

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

Minutes of Meeting

(approved July 11, 2012)

Special Meeting
June 27, 2012

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, June 27, 2012, at the Legislative Office Building, Room 1D, Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:47 a.m.

Present: Allan Taylor, Chair
Theresa Hopkins-Staton
Simon Brewer
Ellen Camhi
Charles Jaskiewicz
Terry Jones*
Patricia Keavney-Maruca
Estela López
Patricia Luke
Ferdinand Risco
Joseph Vrabely
Stephen Wright

Absent: Joshua Friedman
Michael Meotti, Ex-Officio Designee

II. Public Participation

- 1) Dr. Karissa Niehoff, Executive Director, Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS), and a member of the Performance Evaluation Advisory Committee (PEAC), expressed her strong support for the core requirements in the PEAC proposals.
- 2) Ms. Lisa Lessard, a parent from Waterbury, expressed her concerns about the proper use of funds allocated for education in Waterbury.
- 3) Ms. Mary Loftus-Levine, Executive Director, Connecticut Education Association (CEA), acknowledged the increasingly important role of the State Board of Education, thanked members for their service, and urged them to seek input on a regular basis from Connecticut's public school teachers.

[*Mr. Jones arrived at 10:05 a.m.]

- 4) Dr. Dennis Carrithers, Assistant Executive Director, CAS, spoke in support of agenda item IV.B., Adoption of the School Leadership Standards, and commended the thorough and thoughtful process used to develop these standards.
- 5) Ms. Gwen Samuels, parent and representing the Connecticut Parent Union, expressed her concerns about the following: communication between turnaround committees and School Governance Councils; the relationship between teacher evaluation and schools in need of improvement; Quality Rating Information System for early childhood education programs; and the need for transparency and checks and balances to ensure the success of education reform efforts.
- 6) Dr. Joseph Cirusuolo, Executive Director, Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS), and a member of PEAC, expressed his support for the adoption of the proposed core requirements and conveyed CAPSS' commitment to the implementation phase.
- 7) Ms. Jennifer Alexander, Vice President of Research, ConnCAN, expressed support for the PEAC proposals and expressed hope that all stakeholders will be supportive during the pilot phase and beyond. ConnCAN stands ready to assist in this initiative, Ms. Alexander noted.
- 8) Mr. Richard Baéz, President of the New London Teachers' Association, stated that New London is at a critical stage. As president of the New London Teachers' Association, Mr. Baéz stated that he has been meeting with all stakeholders to discuss how to improve the quality of education in New London. He added that teachers want and need to be part of the conversation and solution in this regard.
- 9) Ms. Patrice McCarthy, Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE), commended the Commissioner and his staff for developing a productive process for the work of PEAC. CABE is optimistic that the core requirements will result in a strong evaluation and support system for teachers and administrators and looks forward to continuing to support this process, Ms. McCarthy added.

III. Consideration of Minutes of the June 6, 2012, State Board of Education Meeting

Mrs. Luke moved, Mr. Wright seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the June 6, 2012, State Board of Education meeting.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Items Requiring Action

A. Adoption of the PEAC Guidelines

Commissioner Pryor presented an overview of the Connecticut Guidelines for Educator Evaluation, dated June 2012.

[The Board recessed the meeting at 12:55 p.m.]

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

Commissioner Pryor announced that in response to the Board's June 6, 2012, action authorizing him to appoint a special master for the New London Public Schools, he has named Dr. Steven Adamowski to serve in that role, effective July 1, 2012, for the 2012-13 school year. Dr. Adamowski will concurrently fulfill his new role in New London and his current responsibilities in Windham under an existing two-year employment agreement.

Dr. López moved, Mrs. Luke seconded that the State Board of Education, pursuant to sections 51 through 56 of P.A. 12-116, amended by sections 23 and 24 of P.A. 12-2 of the June 12 Special Session, and in consultation with the Performance Evaluation Advisory Council (PEAC), adopts guidelines for a model teacher and administration evaluation and support program.

Dr. López moved, Mrs. Luke seconded, to amend the Connecticut Guidelines for Educator Evaluation as follows:

Page 8, Section 2: Core Requirements for the Evaluation of Teachers

Change the second to last sentence to: For the purposes of these Core Requirements, the term "teacher" refers to any teacher serving in a position requiring teacher certification within a district, but not requiring 092 certification.

