

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION Hartford

October 5, 2011, Meeting

Minutes

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, October 5, 2011. The meeting was held at the Legislative Office Building, Room 1B, Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

I. Call to Order

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

Present: Allan Taylor, Chairperson
Simon Brewer
Ellen Camhi
Joshua Friedman
Theresa Hopkins-Staton
Charles Jaskiewicz
Terry Jones
Patricia Keavney-Maruca
Estela Lopez
Patricia Luke
Michael Meotti, Ex-Officio Designee (arrived at 10:25 a.m.)
Joseph Vrabely

Absent: Ferdinand Risco
Stephen Wright

II. Public Participation

Ed Roman, Executive Director, Connecticut Council of Administrators of Special Education, asked the Board to ensure that the special education regulations are consistent with the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) law.

Michelle Laubin, a Partner at Berchem, Moses & Devlin, addressed the Board at the request of the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE). Ms. Laubin spoke about the special education regulations and asked the Board to consider one additional amendment to 10-76h-14 to follow the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling pertaining

to burden of proof in *Schaffer v. Weast*. A copy of Attorney Laubin's testimony is located in the official file of this meeting.

John Burke, Chair of the State Advisory Council on Special Education, spoke to the Board about several aspects of the special education regulations, including parental consent for out-of-state placements and restraint issues. A copy of Mr. Burke's testimony is located in the official file of this meeting.

Tom Stringfellow, a resident of Manchester, spoke about racial balance and diverse learning. Mr. Stringfellow suggested that the Board review various publications relating to diversity issues. He also spoke in favor of Manchester's racial imbalance plan.

Diane Willcutts, a parent of two children with disabilities and an Education Advocate, addressed the Board with her concerns on the proposed special education regulations. Ms. Willcutts talked about the hearing process and the disadvantages affecting parents. A copy of Ms. Willcutts' testimony is located in the official file of this meeting.

III. Executive Session

The Board did not meet in Executive Session.

(Mr. Meotti arrived at the meeting.)

IX.A. Approval of District Improvement Plan: Windsor

On a motion duly made and seconded, the State Board of Education considered the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-223e of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves and directs the Windsor Board of Education to implement the District Improvement Plan for the Windsor Public School System, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

(Mrs. Hopkins-Staten left the meeting.)

On a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to consider Item IX.B. at this time.

(Mrs. Hopkins-Staten returned to the meeting.)

IX.B. Bristol Plan to Correct Racial Imbalance

On a motion duly made and seconded, the State Board of Education considered the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-226d of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the Bristol Board of Education's "2011 Plan to Address Racial Imbalance" submitted by the Bristol Board of Education and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

On a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to consider Item IX.C. at this time.

IX.C. Manchester Plan to Correct Racial Imbalance

A PowerPoint presentation was used to help facilitate the discussion of this matter, a copy of which is in the official file of this meeting.

On a motion duly moved and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to amend the Manchester resolution by adding language regarding withdrawing the Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-4b complaint against the Manchester Board of Education.

On a motion duly moved and seconded, the State Board of Education considered the following resolution, as amended:

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-226d of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the Manchester Board of Education's "Plan to Address Racial Imbalance" submitted by the Manchester Board of Education on September 21, 2011, and directs the Commissioner to withdraw its complaint against the Manchester Board of Education pursuant to Section 10-4b of the Connecticut General Statutes and to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

X. Report of the Commissioner

Acting Commissioner George Coleman introduced Liz Donahue, Policy Director for the Governor's Office; Associate Commissioner Charlene Russell-Tucker; Harriet Feldlaufer, Chief of the Bureau of Teaching and Learning; and Stefan Pryor, Connecticut's newly-appointed Commissioner of Education, all of whom are members of the team currently engaged in the completion of the Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge application that is due October 19.

Commissioner Pryor noted that this is great opportunity for Connecticut, and he acknowledged all members of the team and sees a strong team and a strong application.

