

# CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Hartford

Minutes of Meeting

June 6, 2012

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, June 6, 2012, at the Legislative Office Building, Room 1D, Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT.

## **I. Call to Order**

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

Present: Allan Taylor, Chair  
Theresa Hopkins-Staten  
Simon Brewer  
Ellen Camhi  
Joshua Friedman  
Terry Jones  
Patricia Keavney-Maruca  
Estela López  
Patricia Luke  
Joseph Vrabely  
Stephen Wright

Absent: Charles Jaskiewicz  
Ferdinand Risco  
Michael Meotti, Ex-Officio Designee

## **II. Public Participation**

- 1) Wendy Lecker, Stamford Public School parent, expressed her concerns regarding the use of standardized test scores as part of a teacher's evaluation. A copy of Ms. Lecker's written remarks is contained in the official file of this meeting.
- 2) Mary Gallucci, Windham Public School parent, shared her concerns about reforms based on standardized test scores and teacher evaluations that include these results. A copy of Ms. Gallucci's written remarks is contained in the official file of this meeting.
- 3) Darcy Hicks, parent and former teacher in Westport, shared her concerns about the role of standardized tests in students' education, stating that more time should be dedicated to student engagement. A copy of Ms. Hicks' written statement is contained in the official file of this meeting.

- 4) Craig Baker, Chief Education Officer, Domus, spoke in support of the renewal of the charters for Trailblazers and Stamford Academy. A copy of Mr. Baker's written remarks is contained in the official file of this meeting.
- 5) Timothy J. Dutton, Director of The Bridge Academy in Bridgeport, spoke in support of the renewal of The Bridge Academy. A copy of Mr. Dutton's written remarks is contained in the official file of this meeting.
- 6) Mary Loftus Levine, Executive Director, CEA, shared her concerns regarding the direction and process that, in her view, appears to be evolving on the Performance Evaluation Advisory Council. A copy of Ms. Levine's written remarks is contained in the official file.
- 7) Dr. Nicholas Fischer, Superintendent of New London Public Schools, read prepared remarks on behalf of Bill Morse, President, New London Board of Education, regarding State Board of Education assistance to the New London Public Schools. A copy of Mr. Morse's written remarks is contained in the official file of this meeting.
- 8) Mongi Dhaouadi, New London Public School parent, expressed his concerns pertaining to the Governance Council in New London. He urged the Council and the State Board of Education to include parents in all discussions about funding or any other issues that affect the students in their school districts.
- 9) State Student Advisory Council members Abbey Doski, Newtown; Dave D'Auria, RHAM; and Paige Cantwell, Glastonbury; gave a presentation on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning: A Decade Later. A copy of the slide presentation is contained in the official file of this meeting.

### **III. Consent Agenda**

Mrs. Luke removed the following items from the Consent Agenda: III.A., Putnam Science Academy Certificate of Exemption; III.C., Recognition of General Education Development Scholar; and III.D., Recognition of Connecticut Association for Adult Continuing Education Students.

Dr. López moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded, that the Board approve the following Consent Agenda items: III.B., Authorization of Charter School Enrollment; and III.E., 2013 State Board of Education Meeting Dates.

**B. Authorization of Charter School Enrollment**

**RESOLVED**, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-66bb(c) of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the distribution of 380 additional seats among the existing charter schools for the 2012-13 school year.

**E. 2013 State Board of Education Meeting Dates**

**RESOLVED**, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 1-225 of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the 2013 schedule of regular meeting dates, as follows:

January 9, 2013  
February 6, 2013  
March 6, 2013  
April 3, 2013  
May 1, 2013  
June 5, 2013  
July 10, 2013  
August 7, 2013  
September 4, 2013  
October 2, 2013  
November 6, 2013  
December 4, 2013

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

Motions carried unanimously.

