

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

Minutes of Meeting
April 4, 2012

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, April 4, 2012, at the State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

I. Call to Order

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

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

Absent: Michael Meotti, Ex-Officio Designee

II. Public Participation

1. Cheryl Miller, parent of Middletown student, described the impact that bullying had on her son's education while he was a student at Middletown High School and urged the Board to find ways to remedy bullying.

[*Mrs. Keavney-Maruca arrived at 9:44 a.m.]

2. Cheryl Martone, an advocate for parents, recommended that background checks on administrators be performed as a way to prevent parents from being bullied in schools and in court. Schools need to support parental involvement, Ms. Martone noted.

III. Executive Session

On a motion by Mr. Jaskiewicz, seconded by Mrs. Hopkins-Staten, the Board voted unanimously to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation (*i.e., Meghan Williams vs. The Connecticut Technical High School System, et al*).

Present in executive session were board members Mr. Taylor, Mr. Brewer, Mrs. Camhi, Mr. Friedman, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten, Mr. Jaskiewicz, Mr. Jones, Mrs. Keavney-Maruca, Dr. López, Mrs. Luke, Mr. Risco, Mr. Vrabely and Mr. Wright. Also present were Commissioner of Education Stefan Pryor, Chief Operating Officer Charlene Russell-Tucker, and Assistant Attorneys General Joseph Jordano and Phil Dukes.

On a motion by Mrs. Luke, seconded by Mrs. Keavney-Maruca, the Board voted unanimously to move out of executive session and reconvene in public session at 10:45 a.m. Present were board members: Mr. Taylor, Mr. Brewer, Mrs. Camhi, Mr. Friedman, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten, Mr. Jaskiewicz, Mr. Jones, Mrs. Keavney-Maruca, Mrs. Luke, Dr. López, Mr. Risco, Mr. Vrabely, and Mr. Wright. Mr. Meotti was absent.

IV. Consideration of Minutes

A. March 7, 2012, State Board of Education Meeting

Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Dr. Lopez seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the March 7, 2012, State Board of Education Meeting.

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

Motion carried.

B. March 13, 2012, Special State Board of Education Meeting

Mr. Jaskiewicz, moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the March 13, 2012, Special State Board of Education Meeting.

- The Skills USA Contest was held on March 30, 2012, at A.I. Prince Technical High School; Patricia Keavney-Maruca attended.
- Several Board members chaired public hearings over the course of the past month, to hear testimony on the applications for charter renewals.
- The NASBE Legislative Conference, meetings with Congressional Delegates, and the NASBE Board of Directors meeting were held last week.
- On March 22, 2012, Terry Jones attended the Yale Education Leadership Conference, "Connecticut at the Tipping Point." Governor Malloy led a panel discussion of state activists, policy makers and educators regarding leveling the field to close the achievement gap.
- Governor Malloy has continued his Education Reform Tour across the state. Mr. Taylor thanked those Board members who have participated in the sessions.
- Discussion ensued regarding the 2012 State Board of Education retreat. Theresa Hopkins-Staten, Charles Jaskiewicz and Estela López volunteered to serve on a planning committee.

VI. Report of the Commissioner

Commissioner Pryor highlighted those elements of Senate Bill 24 that, to date, have been preserved or modified by the ongoing legislative process. A copy of the Commissioner's power point presentation is included in the official file of this meeting. The Commissioner noted that he will continue to work with the General Assembly on a bill that will result in meaningful education reform. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Pryor informed the Board that he has chosen to follow a set of procedures when the Department or State Board of Education address formal matters (such as charter renewals or revocations) directly affecting schools run by charter school organizations on whose boards he previously served (Achievement First and Common Ground). He will delegate a senior staff member to handle these matters, including their presentation to the State Board.

Mrs. Luke removed from the Consent Agenda item VII.C., Approval of Licensure of a program in Business Administration, leading to the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree, to be offered on ground and online, Goodwin College; and item VII.F., Approval of Accreditation of a program in Diagnostic Medical Sonography, leading to the Associate of Science (A.S.) degree, Sanford-Brown College.

VII. Consent Agenda

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten moved, Mr. Jaskiewicz seconded, to approve the following Consent agenda items: VII.A., Approval to Relicense a program in Philosophical-Theological Studies offered at St. John Fisher Seminary Residency, Stamford, and St. John's University, Jamaica, NY; VII.B., Approval of Accreditation of a program in Child Studies, leading to a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree to be offered on ground and online, Post University, VII.D., Approval of Reaccreditation of the Institution, Legion of Christ College of Humanities; VII.E., Approval of Accreditation of a program in Cardiovascular Sonography, leading to the Associate of Science (A.S.) degree, Sanford-Brown College; VII.G., Approval of Achievement First Residency Program for School Leadership; and VII.H., Amendment to the National Association of State Directors of Education and Certification (NASDTEC) Interstate Agreement Concerning Out-of-state Alternate Route to Certification Programs.