Ms. Russell-Tucker provided the Board with an overview of the application thus far. She indicated that there are five core and focused investment areas: 1) successful state systems; 2) high-quality accountable programs; 3) promoting early learning and development outcomes; 4) great early childhood education workforce; and 5) measuring outcomes and progress. Connecticut is eligible to apply for up to \$50 million. Though other state agencies are participating, the Department of Education has been appointed the lead agency and will serve as fiscal agent.

Ms. Donahue indicated that the State is already on the path for creating a successful state system for reasons which include the enactment of legislation to transfer Department of Social Services' day care centers to Education; the appointment of a planning director to align work among agencies; and the proposal for an Office of Early Care and Education and Child Development.

A copy of the Commissioner's full report, including updates on the 2010 Student Assessment results, 2011 Adequate Yearly Progress Results, ESEA Flexibility, School Governance Councils, Region 10 lawsuit, Minority Teacher Recruitment Program, Waterbury CMT Issue, and General and Federal Funded Positions, is contained in the official file of this meeting.

IV. Consideration of Minutes of September 7, 2011, State Board of Education Meeting

On a motion duly moved and seconded, that the State Board of Education approved the minutes of the September 7, 2011, State Board of Education meeting.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

V. Report of the Chair

Mr. Taylor reminded the Board that future meetings, with the exception of those scheduled during the legislative session, will be held in the Legislative Office Building.

He noted that Mr. Wright, Mrs. Luke, and Commissioners Coleman and Pryor attended a CABE Board of Directors meeting on September 13.

Mr. Taylor reported that Mr. Jones and Mr. Risco attended an open house tour at the new Amistad Academy in New Haven.

Mr. Taylor reported that he and Mr. Wright attended the conference in Cromwell regarding the implementation of Common Core State Standards.

Student Members Joshua Friedman and Simon Brewer participated in a Webinar for student state board of education members, hosted by Arne Duncan, U.S. Secretary of Education.

VI. Consent Agenda

Mr. Taylor removed from the consent agenda Items VI.B., Appointments to the Connecticut Advisory Council for School Administrator Professional Standards, and VI.C., Appointments to the Connecticut Advisory Council for Teacher Professional Standards. He also removed from the consent agenda items VI.E. through VI.I., noting that they would be placed on the November 2, 2011, agenda, following an information session being conducted by Jane Ciarleglio, Executive Director, Office of Financial and Academic Affairs for Higher Education, who will describe the process used for bringing approval items to the Board due to the reorganization of the Department of Higher Education. The following items were removed: VI.E, Approval of Licensure of Workforce Education and Development, S. Illinois University at Carbondale-Groton Sub Base; VI.F., Approval of Accreditation of Nursing Completion Program Online (RN to BSN), St. Vincent's College; VI.G., Approval of Licensure of Financial Mathematics, University of Chicago; VI.H., Approval of Accreditation of Drawing, Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts; and VI.I., Approval of Accreditation of Applied Psychology,

Industrial Organizational Psychology, Community Psychology, offered on ground and online, Sacred Heart University.

On a motion duly moved and seconded, the State Board of Education considered the following two consent agenda items:

VI.A. Receipt of Condition of Education Report

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-4(b) of the Connecticut General Statutes, receives *The Condition of Education in Connecticut* and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VI.D. Application for Four-year Grant to the Institute of Education Sciences, “Measuring Early Childhood Emergent Literacy and Writing Skills”

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education approves the application for a four-year grant to the Institute of Education Sciences for the period 2012-2016, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motions carried unanimously.

VII.A. Connecticut Technical High School System (CTHSS) Matters – Report of the Superintendent and Committee Chair

Superintendent Pat Ciccone provided the Board with funding updates. She reported that more than \$800,000 in production funds will go back into the shops this year. Each school will receive 95 percent and the CTHSS will retain 5 percent for purchasing supplies, uniforms, etc. for families experiencing financial hardships. At the September State Bond Commission meeting, \$1.6 million was allocated to replace technology equipment; i.e., computers, whiteboards, printers, networking equipment. CTHSS is planning to request \$800,000 of bond funds for snow removal equipment and \$533,000 for infrastructure repairs.

