

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

Minutes of Meeting
May 17, 2012

(approved June 6, 2012)

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Thursday, May 17, 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
Ellen Camhi
Joshua Friedman
Charles Jaskiewicz
Terry Jones
Patricia Keavney-Maruca
Estela López
Patricia Luke
Ferdinand Risco
Joseph Vrabely
Stephen Wright

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

II. Public Participation

Dr. Nicholas Fischer, Superintendent of New London Public Schools, shared his concerns about the school system and requested the state to provide assistance to the district. A copy of Dr. Fischer's written remarks is contained in the official file of this meeting.

III. Consent Agenda

Mrs. Luke removed the following items from the Consent Agenda: III.C., Approval of Modification of a program in Spanish, leading to the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Degree, Saint Joseph College; III.D., Approval of Licensure of a program in Industrial Engineering, leading to the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree, Quinnipiac University; and III.E., Approval of Reaccreditation of the College, Saint

Joseph College.

Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Dr. López seconded, that the Board approve the following Consent Agenda items: III.A., Approval of Accreditation of a program in Photography, leading to the Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) degree, University of Hartford; and III.B., Approval of Accreditation of a program in Theater Arts, leading to the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree, University of New Haven.

A. Approval of Accreditation of a program in Photography, leading to the Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) degree, University of Hartford

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Public Act 11-48 Section 244, accredit a program in Photography, leading to a Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) degree, to be offered by the University of Hartford, for a period of time concurrent with institutional accreditation.

B. Approval of Accreditation of a program in Theater Arts, leading to the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree, University of New Haven

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

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

Motions carried unanimously.

C. Approval of Modification of a program in Spanish, leading to the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree, Saint Joseph College

Mrs. Luke moved, Dr. López seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Public Act 11-48 Section 244, accept modification to a program in Spanish, leading to a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree, to be offered by Saint Joseph College.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

D. Approval of Licensure of a program in Industrial Engineering, leading to the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree, Quinnipiac University

Mrs. Luke moved, Dr. López seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Public Act 11-48 Section 244, license a program in Industrial Engineering, leading to a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree, to be offered by Quinnipiac University for a period of three years, until May 31, 2015. Quinnipiac University will provide a progress report, each year beginning November 30, 2012, and each year thereafter until the program is accredited. The progress report will include the status of the following areas: course development, hiring of faculty, student enrollment, facility development and advisory board development.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

E. Approval of Reaccreditation of the College, Saint Joseph College

Dr. López moved, Mrs. Keavney-Maruca seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Public Act 11-48 Section 244, accept the New England Association of Schools and Colleges assessment and grant accreditation to Saint Joseph College, for a period of five years, until June 30, 2017.

Mrs. Luke moved, Mr. Risco seconded, that the Board direct the Executive Director of the Office of Financial and Academic Affairs for Higher Education to obtain from the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, a copy of the Commission's letter on the status of institutional reaccreditation, for purposes of attaching said letter to the report submitted to the State Board of Education for its consideration prior to voting on institutional accreditation.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion carried unanimously.

V. Consideration of Minutes of the April 4, 2012, State Board of Education Meeting and the May 2, 2012, State Board of Education Meeting

Mrs. Keavney-Maruca moved, Mr. Jaskiewicz seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the April 4, 2012, and the May 2, 2012, State Board of Education meetings. Mr. Jaskiewicz requested that the April 4, 2012, minutes reflect that he was present at that meeting.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Report of the Chair

- Mr. Taylor thanked Board members who attended the Governor's bill-signing ceremony earlier this week, and for the Board's support throughout the legislative session.
- The Board has selected August 15, 2012, as the date for its annual retreat. The retreat planning committee will begin preparations this week.
- Mr. Taylor, Mr. Jones and Mr. Wright attended the April 25 event at the Legislative Office Building with Dr. Paul Hill.

VII. Report of the Commissioner

Commissioner Pryor reported on the following:

- The components of the final legislation, Senate Bill 458. A copy of the Commissioner's presentation is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
- The new legislation provides \$39.5 million in state aid to the Alliance Districts, the 30 lowest-achieving school districts in Connecticut. Before they can receive these new funds, Alliance Districts must submit plans to the Department describing credible plans to increase student achievement. The State Board of Education will have an opportunity to issue guidelines for this approval process at an upcoming meeting. Commissioner Pryor reported that he plans to provide preliminary information to superintendents and chief elected municipal officials of Alliance Districts to facilitate their ability to begin to craft these plans. A copy of the Commissioner's overview is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.