### **III.A. Putnam Science Academy Certificate of Exemption**

Mrs. Luke moved, Dr. López seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-8a-1 through 10-8a-8 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, issues a conditional Certificate of Exemption to the Putnam Science Academy ("PSA"), 18 Maple Street, Putnam, CT 06260, for the period of June 6, 2012, through June 5, 2013, contingent the school addressing the following fire code compliance issues by August 31, 2012:

- the fire escape for the classrooms at 18 Maple Street;
- the fire escape for the second floor of 26 Church Street;

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

### **III.C. Recognition of General Education Development Scholar**

Mrs. Luke moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded, that the Connecticut State Board of Education adopt the following resolution:

**WHEREAS,** Ila L. Addanki, a resident of Danbury, has demonstrated exceptional skill and proficiency in the five subject areas of the high school equivalency examination by attaining a score of 3890 on the General Educational Development Tests in 2011; and

**WHEREAS,** She is the Connecticut resident with the highest score on the examination; and

**WHEREAS,** Her achievement will receive national attention as Connecticut's outstanding General Educational Development participant; and

**WHEREAS,** She has brought honor to herself, to the State Board of Education and the State of Connecticut; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That the Connecticut State Board of Education honors Ila L. Addanki with great appreciation for her accomplishment in a major adult education endeavor, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

### **III.D. Recognition of Connecticut Association for Adult and Continuing Education Students**

Mrs. Luke moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded, that the Connecticut State Board of Education adopt the following resolution:

**WHEREAS,** Adult education exemplifies the concept of lifelong learning with over fifteen thousand Connecticut residents in adult basic education/secondary school completion programs and over thirteen thousand Connecticut residents in English as a second language and U.S. citizenship preparation programs;

**WHEREAS,** The Connecticut Association for Adult and Continuing Education (CAACE), through its CAACE Student Award, recognized four individuals who have overcome numerous obstacles and hardships to persist and succeed in adult education; and

**WHEREAS,** These individuals exemplify the spirit and determination necessary to achieve a goal and serve as role models to all adult and young learners in our communities; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That the Connecticut State Board of Education recognizes the following individuals for their accomplishment in this major adult education endeavor:

Roseleine Desius	Norwich Regional Adult Education
Maria Farfan	Stamford Adult Education
Clarence Bouie	Danbury Adult & Continuing Education (WERACE)
Sinquetta Joyner	New Haven Adult Education

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**IV. Executive Session** (The Board did not meet in executive session.)

**V. Consideration of Minutes of the May 17, 2012, State Board of Education Meeting**

Dr. López, moved, Mr. Wright seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the May 17, 2012, State Board of Education meeting.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**VI. Report of the Chair**

Mr. Taylor reported on the following:

- **ESEA Waiver:** It was a pleasure to be part of the assembly at the State Capitol on May 29, 2012, when Governor Malloy and U.S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan formally announced the approval of Connecticut's waiver application;
- **Special Meeting:** The Board will hold a special meeting on June 27, 2012, at the Legislative Office Building, Room 1D;
- **I-3 Grant:** Discussion with NASBE, the Center for Evidence-Based Education and the Center for Creative Leadership, concerning our potential involvement in an innovation development grant with the USDOE – resulting in the development of a leadership (principal) network, both in state and with the leadership of the second state selected to participate. NASBE would work with two states to identify four districts in which the achievement of high-need students needs to improve; and
- **Simon Brewer and Joshua Friedman:** Mr. Taylor thanked Joshua Friedman and Simon Brewer for their commitment and contributions to the Board's work for the past year.

## **VII. Report of the Commissioner**

Commissioner Pryor reported on the following:

- Connecticut's ESEA Waiver (a copy of the Commissioner's PowerPoint presentation is included in the official file of this meeting); and
- Performance Evaluation Advisory Committee (PEAC) (a copy of the Commissioner's PowerPoint presentation is included in the official file of this meeting).

## **VIII. Connecticut Technical High School Matters**

Superintendent of Schools Patricia Ciccone reported on the following:

- the role of the CTHSS in meeting the needs of underserved population;
- reconfiguration of the trade technology curriculum;
- funding for part-time adult programs;
- an extended-day program at Bullard-Havens Connecticut Technical High School in Bridgeport for approximately 75 students;
- the need for additional staff;
- upcoming graduation ceremonies; and
- fiscal matters (a copy of this report is in the official file).

## **IX. Items for Discussion**

### **A. Update on Windham Public School System**

Dr. Steven Adamowski, Special Master, Windham Public Schools, presented the report to the Board. Discussion followed.

[Mr. Wright left at 12:15 p.m.]

[The Board recessed its meeting at 1:00 p.m.]

The Board reconvened in public session at 2:00 p.m. Present were Board members Mrs. Camhi, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten, Mr. Jones, Mrs. Keavney-Maruca, Dr. López, Mrs. Luke, Mr. Taylor, and Mr. Vrabely. Mr. Wright, Mr. Jaskiewicz, Mr. Risco, and Mr. Meotti were absent.

