

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Hartford**

December 7, 2011, Meeting

*Minutes of Meeting*  
*(approved January 18, 2012)*

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, December 7, 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  
Theresa Hopkins-Staton, Vice-Chairperson  
Simon Brewer  
Ellen Camhi  
Joshua Freidman  
Charles Jaskiewicz  
Terry Jones  
Patricia Keavney-Maruca  
Patricia Luke  
Ferdinand Risco  
Joseph Vrabely  
Stephen Wright

Absent: Estela Lopez  
Michael Meotti, Ex-Officio Designee

**II. Public Participation**

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.

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**IV. Consideration of Minutes of November 2, 2011, State Board of Education Meeting**

Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the Board approve the Minutes of the November 2, 2011, State Board of Education Meeting.

Mrs. Luke noted that Item XIII., Finance, Audit and Department Matters Committee Report, should read as follows: “The Interim Audit Plan remains in effect.” She also requested that the makers of motions be named in the minutes.

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

Motion carried.

**V. Report of the Chair**

Chairman Taylor reported the following:

- Presidential Awards for Mathematics and Science Educators: Thanks to Mrs. Hopkins-Staten, Mr. Risco, Mr. Wright, and Ms. Keavney-Maruca for joining me at this reception in Hartford on November 7, 2011, in honor of those Connecticut educators who were selected for this award.
- Teacher of the Year Ceremony: Thank you to all who were able to attend this year’s ceremony held at the Bushnell Theater. Theresa Hopkins-Staten had the honor of presenting awards to each district teacher of the year.
- CABE/CAPSS Convention: Commissioner Pryor, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Wright and Mrs. Luke participated at the “Dialogue with the State Board of Education Session” at the November 2011 Annual CABE/CAPSS Convention. Topics of discussion included choice funding, special education –burden of proof, NCLB, school calendar, high school graduation requirements, transformation of public education and the need to embrace change.

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- Mr. Taylor participated at the CAFE New Board Member Orientation and Leadership Workshop, December 6, at the Rocky Hill Marriott. The focus of this year's orientation session was "The Future of Public Education in Connecticut."
- Thank you to all members who have attended one or more of Commissioner Pryor's Listening Tour sessions (Meriden, New Haven, Stamford, CCSU, etc.)
- Board members have been invited to attend the Black and Latino Male Statewide Forum on December 16 at CCSSU. To date, Stephen Wright and Ferdinand Risco have responded affirmatively.
- NASBE/Smarter Balance Webinar. Mr. Taylor encouraged Board members to participate in webinars and noted that they provide valuable information.
- Mr. Taylor recently attended the New England Secondary School Consortium meeting in Concord, New Hampshire. The Consortium provides the opportunity for New England states to engage in discussions of successful secondary school reform initiatives.
- Mr. Wright was recently named Vice President of the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education.

**VI. Report of the Commissioner**

Commissioner Stefan Pryor reported the following:

- Listening Tour: Several Board members have joined the Commissioner on his recent "listening tour" across the state with school districts and organizations (Windham, New Haven, Meriden, Fairfield, Stamford, Central Connecticut State University, CAPSS, CAFE, students, and union officials). Mr. Pryor thanked State Board of Education Members for their involvement. He noted that future sessions will be held in West Hartford, Norwalk, Bridgeport, Norwich, New London, and Colchester and with other organizations (e.g., Center for School Change).
- The first quarter will bring about many changes in the Department, structured to support our vision for education in Connecticut.
- He has been and will be working with the Governor's Office, Legislature and Board to develop a legislative package for the 2012 Session, which he anticipate, thanks to the Governor's initiative, will focus heavily on education.



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College to submit a progress report directly to OFAAHE that includes current enrollments, financial updates, and any changes affecting the strategic plan. These progress reports will be due on February 15, 2012, September 15, 2012 and February 15, 2013. Additionally, the Board requires the College to submit all correspondences between the institution and NEASC directly to OFAAHE.

**C. Approval of Extension of Institutional Accreditation, Rensselaer at Hartford**

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Public Act 11- 48 Section 244, extend accreditation to Rensselaer at Hartford until March 31, 2012.

**D. Approval of Program Modification in Business Administration, Early Childhood Education, General Studies and Medical Assisting, leading to an Associate of Science (AS) degree; and Child Studies and Organizational Studies leading to a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree, Goodwin College**

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Public Act 11- 48 Section 244, accept modifications to programs in Business Administration, Early Childhood Education, General Studies, and Medical Assisting, leading to an Associate of Science (A.S.) degree; Child Studies and Organizational Studies, each leading to a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree, all to be offered online, by Goodwin College.

