

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

November 2, 2011, Meeting

Minutes of Meeting

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, November 2, 2011. The meeting was held at the Legislative Office Building, Room 1D, Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

Present: Allan Taylor, Chairperson
Simon Brewer
Ellen Camhi
Joshua Freidman
Charles Jaskiewicz
Terry Jones
Patricia Keavney-Maruca
Estela López
Patricia Luke
Ferdinand Risco
Joseph Vrabely
Stephen Wright

Absent: Theresa Hopkins-Staten
Michael Meotti, Ex-Officio Designee

II. Public Participation

1. Nancy Prescott, Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center, asked the Board to ensure that the burden of proof is not reversed and to ensure that voting on the special education regulations is not delayed. A copy of Ms. Prescott's testimony is included in the official file of this meeting.
2. Matthew Borrelli, educator, talked about closing the achievement gap. He suggested that the Board create an advocacy group for those children who are not achieving. A copy of Mr. Borrelli's testimony is included in the official file of this meeting.

3. James McGaughey, Executive Director, Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities, expressed support for not amending the burden of proof responsibility. A copy of Mr. McGaughey's testimony is included in the official file of this meeting.
4. Jerald Cole, Instructional Technologist, spoke to the Board about the need for higher standards for technology instructors and supported a full endorsement in instructional technology. A copy of Mr. Cole's testimony is included in the official file of this meeting.
5. Ed Malin, Sacred Heart University, spoke in support of agenda item X.C., Two-year Deferral for Fully Approved Planned Programs.
6. Brenda Sullivan, State Advisory Council on Special Education and parent of a child with disabilities, addressed the Board about postponing the vote on the special education regulations for another 30 days to allow additional input, and her opposition to any changes regarding burden of proof.
7. Andrew Feinstein, attorney representing parents of special education students, spoke to the Board about not approving the special education regulations. Mr. Feinstein suggested to the Board that special education regulations should be amended to include the federal regulations and that the burden of proof should not be changed. A copy of Mr. Feinstein's testimony is included in the official file of this meeting.

III. Executive Session

The Board did not meet in Executive Session.

VII. Consent Agenda

Mr. Taylor removed from agenda item VII.M., legislative proposal #13 on page 20, pertaining to clarification of the certification appeal language to ensure that it relates to the denial of applications to provide clarification of the process. All other technical legislative proposals remain as presented.

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

A. Approval of Licensure of Workforce Education and Development, So. Illinois University at Carbondale – Groton Sub Base

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Public Act 11- 48 Section 244, license a program in Workforce Education and Development, leading to a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree, to be offered by Southern Illinois University Carbondale at the Naval Submarine Base in Groton, CT, for a period of three years, until November 30, 2014.

B. Approval of Accreditation of Nursing Completion Program Online, St. Vincent's College

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Public Act 11- 48 Section 244, accredit a RN-BSN completion program, leading to a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) degree, to be offered by St. Vincent's College, for a period of time concurrent with institutional accreditation.

C. Approval of Licensure of Financial Mathematics, University of Chicago

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Public Act 11- 48 Section 244, license a program in Financial Mathematics, leading to a Master of Science (M.S.) degree, to be offered by the University of Chicago at UBS Headquarters in Stamford, CT, for a period of three years, until November 30, 2014.

D. Approval of Accreditation of Drawing, Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Public Act 11- 48 Section 244, accredit a program in Drawing, leading to a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree (B.F.A.), to be offered by the Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts, for a period of time concurrent with institutional accreditation.

E. Approval of Accreditation of Applied Psychology, Industrial Organizational Psychology, Community Psychology, Sacred Heart University

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Public Act 11- 48 Section 244, accredit the following programs to be offered by Sacred Heart University, for a period of time concurrent with institutional accreditation:

- Applied Psychology, leading to a Master of Science (M.S.) degree, to be offered on ground and online
- Industrial Organizational Psychology, leading to a Graduate Certificate, to be offered on ground and online
- Community Psychology leading to a Graduate Certificate, to be offered on ground and online.

F. Approval of Accreditation of Teacher Leadership, Quinnipiac University

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Public Act 11- 48 Section 244, accredit a program in Teacher Leadership, leading to a Master of Science (M.S.) degree, to be offered by Quinnipiac University, for a period of time concurrent with institutional accreditation.