- The implementation of Public Act 11-136, regarding the definition of excused and unexcused absences. The Department continues to review other state's policies as well as local district policies on excused and unexcused absences. The Department will host a school attendance forum to solicit input from stakeholders on June 4, 2012. This collective information will be presented to the Board for discussion at its June 6, 2012, meeting, and a recommended definition of excused vs. unexcused absences will be presented to the Board for adoption at its July 11, 2012, meeting.
- Dr. Diane Ullman, Superintendent of the Simsbury Public Schools, has been appointed as the Interim Chief Talent Officer for the State Department of Education.

VIII. Connecticut Technical High School Matters (CTHSS)

Patricia Ciccone, Superintendent of Schools, Connecticut Technical High School System, reported on the following:

- preparations underway to address the provisions of the recently adopted legislation; extended day programming for students who are affiliated with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and other targeted, under-served populations of adolescents and adults;
- current vacancies within the CTHSS;
- the CTHSS collaboration with East Hartford public schools and their plans to build two trades into their Synergy school;
- the bonding process to date;
- the school system's involvement in cross agency efforts to grow and sustain Connecticut's workforce (Workforce Development Council, Department of Economic and Community Development, Department of Labor, Connecticut Apprenticeship Council); and
- upcoming graduation ceremonies. Board members were invited to attend the graduation ceremonies.

IX. Items for Discussion

A. Presentation by the State Advisory Council on Special Education

Ms. Christine Murphy, Chair, State Advisory Council on Special Education; Mr. John Burke, Former Chair, State Advisory Council on Special Education; and Mr. Marcus Rivera, Consultant, State Department of Education, presented the report to the Board. Discussion followed.

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

The Board reconvened in public session at 1:05 p.m. Present were Board members, Mrs. Camhi, Mr. Jaskiewicz, Mr. Jones, Mrs. Keavney-Maruca, Dr. López, Mrs. Luke, Mr. Risco, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Vrabely, and Mr. Wright. Mrs. Hopkins-Staten, Mr. Brewer and Mr. Meotti were absent.

B. Status Report on New London Public School System

Commissioner Pryor introduced the audit report on the New London Public School System.

Mr. Lol Fearon, Bureau Chief, Bureau of Accountability and Improvement, State Department of Education; Dr. Robert Villanova, External Consultant; and Dr. James Mitchell, External Consultant; presented a status report on the New London Public School System. Discussion followed.

X. Items Requiring Action

A. Receipt of Racial Imbalance Report

Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Mrs. Keavney-Maruca seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-226a of the Connecticut General Statutes, accepts the Racial Imbalance Report, dated March 15, 2012, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

XI. Financial Matters

Brian Mahoney, Chief Financial Officer, presented the Quarterly Financial Report to the Board.

XII. Committee Reports

A. Finance, Audit and Department Matters

Mrs. Luke reported that interviews were conducted for the Director of Internal Audit last week.

B. Legislation and Bylaws

Mr. Risco reported the committee reviewed the final status of the State Board of Education technical proposals, reviewed a summary of legislation enacted in the 2012 session, and reviewed the calendar of enacted 2011 legislation, at its meeting this morning.

C. Policy Development

Dr. López noted that the committee will not meet until after the Retreat.

D. Connecticut Technical High Schools

No Report

E. NASBE

Ferdinand Risco and Allan Taylor will attend the NASBE Board of Directors meeting June 7-9, 2012.

Call for Nominations: NASBE sent correspondence to Board members calling for nominations for President-elect and Area Director. This matter will be placed on the June agenda, should the Board wish to make a nomination.

Mr. Wright discussed NASBE Proposed Position Statement, "Closing the Achievement Gap" (copy enclosed in "supplemental materials" folder).

Mr. Jones included in the supplemental materials folder a Quarterly Progress Report on the NASBE School Health Policy Project.

F. Ad Hoc Committee on Accountability

No Report

Chairman Taylor adjourned the meeting at 2:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Stefan Pryor, Secretary