**B. Definition of “Excused Absence” and “Unexcused Absence”**

Charlene Russell-Tucker, Chief Operating Officer, Jessica Andrews-Walsh, Education Service Specialist, and Raymond Martin, Education Consultant, presented the report on “Excused Absence” and “Unexcused Absence” to the Board. Discussion followed.

**X. Items Requiring Action**

**A. New London Public School System**

Dr. López moved, Mrs. Camhi seconded, that the State Board of Education adopt the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to subdivision (e) of Section 10-223e of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended by Public Act 12-116, the New London School District (the “District”) is designated as a low achieving district and is subject to intensified supervision and direction by the State Board of Education;

**WHEREAS**, the State Board of Education seeks to improve student performance in the District and seeks to remove the District from the list of low achieving districts referenced in subdivision (e) of Section 10-223e of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended by Public Act 12-116;

**WHEREAS**, a Technical Assistance Team has worked with the District since September 2008 for purposes of monitoring the District’s District Improvement Plan;

**WHEREAS**, on or about February 17, 2012, Mr. Bill Morse, President of the New London Board of Education, and Dr. Nicholas Fischer, Superintendent of Schools in the District, requested intervention by the State Department of Education to address the District’s lack of focus on student achievement and the New London Board of Education’s level of functionality;

**WHEREAS**, in or around March 2012 the Bureau of Accountability and Improvement of the State Department of Education commissioned a governance and management audit of the District, which audit was conducted by Dr. Robert M. Villanova and Dr. Mark Shibles;

**WHEREAS**, the above referenced governance and management audit was submitted to the State Department of Education Bureau of Accountability and Improvement on or about May 7, 2012;

**WHEREAS**, the Commissioner of Education (the “Commissioner”) and other members of the State Department of Education met with the New London Board of Education on or about May 24, 2012 for purposes of discussing the above referenced governance and management audit; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to subdivision (e)(2) of Section 10-223e of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended by Public Act 12-116, instructs the Commissioner to take the following actions pertaining to the New London Board of Education:

- Appoint a special master, selected by the Commissioner, whose authority is consistent with the provisions of Section 138 of Public Act 11-61. The term of such special master shall be for the school year commencing July 1, 2012 only, unless such term is extended by the State Board of Education;
- Require the New London Board of Education to undergo training to improve its operational efficiency and effectiveness as leaders of the District's improvement plan. In addition, the Commissioner shall require the New London Board of Education to submit, no later than January 1, 2013, an annual action plan to the Commissioner outlining how, when and in what manner its effectiveness shall be monitored. Such training is being ordered pursuant to subdivision (e)(2)(M) of Section 10-223e of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended by Public Act 12-116, and is intended to comply with subdivision (i) of Section 10-223e of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended by Public Act 12-116.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**B. Approval of Guidelines and Funding Criteria for Alliance Districts**

Mrs. Luke moved, Dr. López seconded, that the State Board of Education adopts guidelines for Alliance Districts funding in accordance with Public Act 12-116.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**C. Approval of Guidelines for Commissioner’s Network Schools**

Mrs. Luke moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded, that the State Board of Education adopts guidelines for the Commissioner’s Network in accordance with Public Act 12-116, with the correction to the first sentence under “Qualifications”, to read as follows: “In selecting members, the local or regional board of education or the local bargaining unit should ensure that the members they respectively select have sufficient and relevant expertise and experience such that the turnaround plan is likely to be well-designed and effective in improving student performance.”

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**D. Renewal of Charter: Jumoke Academy**

Dr. López moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (g) of Section 10-66bb of the 2012 Supplement to the Connecticut General Statutes, renews the charter of Jumoke Academy July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2017.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**E. Renewal of Charter: Achievement First-Bridgeport**

Mrs. Keavney-Maruca moved, Dr. López seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (g) of Section 10-66bb of the 2012 Supplement to the Connecticut General Statutes, renews the charter of Achievement-First Bridgeport Academy from July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2017, and subject to available funds for additional seats, grants approval to expand the grade levels to add Grades 10-12 from the 2012-13 through 2014-15 school years.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**F. Renewal of Charter: The Bridge Academy**