G. Approval of Accreditation of Marketing, Sacred Heart University

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Public Act 11- 48 Section 244, accredit a program in Marketing, leading to a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree, to be offered by Sacred Heart University, for a period of time concurrent with institutional accreditation.

H. Approval of Licensure of Environmental Studies, Goodwin College

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Public Act 11- 48 Section 244, license a program in Environmental Studies, leading to a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree, to be offered by Goodwin College, for a period of three years, until November 30, 2014.

I. Approval of Licensure in East Asian and Pacific Rim Studies, University of Bridgeport

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Public Act 11- 48 Section 244, accredit a program in East Asian and Pacific Rim Studies, leading to a Master of Arts (M.A.) degree, to be offered by the University of Bridgeport, for a period of two years, until November 30, 2013.

J. Approval of Licensure and Accreditation in Emergency Management, University of New Haven

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Public Act 11- 48 Section 244, license and accredit a program in Emergency Management, leading to a Master of Science (M.S.) degree, to be offered by the University of New Haven, for a period of time concurrent with institutional accreditation.

K. Approval of Reaccreditation of the Institution, University of New Haven

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Public Act 11- 48 Section 244, accept the NEASC assessment and grant accreditation to the University of New Haven until December 31, 2016.

L. Connecticut Technical High School System Biennial Summary Report

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education pursuant to Section 10-95k of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the Biennial Summary Report for 2008-09 and 2009-10 as recommended by the Connecticut Technical High School Committee, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

M. Adoption of Technical Legislative Proposals

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education adopts the 2012 Technical Legislative Proposals, as amended, and 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

Motions carried unanimously.

On a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to consider item X.A. at this time.

X.A. Approval of District Improvement Plan - Hamden

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 Hamden Board of Education to implement the District Improvement Plan for the Hamden Public School System, and 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.

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

On a motion duly made and seconded, the State Board of Education approved the minutes of the October 5, 2011, State Board of Education meeting.

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

Motion carried.

V. Report of the Chair

Mr. Taylor reported that he would not be able to attend the Teacher of the Year Ceremony on November 17, but encouraged Board members to attend. He noted that he will prepare a report on the NASBE Conference and will share that with the Board members upon completion. Mr. Taylor's written report included the following:

- Mr. Taylor, Mrs. Hopkins-Staton and Mr. Risco attended the 2011 NASBE Annual Conference. Mr. Taylor will present a report to the Board once he has completed it.
- Mr. Taylor will be attending a special NASBE Board meeting November 12-13 to conduct interviews for the Executive Director position.
- Mr. Taylor will join Commissioner Pryor at the CAFE new board member orientation, December 6, 2011;
- Theresa Hopkins-Staton attended the "Gearing Up: Creating a Systemic Approach to Teacher Effectiveness" briefing in Washington, D.C., earlier this week;
- Board members appreciated the opportunity to meet with our new Commissioner individually over the course of the past month;
- Simon Brewer attended a "School Climate" conference at CES earlier this month;
- Mr. Taylor will attend the New England Secondary Schools Consortium in Concord, with Chairs of State Boards of Education and legislators, to discuss collaborative efforts to redesign secondary schools, to be held in Concord, New Hampshire, November 17, 2011;
- Several Board members attended the Ellis Clark Regional Agriscience and Technology Program and legislative open house on October 27, and had the opportunity to be present when George Coleman was honored.

VI. Report of the Commissioner

Commissioner Stefan Pryor reported the following:

- He expressed his appreciation to the Board members for the opportunity to meet with them individually.
- He has been actively engaged in outreach initiatives, visiting school districts and meeting with educators, associations and organizations in a "listening tour."
- He recently held a "meet and greet" with the staff of the State Department of Education, and will soon begin focus groups with employees to discuss current and potential initiatives involving the Department and Connecticut's public education system.

