

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

**Minutes
of the
November 7, 2012, Meeting**

(approved December 5, 2012)

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, November 7, 2012, in Room 307 of 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-Staton
Andreea Dinicu
Terry Jones
Patricia Keavney-Maruca
Estela López
Patricia Luke
Ferdinand Risco
Rebecca Salustri
Robert Trefry, ex officio
Joseph Vrabely
Stephen Wright

Absent: Ellen Camhi
Charles Jaskiewicz

II. Public Participation

- 1) Jennifer Alexander, Vice President for Research, ConnCAN, distributed a publication titled, "The Roadmap to Closing the Gap 2012-2020," and spoke about the need to communicate the urgency of addressing Connecticut's achievement gap.
- 2) The Board and State Department of Education recognized former Interim Commissioner of Education George A. Coleman, and thanked him for his years of service and leadership. Mr. Coleman's portrait was hung in the State Board of Education Conference Room alongside all former commissioners.

III. Consent Agenda

Mrs. Luke moved, Mrs. Keavney-Maruca seconded, that the Board approve the following Consent Agenda items: III.A., Approval of Extension of Licensure and Modification of a Program in Medical Technology, leading to a Bachelor of Science Degree, University of Bridgeport; III.B., Approval of Accreditation of a program in Organizational Studies, leading to a Bachelor of Science Degree, to be offered on-ground and online, Goodwin College; III.C., Approval of Licensure of a program in Public Policy and Advocacy, leading to a Bachelor of Arts Degree, University of Saint Joseph; III.D., Approval of Licensure and Accreditation of a Program in Histology, leading to an Associate of Science Degree, to be offered on-ground and online, Goodwin College; III.E., Approval of Licensure and Accreditation of a Program in National Security Studies, leading to a Bachelor of Science Degree, University of New Haven; and III.F., Adoption of Technical Legislative Proposals.

A. Approval of Extension of Licensure and Modification of a Program in Medical Technology, leading to a Bachelor of Science Degree, University of Bridgeport

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Public Act 11-48 Section 244, modify a program from Medical Technology to Medical Laboratory Science, leading to a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree, to be offered by the University of Bridgeport, and extend the licensure of the program for a period of one year, until November 30, 2013.

B. Approval of Accreditation of a program in Organizational Studies, leading to a Bachelor of Science Degree, to be offered on-ground and online, Goodwin College

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

C. Approval of Licensure of a program in Public Policy and Advocacy, leading to a Bachelor of Arts Degree, University of Saint Joseph

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Public Act 11-48 Section 244, license a program in Public Policy and Advocacy, leading to a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree, to be offered by the University of Saint Joseph for a period of three years, until November 30, 2015.

D. Approval of Licensure and Accreditation of a Program in Histology, leading to an Associate of Science Degree, to be offered on-ground and online, Goodwin College

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Public Act 11-48 Section 244, license and accredit a program in Histology, leading to an Associate of Science (A.S.) degree, to be offered by Goodwin College on-ground and online for a period of time concurrent with institutional accreditation.

E. Approval of Licensure and Accreditation of a Program in National Security Studies, leading to a Bachelor of Science Degree, University of New Haven

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

F. Adoption of Technical Legislative Proposals

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education adopts the 2013 Technical Legislative Proposals, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motions carried unanimously.

IV. Consideration of Minutes of the October 3, 2012, State Board of Education Meeting

Mrs. Luke moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the Board approve the Minutes of the October 3, 2012, State Board of Education meeting.

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

Motion carried.

On a motion by Dr. López, seconded by Mr. Wright, the Board voted unanimously to consider agenda item XI.A. at this time.

XI.A. Approval of Extension of Institutional Accreditation – Lincoln College of New England

Dr. López moved, Mr. Wright seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Public Act 11- 48 Section 244, extend accreditation to Lincoln College of New England until December 31, 2013.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

[Mrs. Hopkins-Staten left the meeting at 10:58 a.m.]

V. Financial Matters

A. Capital Budget Request

Mrs. Luke moved, Mrs. Keavney-Maruca seconded, that the Board approves the Capital Budget Request for Fiscal Years 2013-14 and 2014-15, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

[Mrs. Hopkins-Staten returned to the meeting at 11:01 a.m.]

B. Current Services Budget

Dr. López moved, Mrs. Luke seconded, that the Board pursuant to Section 4-77 of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the Current Services Budget Request for the Fiscal Year 2013-14 and Fiscal Year 2014-15 biennium, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Budget Reduction Options

Mr. Vrabely moved, Mr. Risco seconded, that the Board, pursuant to the directive from the Office of Policy and Management, submits the Budget Reduction Options for Fiscal Year 2013-14, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Report of the Chair

Chairperson Allan Taylor referred to his written report, which covered the following topics:

- Update on the 2012 NASBE Convention;
- TOY Ceremony at the Bushnell Theater, November 15, 2012. Mr. Taylor, Mrs. Camhi, Miss Dinicu, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten, Mr. Jones, Mrs. Keavney-Maruca, Mr. Vrabely and Mr. Wright will attend. Mr. Taylor will present plaques to each of the teachers, and Miss Dinicu has been asked to make remarks;
- On November 16, 2012, the State Board of Education will host a session at the CABE/CAPSS Convention at the Mystic Marriott in Groton. Joining me will be Mr. Wright and Mrs. Luke. The Board will use this opportunity to discuss with conference participants the implementation of the Common Core Standards;
- Theresa Hopkins-Staten will make opening remarks at a forum to be held at SERC on November 15 in recognition of National Parental Involvement Day; and
- Mr. Risco will be resigning from membership on the State Board of Education due to a job relocation. Mr. Taylor, on behalf of the Board, thanked Mr. Risco for his valuable service to the Board and wished him success in his new position.

VII. Report of the Commissioner

Commissioner Stefan Pryor reported on the following:

- Hurricane Sandy and its impact on Connecticut's school district operations between October 29 and November 5, 2012. Commissioner Pryor thanked Gary Pescosolido and other staff of the State Department of Education for their assistance in communicating with districts throughout the storm. Discussion ensued regarding the potential value of convening a meeting with representatives of Northeast Utilities and United Illuminating and school superintendents to discuss processes regarding power outages.

- Five-year Comprehensive Plan. It is anticipated that the Policy Development Committee will take a lead role in the development of the next Five-year Comprehensive Plan. Also, the Board will be required to appoint an Advisory Board to assist in the plan's development. The process will begin soon. Board members requested that the planning process include diversity initiatives.
- Teacher of the Year Ceremony. Commissioner Pryor noted that he was pleased that many Board members plan to attend the ceremony on November 15, 2012. He noted that he has met with past Teachers of the Year as well as the semifinalists in the 2013 competition to solicit their input on education policy matters, including the new teacher evaluation system. This input is invaluable, and it is the Commissioner's intent to make this a real partnership.
- Alliance District Update. Chief of Staff Adam Goldfarb and Bureau Chief Lol Fearon delivered a PowerPoint presentation on the status of Alliance Districts and the monitoring protocol for student achievement and adult practices. A copy of the presentation is included in the official file of this meeting.

VIII. Items for Discussion

There were no items scheduled for discussion on the agenda.

IX. Connecticut Technical High School Matters

Robert J. Trefry, Chairperson, Technical High School Board, presented a report to the Board under Committee Reports (agenda item XII).

[Rebecca Salustri left the meeting at 11:38 a.m.]

On a motion by Mrs. Luke, seconded by Mr. Risco, the Board voted unanimously to move into executive session at 11:38 a.m. for the purposes of discussion pending litigation (*Sheff v. O'Neill*) and personnel matters (proposed appointment of Chief Academic Officer and Chief Turnaround Officer).

X. Executive Session

Present in executive session were Board Members Allan Taylor, Chair; Theresa Hopkins-Staten, Andreea Dinicu, Terry Jones, Patricia Keavney-Maruca, Estela López (left meeting at 12:30 p.m.), Patricia Luke (left during executive session), Ferdinand Risco, Robert Trefry, ex officio, Joseph Vrabely and Stephen Wright. Also present for all or part of executive session were Commissioner Pryor, Chief Operating Officer Charlene Russell-Tucker, Assistant Attorney General Jane Comerford, Attorney Robin Cecere, and Bureau Chief Mark Linabury. The Board discussed pending litigation (i.e., *Sheff v. O'Neill*) and two proposed appointments (Chief Turnaround Officer and Chief Academic Officer).

On a motion by Mr. Risco, seconded by Mr. Vrabely, the Board voted unanimously to reconvene in public session at 1:30 p.m.

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Present: Mr. Taylor, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten, Miss Dinicu, Mr. Jones, Mrs. Keavney-Maruca, Mr. Risco, Mr. Trefry, Mr. Vrabely and Mr. Wright. Absent: Mrs. Camhi, Mr. Jaskiewicz, Dr. López, Mrs. Luke and Miss Salustri.

XI. Items Requiring Action

B. Appointment of Chief Turnaround Officer

Mr. Risco moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Section 10-3a of the Connecticut General Statutes and Article IV of its Bylaws, appoints Debra Kurshan as Chief Turnaround Officer, State Department of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action, effective November 7, 2012.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Appointment of Chief Academic Officer

Mr. Jones moved, Mr. Risco seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Section 10-3a of the Connecticut General Statutes and Article IV of its Bylaws, appoints Dr. Dianna Roberge-Wetzell as Chief Academic Officer, State Department of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action, effective November 7, 2012.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

XII. Committee Reports

A. Finance, Audit and Department Matters

No report.

B. Legislation and Bylaws

No report.

C. Policy Development

No report.

D. Connecticut Technical High Schools

Mr. Trefry summarized the first meeting of the new Technical High School System Board, held on November 2, 2012. He described the composition of the Board, including those members appointed by the State Board of Education; those appointed by Governor Malloy, upon nomination by the Connecticut Employment and Training Commission; and the Commissioner of the Department of Labor and the Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development, as established in statute. Mr. Trefry noted that all members participated at the first meeting, and stated how impressed he was with the members' credentials and enthusiasm for serving on the board. He reviewed the agenda for the meeting, and noted that a retreat has tentatively been scheduled for November 26, 2012.

E. NASBE

Mr. Wright noted that he participated at the annual convention and was confident that Connecticut is moving in the right direction. Those states that received Race to the Top funds, however, were more advanced in terms of data collection. Mr. Risco noted that he, too, attended, and this would be his last meeting on the Board of Directors due to his resignation from the State Board of Education. He urged his colleagues to continue to support NASBE and remain involved in the organization.

F. Ad Hoc Committee on Accountability

Dr. López noted that the committee met on October 15, 2012, to discuss the status of the Alliance District application and review process.

Chairman Taylor adjourned the meeting at 1:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Stefan Pryor, Secretary