A. Approval to Relicense a program in Philosophical-Theological Studies offered at St. John Fisher Seminary Residency, Stamford, St. John's University, Jamaica, NY

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Public Act 11-48 Section 244, relicense a program in Philosophical Theological Studies offered at St. John Fisher Seminary Residency, Stamford, St. John's University, Jamaica, New York for a period of three years, until April 30, 2015.

B. Approval of Accreditation of a program in Child Studies, leading to a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree, to be offered on ground and online, Post University

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

D. Approval of Reaccreditation of the Institution, Legion of Christ College of Humanities

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Public Act 11-48 Section 244, reaccredit Legion of Christ College of Humanities, for a period of five years, until April 30, 2017.

E. Approval of Accreditation of a program in Cardiovascular Sonography, leading to the Associate of Science (A.S.) degree, Sanford-Brown College

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Public Act 11-48 Section 244, accredit a program in Cardiovascular Sonography, leading to an Associate of Science (A.S.) degree, to be offered by Sanford-Brown College, for a period of time concurrent with institutional accreditation.

G. Approval of Achievement First Residency Program for School Leadership

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-145d-9(g)(2)(A) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, grants program approval for the period April 4, 2012, to April 4, 2014, with a report and on-site visit required for continuing approval beyond two years, for the purpose of certifying graduates from the Achievement First Residency Program for School Leadership (RPSL).

H. Amendment to the National Association of State Directors of Education and Certification (NASDTEC) Interstate Agreement Concerning Out-of-State Alternate Route to Certification Programs

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, amends the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education & Certification (NASDTEC) Interstate Agreement by including state-approved alternative educator preparation programs to allow the issuance of a temporary, ninety-day certificate to qualified candidates, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

[The Board recessed the meeting at 12:50 p.m.]

[The Board reconvened in public session at 1:45 p.m.]

VIII. Connecticut Technical High School Matters (CTHSS)

James Chasse, Education Consultant, updated the Board on bond funds released for the CTHSS, totaling \$8 million for new equipment, \$1 million of which is earmarked for manufacturing.

IX. Items for Discussion (no items)

X. Items Requiring Action

A. Approval of Regulations Concerning Special Education

Mrs. Luke moved, Mr. Jaskiewicz seconded, that the State Board of Education adopts the amendments to Sections 10-76a-1 to 10-76d-19, inclusive, Sections 10-76h-1, 10-76h-3 to 10-76h-10, inclusive, and Sections 10-76h-13, 10-76h-15 and 10-76h-16 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, concerning the provision of special education and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Mr. Wright moved, Mr. Jaskiewicz seconded, that the Board amend the resolution by repealing subsection (a) of Section 10-76h-14 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

Mr. Wright moved, Mr. Jaskiewicz seconded, to amend the amendment by adopting the burden of proof as it exists, with the exception of instances where the moving party elects to unilaterally take their child out of the district and subsequently makes a complaint and submits a request for reimbursement.

Mr. Wright withdrew his motions to amend; Mr. Jaskiewicz withdrew his second to the motions.

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

Motion carried.

achieve a high performing and nationally recognized public education system, which is a reputation this state once enjoyed; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 24 has been modified in such a manner that meaningful and immediate education reforms such as Connecticut’s Elementary and Secondary Education Act waiver and *Sheff v. O’Neill*-related programs are now at risk of being compromised, having a negative impact on the education, growth, and development of our great State;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education urges lawmakers to restore Senate Bill 24 to its original intent so that our State can achieve the level of educational excellence that was once a source of great pride.

[The Board recessed the meeting at 3:10 p.m.]

[The Board reconvened in public session at 3:40 p.m.]

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

Motion carried unanimously.

XI. Financial Matters

Brian Mahoney, Chief Financial Officer, reported that \$313,181 for minority recruitment is in the 2012-13 budget. He noted that this is the same amount as was allocated in fiscal years 2011-12 and 2010-11. Mrs. Hopkins-Staten requested information on progress toward meeting the goals for this initiative.

XII. Committee Reports

Finance, Audit and Department Matters

Mrs. Luke reported that the minutes of the last meeting have been inserted in the supplemental folder and asked the Board to read them. She noted that the Director of Internal Audit position has been posted.

Legislation and Bylaws

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten noted that the committee received a detailed report on the status of Senate Bill 24. She noted that the Department needs to be aware of many compliance issues that resulted from legislation passed last year. She requested that the Board receive a report on charter schools, including information on attrition, admissions, and reasons for declining admission or leaving a charter school after being enrolled.

Policy Development

Dr. López noted that the committee met on March 7, 2012, and agreed to review current policies, but will wait until the General Assembly's work has concluded in order to align its work accordingly.

Connecticut Technical High Schools (no report)

NASBE (mentioned under Report of Chair)

Ad Hoc Committee on Accountability (no report)

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

Prepared by: _____
Stefan Pryor, Secretary