

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

**Minutes
of the
March 6, 2013, Meeting**
(approved, as amended, April 15, 2013)

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, March 6, 2013, in Room 307 of the State Office Building, Hartford, Connecticut.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:48 a.m.

Present: Allan Taylor, Chair
Theresa Hopkins-Staten
Andreea Dinicu
Charles Jaskiewicz
Terry Jones*
Patricia Keavney-Maruca
Estela López
Patricia Luke
Rebecca Salustri*
Robert Trefry, ex officio
Joseph Vrabely
Stephen Wright

Absent: None

Chairman Taylor read the following statement in memory of Ellen Camhi:

The State Board of Education and State Department of Education are deeply saddened by the sudden passing of Ellen Camhi. A member of the State Board of Education since March 2011, Ellen brought to the Board her wisdom; many years of experience in public education and the policy arena; and a fierce commitment to providing opportunities that would result in significant improvements to academic achievement for all students, including those who need greater assistance. She also shared her passion for expanding early childhood education and making it accessible to all students, and her desire to make the State Board of Education "more relevant" across the State. Equally important, Mrs. Camhi shared with us her wonderful sense of humor, her positive spirit, her radiant smile, and her great warmth.

Ellen genuinely cared about others. She loved her family and never missed the opportunity to tell stories about her sons and their families, and to share her excitement about visits to California and Colorado. She cared deeply about students and their success and about the teachers and administrators entrusted with their care. She cared about “her” Stamford community and those charged with responsibility for its governance. She cared about the people of the State of Connecticut, and she worked tirelessly to ensure that those in office provided the leadership required to protect the rights of all.

Ellen appeared before the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee in March 2011, after having been nominated for membership on the State Board of Education by Governor Dannel P. Malloy. During that hearing, she spoke about many issues that were dear to her. In retrospect, her testimony to the Committee foreshadowed the important education reform efforts that would take place in the coming years. When asked about her qualifications for membership on the Board, Mrs. Camhi replied, “My number one asset, as well as my number one motivation to serve on the State Board, is that I care deeply and passionately about public education in Connecticut.” How true; this passion surfaced in all of her work on the Board, including her membership on the Technical High School Committee, Legislation Committee, and Ad Hoc Committee on Accountability.

We mourn the loss Ellen Camhi. She will be sorely missed, but always fondly remembered.

*Terry Jones arrived at 9:52 a.m.

II. Public Participation

- 1) Donald Coolican, East Hampton, proposed that the General Assembly consider requiring a larger number of classroom hours, rather than a specific number of school days, should be considered by the General Assembly. This would enhance the amount of instructional time in a school year. A copy of Mr. Coolican’s prepared remarks is contained in the official file of this meeting.
- 2) Ann Marie Mulready, Connecticut Reading Association (CRA), invited Board members to the CRA Legislative Reception on March 27, 2013.
- 3) Tom Springfellow, spoke on the importance of valuing diversity in schools and recommended several articles and books pertaining to numerous education topics.

*Rebecca Salustri arrived at 10:00 a.m.

Board member Patricia Luke, introduced Gloria McCree, Director of Internal Audit, and Richard Lemay, who served as the acting Director prior to Ms. McCree’s arrival, and thanked them for their hard work.

By unanimous consent, the Board considered agenda item VIII.A. at this time.

VIII. Items Requiring Action

A. West Hartford Plan to Increase Racial Diversity In its Unique Schools

Mrs. Luke moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded, that the State Board of Education supports the West Hartford Board of Education’s plan to promote racial diversity in its “unique schools” and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

By unanimous consent, the Board considered agenda item III., Consent Agenda, at this time.

III. Consent Agenda

Mrs. Luke moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded, that the Board approve the following Consent Agenda items: III.A., Approval of Adult Education State Plan; III.B., Receipt of Report of the Connecticut Advisory Council for School Administrator Professional Standards; and III.C., Receipt of Report of the Connecticut Advisory Council for Teacher Professional Standards.

A. Approval of Adult Education State Plan

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to its role as the state education agency (SEA) for Connecticut, approves the revised Connecticut State Plan for Adult Education and Family Literacy, Title II of the Workforce Investment Act for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

B. Receipt of Report of the Connecticut Advisory Council for School Administrator Professional Standards

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education receives the 2012 Annual Report of the Connecticut Advisory Council for School Administrator Professional Standards, submitted in accordance with the requirements of subsection (e) of Section 10-144e of the Connecticut General Statutes, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

C. Receipt of Report of the Connecticut Advisory Council for Teacher Professional Standards

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education receives the 2012 Annual Report of the Connecticut Advisory Council for Teacher Professional Standards, submitted in accordance with the requirements of subsection (e) of Section 10-144d of the Connecticut General Statutes, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motions carried unanimously.

IV. Executive Session

The Board did not meet in Executive Session.

V. Consideration of Minutes of the February 6, 2013, State Board of Education Meeting

Mrs. Luke moved, Mrs. Keavney-Maruca seconded, that the Board approve the Minutes of the February 6, 2013, meeting.