Dr. López moved, Mrs. Keavney-Maruca seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (g) of Section 10-66bb of the 2012 Supplement to the Connecticut General Statutes, renews the charter of The Bridge Academy from July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2017, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**G. Renewal of Charter: Elm City College Prep Charter School**

Mr. Jones moved, Dr. López seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (g) of Section 10-66bb of the 2012 Supplement to the Connecticut General Statutes, renews the charter of Elm City College Preparatory Charter School July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2017.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**H. Renewal of Charter: Trailblazers Academy**

Mrs. Luke moved, Mrs. Keavney-Maruca seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (g) of Section 10-66bb of the 2012 Supplement to the Connecticut General Statutes, renews the charter of Trailblazers Academy from July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2017, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**I. Renewal of Charter: Amistad Academy**

Mr. Jones moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (g) of Section 10-66bb of the 2012 Supplement to the Connecticut General Statutes, renews the charter of Amistad Academy from July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2017.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**J. Renewal of Charter: Stamford Academy**

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (g) of Section 10-66bb of the 2012 Supplement to the Connecticut General Statutes, renews the charter of Stamford Academy from July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2015, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Pryor noted for the record that he delegated matters related to the renewal of Achievement First charter schools to Department staff members and that he was not involved in the review process or recommendation to the Board.

**K. Retirement, Associate Commissioner, Division of Teaching, Learning and Instructional Leadership**

Mrs. Luke moved, Mr. Jones seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to its Bylaws, accepts with regret the retirement of Marion H. Martinez, Associate Commissioner, Division of Teaching, Learning and Instructional Leadership, effective July 1, 2012; expresses to Dr. Martinez its appreciation for her years of service and contributions to the State Department of Education; and extends best wishes for continued success in her future endeavors.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

On a motion by Mrs. Luke, seconded by Dr. López, the Board voted unanimously to add to the agenda the following items: X.L., Recognition of Simon Brewer; and X.M., Recognition of Joshua Friedman.

**L. Recognition of Simon Brewer**

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten moved, Mrs. Luke seconded, that the State Board of Education adopt the following resolution:

**Whereas,** Section 10-1 of the Connecticut General Statutes provides for the appointment of two student members to the Connecticut State Board of Education; and

**Whereas,** Governor Dannel P. Malloy appointed Simon Brewer of Wilton, Connecticut, to the State Board of Education for a one-year term commencing July 1, 2011; and

**Whereas,** During his tenure, Mr. Brewer has served with distinction and has contributed greatly to the Board's discussions of education policy issues; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the State Board of Education extends to Simon Brewer its appreciation for his commitment to educational excellence and equity in Connecticut public schools and best wishes for success in his future endeavors.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**M. Recognition of Joshua Friedman**

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten moved, Mrs. Luke seconded, that the State Board of Education adopt the following resolution:

**Whereas**, Section 10-1 of the Connecticut General Statutes provides for the appointment of two student members to the Connecticut State Board of Education; and

**Whereas**, Governor Dannel P. Malloy appointed Joshua Friedman of Stamford, Connecticut, to the State Board of Education for a one-year term commencing July 1, 2011; and

**Whereas**, During his tenure, Mr. Friedman has served with distinction and has contributed greatly to the Board's discussions of education policy issues; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the State Board of Education extends to Joshua Friedman its appreciation for his commitment to educational excellence and equity in Connecticut public schools and best wishes for success in his future endeavors.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

## **XI. Financial Matters**

Mrs. Luke moved, Dr. López seconded, that the State Board of Education approves the request for Finance Advisory Committee (FAC) action to transfer \$97,000 from the Development of Mastery Exams Grades 4, 6 and 8 account to the Health Foods Initiative account, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

[Mrs. Keavney-Maruca left the meeting at 3:55 p.m.]

## **XII. Committee Reports**

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

Mrs. Luke reported that the committee will meet on June 12, 2012, at the State Office Building at 9:30 a.m.

### **B. Legislation and Bylaws**

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten reported that they will be meeting next month.

[Mrs. Hopkins-Staten left the meeting at 4:00 p.m.]

### **C. Policy Development**

No Report

### **D. Connecticut Technical High Schools**

No Report

### **E. NASBE**

Mr. Taylor reported that he and Mr. Risco will be meeting June 7-9, 2012, for the NASBE Board meeting.

**F. Ad Hoc Committee on Accountability**

No Report

Chairman Taylor adjourned the meeting at 4:02 p.m.

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