

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

February 10, 2012 Meeting

Minutes

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Friday, February 10, 2012. The meeting was held at the State Office Building, Room 307A, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

I. Call to Order

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

Present: Allan Taylor, Chairperson
Theresa Hopkins-Staten, Vice-Chairperson
Simon Brewer
Ellen Camhi
Joshua Freidman
Terry Jones
Patricia Keavney-Maruca
Estela Lopez
Patricia Luke
Ferdinand Risco
Joseph Vrabely
Stephen Wright

Absent: Charles Jaskiewicz
Michael Meotti, Ex-Officio Designee

II. Public Participation

1. Abby Ray, student, Woodbury FFA, spoke to the Board about the need for funding to support agriscience education to accommodate those students interested in attending.
2. Robert Peterson, student, Woodbury FFA, spoke to the Board about the need for funding to support agriscience education and the benefits of the program in relation to his career aspirations (environmental law).
3. Christa Roth, Student, Woodbury FFA, described her interest in plant genetics and the rigor of the courses offered at Nonnewaug High School.

4. Jennifer Ayers, student, Woodbury FFA, spoke to the Board about the need for funding to support agriscience education.
5. Collin Sieracki, former student, Woodbury FFA, spoke to the Board about the need for funding to support agriscience programs, and the benefits of the program to his professional career as the owner of a landscaping business.
6. Dave Golembeski, former student, Woodbury FFA, spoke to the Board about the value of the program in terms of preparing him for a career in golf course management.
7. Kathryn Golembeski, State Agriscience Advisory Committee, spoke in support of increasing opportunities for students to enroll in agriscience programs, and expressed her concerns about sending schools not encouraging students to consider agriscience, due to the negative financial impact on the sending districts.
8. Robert Klancko, New Haven Manufacturers Association, spoke to the Board about the need for financial and in-kind support for agriscience programs and their integral role in the STEM fields (science, technology, engineering and mathematics).
9. Jody Goeler, Superintendent of Regional School District No. 14, spoke to the Board about the inequities in funding for the various choice programs and urged the Board to support equitable and adequate funding for vocational agriculture.
10. Bob Heffernan, Executive Director of Connecticut Green Industries, stated that the funding structure for vocational agriculture is a disincentive to districts.
11. George Wheeler, State Agriscience Advisory Board, spoke about the inequities of funding for vocational agriculture.
12. Jaunice Edwards, Director of Harris Agriculture Center in Bloomfield, expressed her support for properly funding the agriculture programs, and valuing the achievement of the students enrolled in these programs.
13. Bill Davenport, Director of the Nonnewaug Vocational Agriculture Program, spoke to the Board about the need for skilled workers in this industry. He noted, however, that we are required to turn away students due to inadequate funding for vocational agriculture, resulting in "importing" workers.
14. Michael Carlo, citizen, spoke to the Board about the need to be responsible and accountable for ensuring proper certification of Connecticut's educators.

15. Andrea Johnson, President of the Hartford Federation of Teachers, expressed concerns that the Performance Evaluation Advisory Committee did not consider the impact of poverty on education (e.g., child's vocabulary, exposure to opportunities) and how that contributes to an uneven playing field for teachers and students.

16. Jerald Cole, Instructional Technologist, described a study on the Carnegie Unit and the actual amount of time spent on learning.

(The Board agreed to consider agenda item IX.A., at this time.)

IX. Items for Discussion

A. Presentation by members of Project Opening Doors

Cam Vautour, President, Project Opening Doors; Paula Colen, Executive Director, EASTCONN; Carmen Cid, Dean of Arts and Science, Eastern Connecticut State University; and Jean Purcell, Principle Investigator, Step2STEM, presented an overview of Project Opening Doors, a statewide Advanced Placement initiative. Discussion followed.

The Board recessed its meeting at 12:05 p.m.

The Board reconvened in public session at 12:50 p.m. Present were Board members Taylor, Hopkins-Staten, Brewer, Camhi, Friedman, Jones, Keavney-Maruca, Lopez, Luke, Risco, Vrabely, Wright. Mr. Jaskiewicz was absent.

(The Board agreed to consider agenda item VIII. at this time.)

VIII. Connecticut Technical High School Matters (CTHSS)

A. Report of the Superintendent

- Superintendent Ciccone noted that CTHSS has received legislative approval for a bond authorization of \$28 million in each year of the biennium. The CTHSS began fiscal year 2012 with an unauthorized bond balance of \$3.8 million from prior fiscal years.
- CTHSS has the potential to receive up to \$31.8 million in bonding during the current fiscal year.
- To date, CTHSS has received Bond Commission authorization for \$8.4 million of the possible \$31.8 million.
- CTHSS is currently recruiting for 9th grade. The system has received 7,800 applications.
- Eli Whitney, Ellis Tech, O'Brien and Wright are school construction projects that are moving forward.

- The Skills USA Competition will be held on March 30, 2012. Board Members are invited to attend.

III. Executive Session

The Board did not meet in Executive Session.

IV. Consideration of Minutes of January 18, 2012, State Board of Education Meeting

Mrs. Luke moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded, that the Board approve the Minutes of the January 18, 2012, State Board of Education Meeting.

Mr. Brewer noted that under Item VII.B., Report to the Superintendent, the title "Congressman" should precede "Courtney."

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

Motion carried.