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

Motion carried.
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VI. Report of the Chair

Mr. Taylor reported the following:

1. This is Mrs. Luke's last meeting as a member of the State Board of Education. In Mrs. Luke's honor, on a motion by Mrs. Hopkins-Staten, seconded by Mr. Wright, the Board voted unanimously to add to the agenda the following item.

VIII.B., Resolution in Honor of Patricia B. Luke

Whereas, Patricia B. Luke was first appointed to serve on the Connecticut State Board of Education in 2001 and has served with distinction for the past twelve years; and

Whereas, During her tenure, she has served in numerous leadership roles, including member of the Policy Development Committee and Chairperson of the Finance, Audit and Department Matters Committee; and

Whereas, Mrs. Luke's extensive knowledge, experience, wisdom and leadership have been invaluable to the State Board of Education and the State Department of Education in their efforts to improve the quality of education and close the achievement gap; and

Whereas, Mrs. Luke has had a long and exemplary career in public education at the local, state and national levels; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the State Board of Education extends to Patricia B. Luke its sincere appreciation for her years of service and commitment to achieving educational excellence and equity, and its best wishes for happiness in the future.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. A hearing on the charter renewal application for the Achievement First Hartford Academy will be held in March; a member of the Board must preside over the hearing.
3. The Ad Hoc Committee to Review the State Board of Education Bylaws met last week and will be making recommendations to the full Board for its consideration.
4. Mr. Taylor will attend the March 21-22 meeting of the New England Secondary School Consortium in Norwood, Massachusetts.
5. The Connecticut Council for Education Reform will hold a “Best Practices Forum” on March 28, at the Omni Hotel in New Haven. Board members have been invited to attend this forum.
6. The Connecticut Reading Association has invited members to attend its Legislative Reception on March 27, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the Old Judiciary Room, State Capitol Building. Jason Rojas of the 9th District will be honored at that time.

VII. Report of the Commissioner

Commissioner Pryor reported the following:

1. He expressed his personal gratitude to Mrs. Luke for her years of service.
2. The federal sequestration will impact approximately 15 State Department of Education federal grants. The Department is continuing to decipher the impact of these reductions on programs and staffing and will communicate with districts in the near future.
3. Most legislative bills submitted by the State Board of Education have been raised. He highlighted “An Act Concerning Unleashing Innovation in Connecticut Schools” and the impact on districts of removing red tape.
4. The Newtown Board of Education has requested a Connecticut Mastery Test Waiver, which has been communicated to the United States Department of Education (USDE). The Department received a favorable response from Assistant Secretary Deb Delisle. The Connecticut General Assembly is expected to ask the State Board of Education to consider the request made by Newtown. In anticipation of such request from the General Assembly, Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Mrs. Keavney-Maruca seconded, that the Board add to the agenda item VIII.C., Authorization to Not Administer the 2013 Connecticut Mastery Test in Newton, and adopt the following resolution:

VIII.C., Authorization to Not Administer the 2013 Connecticut Mastery Test in Newtown

Whereas, The Newtown Board of Education has requested that students in Newtown not be required to take the Connecticut Mastery Test in school year 2012-2013; and

Whereas, The State Board of Education supports that request; and

Whereas, The Connecticut General Assembly is considering legislation authorizing the State Board of Education to grant such a request and any related provisions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That contingent upon approval of such legislation by the Connecticut General Assembly, the State Board of Education authorizes the Newtown Board of Education not to administer the Connecticut Mastery Tests during school year 2012-2013 and authorizes the Commissioner to take any action necessary to effect this authorization.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

5. On February 26, 2013, the Department hosted a forum for the Schools of Distinction. This forum provided the opportunity to recognize schools for their successes and the chance to share best practices with others. 97 schools from 54 districts participated in this event. Commissioner Pryor commended Chief Turnaround Officer Debra Kurshan for her leadership.
6. Adam Goldfarb, Chief of Staff, updated the Board on the strategic planning process. Mr. Goldfarb thanked the Board's Policy Development Committee for its guidance and involvement in the process. He noted that a department-wide session was held to encourage all staff members to share their ideas about the direction of the agency and how best to support the mission of the State Board of Education.

IX. Items for Discussion

There were no items for discussion.

XI. Committee Reports

A. Finance, Audit and Department Matters

Mrs. Luke noted that the committee is scheduled to meet tomorrow morning.

B. Legislation and Bylaws

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten noted that the committee did not meet this morning. She informed the board that the Ad Hoc Committee to Review the State Board of Education Bylaws met last week and will be presenting recommendations to the full Board for its consideration.

C. Policy Development

Dr. Lopez noted that the committee will not meet this afternoon. State Department of Education staff members are compiling additional information for the committee's review.

D. Technical High School System Board

Mr. Trefry summarized the Technical High School System Board's last meeting, at which it considered the accreditation process used by NEASC, as described by Paul Bento of NEASC; the construction trade reauthorization process and forthcoming recommendation to reauthorize this career cluster; discussions regarding the teacher and administrator evaluation (i.e., applying the SEED, whole-district model); position vacancies; the recognition of Kaynor Technical High School as a school of distinction; and the Board's consideration of successful technical school programs and "Pathways to Prosperity."

E. NASBE

Mr. Wright will attend the NASBE Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. next week.

Chairman Taylor adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Stefan Pryor, Secretary
State Board of Education