

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Hartford**

**Minutes  
of the  
May 1, 2013, Meeting**

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, May 1, 2013, in Room 307 of the State Office Building, Hartford, Connecticut.

**I. Call to Order**

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

Present: Allan Taylor, Chair  
Andrea Comer  
Andreea Dinicu  
Charles Jaskiewicz  
Terry Jones  
Rebecca Salustri  
Robert Trefry, ex officio  
Joseph Vrabely  
Stephen Wright

Absent: Patricia Keavney-Maruca  
Estela López

**Oath of Office**

Matthew Venhorst administered the Oath of Office to Allan Taylor and Andrea Comer.

**II. Public Participation**

- 1) Lauren Perrotti-Verboven, Chair of the Columbia Board of Education, addressed the Board regarding the Town's request for a waiver of the Minimum Budget Requirement (MBR), and the differing interpretations of the requirements of the related legislation. She urged the Board to render a decision regarding this matter, as it is impacting the students in the Columbia school system.
- 2) Francine Coss, Superintendent of Columbia Public Schools, stated that the MBR had been satisfied in 2009-10 and in 2010-11, and explained the impact on the budget that resulted from transporting students and paying tuition to other school systems to accommodate Columbia's high school students. She recommended that the Board require that Columbia apply a "self correcting" approach.

- 3) Katherine Tolsdoff, Columbia Board of Education, expressed her opposition to not complying with the MBR as a tax-savings measure. Ms. Tolsdorf stated that the amount of the penalty could be used toward curriculum materials that support the Common Core Standards.
- 4) Thomas Stringfellow, a resident of Manchester, recommended several articles and books about numerous topics (e.g., bullying, domestic violence, digital learning, preparing for college, Asperger's Syndrome, etc.).
- 5) Robert Cotto, Jr., Connecticut Voices for Children, stated that charter school applications should be public information.
- 6) Dr. Stuart G. Marcus, M.D., F.A.C.S, President; and Mr. Peter Struzzi, Vice President and General Counsel, spoke in support of changing the name of St. Vincent's Medical Center to St. Vincent's University Medical Center (agenda item IX.A., Petition for Declaratory Ruling).

### **III. Consent Agenda**

Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the Board approve the following Consent Agenda items: III. A., Approval of Application: Special Education Federal IDEA, Part B; III. B., Rolling Capital Equipment Plan for the Technical High School System; III. C., Healthy Food Certification – Technical High School System; III. D., Receipt of Report on Racial Imbalance Statistics; and III. E., Designation of Teacher Shortage Areas.

#### **A. Approval of Application: Special Education Federal IDEA, Part B**

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Sections 10-11 of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the 2013 grant application entitled "Annual State Application Under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act, as Amended in 2004, for Federal Fiscal Year 2013" to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

#### **B. Rolling Capital Equipment Plan for the Technical High School System**

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-95i(d) of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the Connecticut Technical High School System's Rolling Capital Improvement and Capital Equipment Plan 2014-2018, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

#### **C. Healthy Food Certification – Technical High School System**

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-215f of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves that the Connecticut Technical High School System will not participate in the Healthy Food Certification for school year 2013-2014 as recommended by the Connecticut Technical High School System Board, although it will continue to maintain current Federal nutritional standards in its school meals and a la carte options and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

**D. Receipt of Report on Racial Imbalance Statistics**

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to sections 10-226a and 10-226b of the Connecticut General Statutes, accepts the Racial Imbalance Report, dated April 4, 2013, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

**E. Designation of Teacher Shortage Areas**

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education approves the Designation of Certification Shortage Areas, 2013-14 (Fall Hiring Report), and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON	In Favor:	Comer, Jaskiewicz, Jones, Taylor, Vrabely, Wright
MOTIONS:	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	0
	Absent:	0

Motions carried unanimously.

By unanimous consent, the Board considered agenda item VI., Report of the Chair, at this time.

**VI. Report of the Chair**

Mr. Taylor reported the following:

- Governor Malloy has appointed Mrs. Hopkins-Staten to another four-year term.
- On March 21-22, 2013, Mr. Taylor attended a meeting of the New England Secondary School Consortium (NESSC). Discussion focused on supporting schools as they move toward competency-based standards, and a curriculum that is designed around what we expect students to know and be able to do upon graduation. Mr. Joseph Cirusuolo, CAPSS, received the “Education Transformation Initiative Award.”
- He participated in a March 28<sup>th</sup> NASBE Webinar on Next Generation Science Standard, which focused on deeper learning and the applicability of knowledge. Mr. Taylor encouraged the Board to take advantage of NASBE webinars.
- Mr. Jones reported the NASBE Healthy Schools group is scheduled to meet on May 22 at Griffin Hospital, and will be joined by Ms. