

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

Minutes of Meeting

(approved August 9, 2012)

July 11, 2012

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, July 11, 2012, at the Legislative Office Building, Room 1D, Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT.

I. Call to Order

Vice Chairperson Hopkins-Staten called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

Present: Theresa Hopkins-Staten, Vice-Chairperson
Ellen Camhi
Terry Jones
Patricia Keavney-Maruca
Estela López
Patricia Luke
Ferdinand Risco
Rebecca Salustri
Joseph Vrabely
Stephen Wright

Absent: Charles Jaskiewicz
Allan Taylor, Chair

Attorney Karen Flanagan administered the oath of office to Rebecca Salustri, student member of the State Board of Education.

II. Public Participation

1. Liz Aaronsohn, Retired Teacher, expressed her concerns about the ESEA waiver, particularly with regard to releasing information to military recruiters, the impact of testing on the level of teaching and attracting teacher to urban schools, and the use of Network funds.
2. Aram Ayalon, parent and member of New Britain Board of Education, expressed his concerns about Connecticut school reform, including disparities among districts (e.g. class size), and its impact on narrowing the curriculum.

3. Chinma Uche, teacher and president of the Connecticut Computer Science Teacher Association, expressed her concerns about promoting Computer Science education for all children.

4. Jacob Werblow, New Britain parent, expressed his concerns about Connecticut school reform, including the need for preschool seats and adequate funding, as well as the number of homeless children.

III. Consent Agenda

Mrs. Luke moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the Board approve the following Consent Agenda items: III.A, Approval of Modification of a program in Business Office Administration, leading to an Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree, Sanford-Brown College; and III.B., Approval of Accreditation of a program in Criminal Justice, leading to the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree, University of New Haven.

A. Approval of Modification of a program in Business Office Administration, leading to an Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree, Sanford-Brown College

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Public Act 11-48 Section 244, accept modifications to a program in Business Office Administration – Medical, leading to an Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree to be offered by Sanford Brown College.

B. Approval of Accreditation of a program in Criminal Justice, leading to the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree, University of New Haven

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Public Act 11-48 Section 244, accredit a program in Criminal Justice, leading to a Doctor of Philosophy degree (Ph.D.) to be offered by the University of New Haven, for a period of time concurrent with institutional accreditation.

VOTE ON: IN FAVOR: Camhi, Hopkins-Staten, Jones, Keavney-Maruca, López,
MOTIONS: Luke, Risco, Vrabely, Wright
 OPPOSED: 0
 ABSTAINED: 0
 ABSENT: Jaskiewicz, Taylor

Motions carried unanimously.

IV. Executive Session

The Board did not meet in Executive Session.

V. Consideration of Minutes of the June 27, 2012, Special Meeting

Commissioner Pryor called to the Board's attention the language on Page 4 of the minutes, in reference to Page 11, Section 2.3 (1)(b)1.b.i., "Teacher Evaluation Components," of the guidelines for a model teacher and administrator evaluation and support program. This language was developed in response to the Board's request for clarification, and now reads: "Take into account the academic track record and overall needs and strengths of the students the teacher is teaching that year/semester;"

Mrs. Luke moved, Mrs. Keavney-Maruca seconded that the Board approve the minutes of the June 27, 2012, Special Meeting.

VOTE ON MOTION:	IN FAVOR:	Hopkins-Staten, Jones, Keavney-Maruca, López, Luke, Risco, Vrabely, Wright
	OPPOSED:	Camhi
	ABSTAINED:	0
	ABSENT:	Jaskiewicz, Taylor

Motion carried.

VI. Report of the Chair

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten referred to Chairman Taylor's written report, noting the following:

- **CTHSS Graduations:** Several State Board of Education members participated in the recent CTHSS graduation ceremonies.
- **Annual Retreat:** The Board's Annual Retreat is scheduled for August 15. The agenda planning committee will complete its work soon and submit a draft agenda for the Board's review.
- **Commissioner's Back-to-School Conference:** August 22, 2012, at 9:00 a.m. All members are invited to attend.
- **CABE Back-to-School Session with SBE:** CABE invites members of the State Board of Education to join the CABE Board of Directors at their initial meeting each school year. This allows the Board, Commissioner, and CABE to hold an informal discussion of priorities in the coming school year. All are welcome. This meeting will be held at CABE headquarters in Wethersfield on September 13.

VII. Report of the Commissioner

Commissioner Pryor stated that 1,000 new early childhood slots have been allocated and, with the assistance of the School Readiness Councils, it is expected that all seats will be occupied by the Fall of 2012. He noted that, contingent on the allocation of adequate resources, he is hopeful that the number of seats will continue to expand in the future.

VIII. Connecticut Technical High School Matters

No report was given.

IX. Items for Discussion

A. Modified Assessment System

Charlene Russell-Tucker, Chief Operating Officer; Anne Louise Thompson, Chief of the Bureau of Special Education; and Joe Amenta, Education Consultant, presented the report. Discussion followed.

X. Items Requiring Action

Mrs. Luke moved, Mrs. Keavney-Maruca seconded, that the State Board of Education adopt the following:

A. Recognition of Teachers Who Achieved National Board Certification during 2011-12 School Year

X.A.1., Cheryl Laferriere

Whereas, Cheryl Laferriere, a middle school teacher at Newtown Middle School in Newtown, CT, has demonstrated exemplary teaching skills;

Whereas, She has achieved National Board Certification through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards;

Whereas, She serves as a model of accomplished teaching for other educators in her district and state; and

Whereas, She has brought great honor to her school district, her community and her profession; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Connecticut State Board of Education honors Cheryl Laferriere with great appreciation for her contributions to strengthening the profession of teaching and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

X.A.2., Sarah Lynch

Whereas, Sarah Lynch, an elementary school teacher at Wolcott Elementary School in West Hartford, CT, has demonstrated exemplary teaching skills;

Whereas, She has achieved National Board Certification through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards;

Whereas, She serves as a model of accomplished teaching for other educators in her district and state; and

Whereas, She has brought great honor to her school district, her community and her profession; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Connecticut State Board of Education honors Sarah Lynch with great appreciation for her contributions to strengthening the profession of teaching and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

X.A.3., Ana Zabler

Whereas, Ana Zabler, a high school teacher at Wilton High School in Wilton, CT, has demonstrated exemplary teaching skills;

Whereas, She has achieved National Board Certification through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards;

Whereas, She serves as a model of accomplished teaching for other educators in her district and state; and

Whereas, She has brought great honor to her school district, her community and her profession; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Connecticut State Board of Education honors Ana Zabler with great appreciation for her contributions to strengthening the profession of teaching and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON IN FAVOR: Camhi, Hopkins-Staten, Jones, Keavney-Maruca, López,
MOTIONS: Luke, Risco, Vrabely, Wright
 OPPOSED: 0
 ABSTAINED: 0
 ABSENT: Jaskiewicz, Taylor

Motions carried unanimously.

B. Recognition of 2011 Blue Ribbon Schools

Mrs. Luke moved, Mrs. Keavney-Maruca seconded that the State Board of Education adopt the following:

X.B.1., The Brownstone Intermediate School, Portland, CT

Whereas, The Brownstone Intermediate School in Portland, CT, has demonstrated dramatic improvement in student performance on state assessments in reading and mathematics;

Whereas, This school was honored as a 2011 Blue Ribbon School by the United States Department of Education;

Whereas, The Brownstone Intermediate School has brought great honor to Portland and the State of Connecticut; and

Whereas, The school was honored at festivities in Washington, D.C., on November 15, 2011; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Connecticut State Board of Education honors the Brownstone Intermediate School with great appreciation for its achievements and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

X.B.2., The Helen Keller Middle School, Easton, CT

Whereas, The Helen Keller Middle School in Easton, CT, has demonstrated dramatic improvement in student performance on state assessments in reading and mathematics;

Whereas, This school was honored as a 2011 Blue Ribbon School by the United States Department of Education;

Whereas, The Helen Keller Middle School has brought great honor to Easton and the State of Connecticut; and

Whereas, The school was honored at festivities in Washington, D.C., on November 15, 2011; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Connecticut State Board of Education honors the Helen Keller Middle School with great appreciation for its achievements and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

X.B.3, The Kelly Lane Intermediate School, Granby, CT

Whereas, The Kelly Lane Intermediate School in Granby, CT, has demonstrated dramatic improvement in student performance on state assessments in reading and mathematics;

Whereas, This school was honored as a 2011 Blue Ribbon School by the United States Department of Education;

Whereas, The Kelly Lane Intermediate School has brought great honor to Granby and the State of Connecticut; and

Whereas, The school was honored at festivities in Washington, D.C., on November 15, 2011; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Connecticut Board of Education honors the Kelly Lane Intermediate School with great appreciation for its achievements and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON IN FAVOR: Camhi, Hopkins-Staten, Jones, Keavney-Maruca, López,
MOTIONS: Luke, Risco, Vrabely, Wright
 OPPOSED: 0
 ABSTAINED: 0
 ABSENT: Jaskiewicz, Taylor

Motions carried unanimously.

C. Recognition of Career and Technical Student Organizations

Mrs. Luke moved, Mrs. Keavney-Maruca seconded that the State Board of Education adopt the following:

Whereas, Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) are a co-curricular, integral part of the local, state and national career and technical education programs;

Whereas, The development of individual student leadership skills is the keystone of these organizations; and

Whereas, All CTSO chapters were asked to identify an outstanding service project; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Connecticut Board of Education recognizes the following CTSO Outstanding Service Award Recipients:

Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA), Naugatuck High School, Naugatuck
Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Manchester High School, Manchester
Formerly known as Future Farmers of America (FFA), Glastonbury High School,
Glastonbury
Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), Lyman Hall High School, Wallingford
Technology Student Association (TSA), Windham Middle School, Windham

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON MOTION: IN FAVOR: Camhi, Hopkins-Staten, Jones, Keavney-Maruca, López,
Luke, Risco, Vrabely, Wright
OPPOSED: 0
ABSTAINED: 0
ABSENT: Jaskiewicz, Taylor

Motion carried unanimously.