- NAEP Results: Mr. Pryor gave a PowerPoint presentation on the 2011 NAEP results. A copy of the presentation and the NAEP press release are included in the official file of this meeting. Mr. Pryor expressed his dissatisfaction with the stagnation in Connecticut's scores, and stated his commitment to addressing the unacceptable achievement gap.
- The SDE is tracking storm-related school closures and will analyze implications, if any, for the 180-day statutory mandate on a case-by-case basis.
- The Early Childhood Development Office, which by statute is part of the Office of Policy and Management, will be housed within the State Department of Education.

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

Joseph Vrabely, Chairman of the Connecticut Technical High Schools Committee, provided the Board with the date of the Task Force public hearing, December 13. The committee is discussing three items right now: (1) maintaining the strengthening of the vocational technical schools; (2) interaction with community colleges; and (3) the possibility of transferring the CTHSS back to the municipalities.

The Committee Chair and Superintendent Patricia Ciccone informed the Board that there is a serious security problem at J.M. Wright Technical High School and noted the high cost of maintaining the building while it is not in use. Major renovations to this school will be required if it is to open in 2014. The Commissioner requested that a meeting to discuss J. M. Wright Technical High School be scheduled.

Superintendent Ciccone informed the Board that seven schools are open with 50-60 percent of the staff. School calendars will have to be revised. February and spring vacation time will be considered to make up days lost thus far.

Superintendent Ciccone noted that a professional development (PD) day for teachers has been scheduled on November 8 but it may have to be rescheduled if schools are not opened by then.

XI. Financial Matters

A. Fiscal Year 2012-13 Mid-term Budget Technical Adjustments

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

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education accepts the Fiscal Year 2012-13 Mid-Term Budget Technical Adjustments as submitted to the Office of Policy and Management, and 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.

B. Fiscal Year 2012-13 Mid-term Capital Budget Adjustments

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

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education accepts the Fiscal Year 2012-13 Mid-Term Capital Budget Adjustments as submitted to the Office of Policy and Management, and 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. Fiscal Year 2012-13 Budget Reduction Options

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

WHEREAS, There is no logical or reasonable method for reducing the State Board of Education budget by 5 percent without significantly harming the education of Connecticut's children and impacting the municipal tax burden; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to the directive from the Office of Policy and Management, submits the Budget Reduction Options for Fiscal Year 2012-13, and 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.

X.B. Amendments to State Special Education Regulations

After a lengthy discussion, the Board requested a workshop on the regulations be scheduled to allow for further discussion and questions..

On a motion duly made and seconded, the State Board of Education moved to postponed this matter until the March 2012 State Board meeting.

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

Motion to postpone carried.

Mr. Taylor noted that agenda item X.C., Two-Year Deferral for Fully Approved Planned Programs, has been removed from the agenda.

X.D. Petition for Declaratory Ruling: Regional School District No. 10

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 4-176 of the Connecticut General Statutes and Section 10-4-21 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, agrees to rule on the Petition for Declaratory Ruling filed by Regional School District No. 10, et.al, concerning whether “sending” school districts must pay tuition for resident students attending part-time interdistrict magnet schools and pre-school programs at interdistrict magnet schools, and authorizes the Commissioner to appoint a hearing officer to conduct a hearing consistent with the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act, C.G.S. Sections 4-176 et seq. and Section 10-4-11 et seq. of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

XII. Committee Reports

Finance, Audit and Department Matters

Mrs. Luke reported that the Interim Audit Plan remains in effect.

Legislation and Bylaws

Mr. Risco reported that the committee met this morning to review state and federal reporting requirements and the racial imbalance statement.

Policy Development

Dr. López reported that the committee met via conference call to discuss the Position Statement on Students with Exceptionalities and this will be presented to the full Board for discussion in December. The committee is in the process of developing a statement on “time.”

Connecticut Technical High School System

Mr. Vrabely reported that the committee will meet at Grasso Technical High School on November 16, 2011, at 10:00 a.m.

Ad Hoc Committee on Accountability

Mrs. Camhi noted that the Board heard from the Hamden Public School District earlier today. The next committee meeting is November 30, 2011, at 9:30 a.m.

Mr. Risco made the suggestion that the Pledge of Allegiance be said at the beginning of the meeting.

Chairman Taylor adjourned the meeting at 3:50 p.m.

Signed _____
Stefan Pryor, Secretary