Ms. Ciccone noted that the current renovation projects at five schools are moving along (Ellis, Wilcox, Whitney, O’Brien, Wright), and the next wave of school construction projects is scheduled for spring 2013 (Grasso, Platt, Windham Tech and Bullard Havens).

Ms. Ciccone and Mr. Vrabely updated the Board on the CTHSS Task Force, which had its first meeting on September 27. Mark Ojakian, Deputy Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, is Chair of the Task Force. Four meetings are currently scheduled (October 17 at Eli Whitney, November 10 at H.C. Wilcox, December 1 at A.I. Prince, and December 13 at the Legislative Office Building). It is expected that a public comment segment will be included at the end of each meeting. A Web site is due to be launched shortly where agendas, minutes, discussions, presentations, etc., will be posted.

Ms. Ciccone further discussed the status of CTHSS position refills currently in progress. She noted that there are still a large number of vacancies due to recent retirements.

VIII.A. Update on the Regulations Concerning State Educator Certificates, Permits and Authorizations

Associate Commissioner Marion Martinez and Nancy Pugliese, Chief of the Bureau of Educator Standards and Certification, reported on changes that had been recommended as a result of the review by the Attorney General's Office. Discussion ensued. Mr. Taylor recommended that the statutes be compared with the regulations to determine if regulatory changes are required to be consistent with state statutes.

VIII.B. Amendments to the State Special Education Regulations

Charlene Russell-Tucker, Associate Commissioner, introduced Anne-Louise Thompson, Chief of the Bureau of Special Education, and Terri DeFrancis, Special Education Consultant, who presented the report to the Board. A PowerPoint presentation was used to help facilitate the discussion, a copy of which is in the official file of this meeting. It was noted that any further substantive changes to the regulations from this point forward would require public hearings.

IX.D. Adoption of Additional Standards for Common Core State Standards: English Language Arts and Literacy

Associate Commissioner Marion Martinez introduced Harriet Feldlaufer, Chief of the Bureau of Teaching and Learning; and Joanne White, Consultant in the same bureau. Ms. Feldlaufer and Ms. White provided the Board with a brief overview of the Common Core State Standards.

Board members requested additional time to review the materials distributed at the meeting, and on a motion duly made and seconded, voted unanimously to table Item IX.D.

On a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to add and consider Item IX.E., Winchester 10-4b Complaint, at this time.

IX.E. Winchester 10-4b Complaint

On a motion duly moved and seconded, the Board considered the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education hereby authorizes the Commissioner to initiate a complaint pursuant to Section 10-4b of the Connecticut General Statutes against the Town of Winchester for failure to implement the educational interests of the State, specifically for its failure to comply with the Minimum Budget Requirement in accordance with Section 1 of Public Act 11-234.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

XI.A. Financial Matters – Update

Mr. Mahoney updated the Board on the mid-term biennial budget process. He noted that mid-term budget technical adjustments were submitted to the Office of Policy and Management on September 30, and the capital request and 5 percent reduction options are due this month. He noted that the 5 percent reduction options total \$140 million.

XII. Committee Reports

XII.A. Finance, Audit and Department Matters

Mrs. Luke reported that a Memorandum of Agreement between the Departments of Education and Construction Services has been signed, which calls for the Office of Internal Audit to continue the auditing of school construction projects. Mrs. Luke expressed concern that there are only four staff members in Internal Audit; at least two more auditors are required to do this work. Additionally, Mrs. Luke reported that a final audit plan has still not been completed for this year.

No other Committee Reports were discussed.

Chairman Taylor adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Signed: _____
Stefan Pryor, Secretary