D. TESOL Test Adoption and Standard Setting

Mrs. Luke moved, Dr. López seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Subsection (b) of Section 10-145f of the Connecticut General Statutes adopts the new Praxis II English to Speakers of Other Languages (0361) test and establishes the minimum passing standard effective September 1, 2013, and directs the Commissioner to take necessary action.

VOTE ON MOTION: IN FAVOR: Camhi, Hopkins-Staten, Jones, Keavney-Maruca, López,
Luke, Risco, Vrabely, Wright
OPPOSED: 0
ABSTAINED: 0
ABSENT: Jaskiewicz, Taylor

Motion carried unanimously.

[Mrs. Luke left the meeting at 11:35 a.m.]

E. Music Test Adoption and Standard Setting

Mr. Wright moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded that the Board, pursuant to Subsection (b) of Section 10-145f of the Connecticut General Statutes, adopts the new Praxis II Music: Content and Instruction (0114) test and establishes the minimum passing standard effective September 1, 2012, and directs the Commissioner to take necessary action.

VOTE ON MOTION: IN FAVOR: Camhi, Hopkins-Staten, Jones, Keavney-Maruca, López, Risco, Vrabely, Wright
OPPOSED: 0
ABSTAINED: 0
ABSENT: Jaskiewicz, Luke, Taylor

Motion carried unanimously.

F. Application for Funds: Stepping-Up Technology Implementation Grant

Dr. López moved, Mrs. Keavney-Maruca seconded, that the Board approves the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, Stepping-Up Technology Implementation Grant (CFDA 84.327F) dated July 5, 2012, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON MOTION: IN FAVOR: Camhi, Hopkins-Staten, Jones, Keavney-Maruca, López, Risco, Vrabely, Wright
OPPOSED: 0
ABSTAINED: 0
ABSENT: Jaskiewicz, Luke, Taylor

Motion carried unanimously.

[Mrs. Luke returned to the meeting at 11:50 a.m.]

G. Revisions to Guidelines for Commissioner's Network

Dr. López moved, Mrs. Luke seconded, that the Board adopts *revised and updated* guidelines for the Commissioner's Network in accordance with Public Act 12-116 and revisions made in the General Assembly's budget implementer bill, passed on June 12, 2012.

VOTE ON MOTION: IN FAVOR: Camhi, Hopkins-Staten, Jones, Keavney-Maruca, López, Luke, Risco, Vrabely, Wright
OPPOSED: 0
ABSTAINED: 0
ABSENT: Jaskiewicz, Taylor

Motion carried unanimously.

H. Revisions to Guidelines for Alliance Districts

Mrs. Keavney-Maruca moved, Mr. Wright seconded, that the Board adopts *revised and updated* guidelines for the Commissioner's Network in accordance with Public Act 12-116 and revisions made in the General Assembly's budget implementer bill, passed on June 12, 2012.

VOTE ON MOTION: IN FAVOR: Camhi, Hopkins-Staten, Jones, Keavney-Maruca, López, Luke, Risco, Vrabely, Wright
OPPOSED: 0
ABSTAINED: 0
ABSENT: Jaskiewicz, Taylor

Motion carried unanimously.

XI. Financial Matters

Mr. Mahoney, Chief Financial Officer, reported that the Department is starting to work on the next Biennial Budget and will begin discussions with the Board between September and November 2012.

XII. Committee Reports

A. Finance, Audit and Department Matters

Mrs. Luke referred to the minutes of the June 12, 2012, committee meeting. She also reported that Internal Audit is still in the process of looking for a Director of that office.

Mrs. Luke also reported that Levy Gillespie, Equal Opportunity Employment Director, Affirmative Action, is working with the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) on developing a plan that CHRO will find acceptable. Mrs. Hopkins-Staten requested a presentation on the plan in the fall 2012. Mrs. Luke stated that she will discuss this with Mr. Gillespie.

B. Legislation and Bylaws

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten reported that the committee met on July 11, 2012, and discussed PA 12-116 Implementation: State Board of Education Responsibilities. She noted that the full Board will receive a copy of the report.

C. Policy Development

Dr. López reported that the committee meet prior to the June 27 State Board meeting. They discussed "Excused/Unexcused Absences."

D. Connecticut Technical High Schools

Mr. Vrabely reported the committee will be meeting on July 25, 2012, in Middletown.

E. NASBE

Mr. Risco reported that NASBE is going through changes to be more active and receptive to members' needs, and that Connecticut still remains a strong leader.

Mr. Wright acknowledged that it is the 40th Anniversary for Title IX.

F. Ad Hoc Committee on Accountability

Vice Chairperson Hopkins-Staten adjourned the meeting at 12:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Stefan Pryor, Secretary