V. Report of the Chair

Mr. Taylor distributed a printed report, as follows:

Governor's "State of the State" Address:

- Governor Malloy delivered his "State of the State" address on Wednesday, February 8, 2012, highlighting his strong support and focus on public education. His message is consistent with the board's efforts to close the achievement gap; and will help frame our discussions about the next Comprehensive Plan for Education and our ongoing work and policies.
- After making his speech, Governor Malloy greeted the Department's staff and thanked them for the work they had done to support his speech earlier that day. The Governor's comments focused on the far-reaching program of education reform, and what would be done to implement that program.

V. Report of the Chair (continued)

NASBE Board of Directors Meeting, January 20-21, 2012:

- Stephen Wright, Ferdinand Risco and Mr. Taylor attended the January 20-21 NASBE Board of Directors and Governmental Affairs Committee meetings.

NCLB Waiver Information and Public Comment Sessions:

- Theresa Hopkins-Staten and Stephen Wright attended one of the several sessions offered to solicit input from individuals and groups.

Student Matters:

- State Student Advisory Council on Education met on February 7, 2012. Simon Brewer attended and reported that the committee discussed 21st Century Learning Skills and the Citizenship Awards.
- Application packet for student membership on the State Board of Education (July 2012-June 2013) has been widely disseminated, with a due date of March 12, 2012.
- Joshua Friedman and Simon Brewer are scheduled to appear before the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee on March 22 at noon.
- NASBE is conducting a webinar on Sunday, February 12, at 2:00 p.m. with Assistant Secretary of Education Michael Yudin to talk about the department's waiver initiative, ESEA Reauthorization and opportunities for student board members to be more involved in the conversation. Additionally, Jim Kohlmoos, NASBE's new Executive Director, will participate.

Smarter Balanced Webinar, February 9, 2012. A report will be forthcoming.

VI. Report of the Commissioner

Commissioner Pryor presented a Powerpoint presentation titled "2012: The Year for Education Reform."

A copy of Commissioner Pryor's presentation is enclosed in the official file of the February 10, 2012 meeting.

VII. Consent Agenda

Ms. Lopez moved, Mrs. Keavney-Maruca seconded, that the Board approve the following Consent Agenda items:

A. Adoption of Position Statement on the Education of Students with Exceptionalities

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education adopts the Position Statement on the Education of Students with Exceptionalities dated February 10, 2012, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

B. Approval of Summer Food Services State Plan

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 13 of the National School Lunch Act of 1946, as amended by P.L. 108-265, P.L. 110-246, P.L. 111-80 and reauthorized on December 13, 2010, under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, P.L. 111-296, approves the State Plan for Fiscal Year 2012 - Summer Food Service Program for Children, for submission to the United States Department of Agriculture, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

C. Receipt of Report of the Connecticut Advisory Council for Teacher Professional Standards

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education receives the 2011 Annual Report of the Connecticut Advisory Council for Teacher Professional Standards, submitted in accordance with the requirements of subsection (e) of Section 10-144d of the Connecticut General Statutes, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

D. Receipt of Report of the Connecticut Advisory Council for School Administrator Professional Standards

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education receives the 2011 Annual Report of the Connecticut Advisory Council for School Administrator Professional Standards, submitted in accordance with the requirements of subsection (e) of Section 10-144e of the Connecticut General Statutes, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

E. Adoption of Technical Legislative Proposals

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education adopts five proposals to be added to the 2012 Technical Legislative Proposals, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Commissioner Stefan Pryor, Chief Operating Officer Charlene Russell-Tucker, and Ranjana Reddy presented the report to the Board. Discussion ensued.

Minutes

State Board of Education Meeting

February 10, 2012

Page 8

On a motion by Mrs. Hopkins-Staten, seconded by Mrs. Camhi, the Board voted unanimously to add to the agenda item X.B., resolution in support of Connecticut's request for a flexibility waiver of certain requirements of the ESEA for submission to the United States.

Mrs. Camhi moved, Mrs. Luke seconded, the following resolution, X.B.

X.B., Resolution in Support of ESEA Flexibility Waiver

Whereas, The State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") commends the State Department of Education for its thoughtful approach to developing Connecticut's request for a flexibility waiver of certain requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), for submission to the United States Department of Education;

Whereas, The Board acknowledges the Department's efforts to educate and solicit input from numerous individuals and groups, such as teachers and their representatives, parents, community-based organizations, civil rights organizations, organizations representing students with disabilities and English Language Learners, and other diverse communities;

Whereas, The Board believes that the requested waivers will result in significant improvements to the quality of teaching and learning for all Connecticut students; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Board enthusiastically endorses Connecticut's application for a flexibility waiver of certain ESEA requirements, pledges its support to provide leadership and take action on areas for which it has responsibility, and directs the Chairperson to take the necessary action to express such support.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

XI. Financial Matters

Mr. Mahoney reported on the 2nd Quarterly Financial Report.

XII. Committee Reports

- A. Finance, Audit and Department Matters**
No report
- B. Legislation and Bylaws**
Mrs. Hopkins-Staten reported that the committee met earlier today to discuss 2012 legislative proposals.
- C. CTHSS**
Mr. Vrabely reported that the February 15, 2012, committee meeting will be held at Windham Technical High School in Willimantic.
- D. Policy Development**
No Report
- E. NASBE**
Mr. Risco noted that Connecticut is a very strong supporter of NASBE initiatives.
- F. Ad Hoc Committee on Accountability**
No Report

Chairman Taylor adjourned the meeting at 3:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Stefan Pryor, Secretary