Page 9, Section 2.1: Level Matrix Rating System

Change roman numerals to bullets under subsection (1)(a).

Page 9, Section 2.2: Teacher Evaluation Process

Change subsection (a) to read: Orientation on process – To begin the process, the principal or designee provides the teacher with materials outlining the evaluation process and other information as appropriate and meets and reviews these materials. The orientation shall not occur later than November 15 of a given school year.

Page 11, Section 2.3: Teacher Evaluation Components

Clarify what is meant under subsection b.1.i.: take into account the academic track record and overall needs and strengths of the students the teacher is teaching that year/semester;

Page 15, (3) Five percent (5%) of a teacher's evaluation shall be based on whole-school student learning indicators or student feedback.

Change subsection (b) 3. to read: School governance councils shall assist in development of whole-school surveys, if applicable, in order to encourage alignment with school improvement goals.

Page 15, (4) Ten percent (10%) of a teacher's evaluation shall be based on parent or peer feedback, including surveys.

Change subsection (a) 3. to read: School governance councils shall assist in development of whole-school surveys, if applicable, in order to encourage alignment with school improvement goals.

Page 17, Section 3.1: Level Matrix Rating System

Change roman numerals to bullets under subsection (1)(a).

Page 19, Section 3.2: Administrator Evaluation Process

Change subsection (4)(b), first sentence, to read: End-of-year conference – The superintendent or designee and the administrator meet to discuss all evidence collected to date.

Page 23, Section 3.7: Orientation Programs

Change the sentence to read: The local or regional board of education or regional educational service center for the school district shall offer annual orientation programs regarding the administrator evaluation and support program to administrators who are employed by such local or regional board of education and whose performance is being evaluated and shall train administrators who are employed by such local or regional board of education and who are conducting performance evaluations.

Page 23, Section 3.7: Orientation Programs

Change the first sentence to read: As provided in Sec. 10-151b of the 2012 Supplement (C.G.S.) as amended by section 51 of P.A. 12-116, "The superintendent of each local or regional board of education shall annually evaluate or cause to be evaluated each Student and Educator Support Specialist", in accordance with the requirements of this section.

Page 39, Appendix 7: Example of a matrix rating system

Change the matrix to match the 4-level matrix outlined in the Guidelines.

		Practice Rating			
		4	3	2	1
Outcome Rating	4	Rate Exemplary	Rate Exemplary	Rate Proficient	<i>Gather further information</i>
	3	Rate Exemplary	Rate Proficient	Rate Developing	Rate Below Standard
	2	Rate Proficient	Rate Developing	Rate Developing	Rate Below Standard
	1	<i>Gather further information</i>	Rate Below Standard	Rate Below Standard	Rate Below Standard

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

Motion carried unanimously.

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

Motion as amended carried unanimously.

B. Adoption of the School Leadership Standards

Dr. López moved, Mrs. Luke seconded, that the State Board of Education adopts the 2012 Common Core of Leading: Connecticut School Leadership Standards, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Mr. Wright seconded, that the Board amend the first indicator under Appendix D, Performance Expectation 3, Organizational Systems and Safety, to read as follows: "Develops, implements, and evaluates a comprehensive safety and security plan in collaboration with the district, public safety departments and community."

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

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

Motion carried unanimously.

[Mr. Jones left the meeting at 3:22 p.m.]

C. Definition of "Excused Absence" and "Unexcused Absence"

Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Mrs. Luke seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-198b of the 2012 Supplement to the Connecticut General Statutes, adopts the "Definitions of Excused and Unexcused Absences," as set forth in the Commissioner's June 27, 2012, memorandum to the State Board of Education, with the following correction:

Replace the sentence under the section titled "Disciplinary Absences," with the following sentence: "Absences that are the result of school or district disciplinary action are excluded from these definitions."

and directs the Commissioner to take necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

The Board postponed its discussion of the Modified Assessment System to the July 11, 2012, meeting.

Chairman Taylor adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Stefan Pryor, Secretary