**E . Approval of Reaccreditation of the Institution, The Graduate Institute**

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Public Act 11- 48 Section 244, grant accreditation to The Graduate Institute until December 31, 2016. It is further resolved that yearly progress reports be submitted directly to the Office of Financial and Academic Affairs for Higher Education (OFAAHE) by March 31<sup>st</sup> of each year and include an audited financial statement and any management letters that result; updated enrollment; and any updates to the strategic plan of the institution. Further, as the Institute seeks regional accreditation, OFAAHE will be copied on any correspondences between the Institute and the Commission, be invited to any comprehensive or focused site evaluation and receive a copy of any self-study produced for NEASC.

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

Motions carried unanimously.

**VIII., Connecticut Technical High School Matters (CTHSS)**

**A. Report of the Committee Chair**

Joseph Vrabely, Chairman of the Connecticut Technical High Schools Committee, provided the Board with an update on the work of the Task Force to Study the Connecticut Technical High School System. To date, the committee has discussed adult education and the apprentice program, the Department of Labor's report on workforce needs, and Articulation Agreements with the community colleges. He noted that the public hearing will be held on December 13, 2011 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Thereafter, Chairman Ojakian will draft a report for committee review and one final meeting will be scheduled for the Task Force to adopt the report. He noted that there is no intention of transferring responsibility for technical education to the comprehensive high schools.

**B. Report of the Superintendent**

Superintendent Ciccone commented on the collaboration among agencies (Departments of Education, Board of Regents, and Labor) about the future of the technical high schools and her testimony before the Joint Committees.

Superintendent Ciccone noted that the system is on the December 16<sup>th</sup> Bond Commission agenda for vehicles for plant maintenance. She also reported on position vacancies, noting that 33 of the 75 vacancies still await authorization for the process to be initiated.

**IX. Items for Discussion**

**A. Presentation by the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents,  
"NextED-Transforming Connecticut's Education System"**

Dr. Joseph Cirusuolo, Dr. David Calchera and Dr. Lawrence Schaefer, representing the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS), presented an overview of the 2011 CAPSS report titled, "NextED—Transforming Connecticut's Education System." Discussion followed.

On a motion by Mr. Jaskiewicz, seconded by Mr. Risco, the Board voted unanimously to move into Executive Session in Room 2600 of the Legislative Office Building at 12:37 p.m., for the purpose of discussing personnel matters (i.e., upper managerial positions).

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**III. Executive Session**

Present in Executive Session were Allan Taylor, Theresa Hopkins-Staten, Simon Brewer, Ellen Camhi, Joshua Freidman, Charles Jaskiewicz, Terry Jones, Patricia Keavney-Maruca, Patricia Luke, Ferdinand Risco, Joseph Vrabely, and Stephen Wright. Also present were Commissioner Pryor, Attorney Daniel Murphy and Adam Goldfarb. The Board discussed personnel matters (upper managerial positions).

On a motion by Mrs. Luke, seconded by Mrs. Hopkins-Staten, the Board voted unanimously to reconvene in Public Session in Room 1D of the Legislative Office Building at 2:00 p.m. Present were Board members Allan Taylor, Theresa Hopkins-Staten, Ellen Camhi, Joshua Freidman, Charles Jaskiewicz, Terry Jones, Patricia Keavney-Maruca, Patricia Luke, Ferdinand Risco, Joseph Vrabely and Stephen Wright.

**XI. Financial Matters**

Mr. Mahoney reported the department has not begun the investigation into the Winchester MBR compliance issue due to strong indications from the Board of Selectmen that it plans to comply with the statutory requirements.

**XII. Committee Reports**

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

Mrs. Luke reported that the committee will meet on December 14, 2011.

**B. Legislation and Bylaws**

The Committee did not meet today, so no report was given.

**C. Policy Development**

Mrs. Luke stated that the committee is awaiting word on a telephone conference call meeting date to discuss the draft position statement on the relationship of time to student achievement.

**D. Connecticut Technical High School System**

Mr. Vrabely gave committee report earlier in the meeting.

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**E. NASBE**

Mr. Taylor encouraged board members to take advantage of NASBE's webinars as a professional development opportunity. He noted that he and Mr. Risco will attend NASBE Board of Director meetings and Mr. Wright will serve on Governmental Affairs Committee in 2012. He announced that NASBE has hired a new Executive Director, Jim Kohlmoos, to succeed Brenda Welburn, effective February 2012.

**F. Ad Hoc Committee on Accountability**

Mrs. Camhi stated that meetings have been suspended until further notice, following the Commissioner's review of the process.

Chairman Taylor adjourned the meeting at 2:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Stefan Pryor, Secretary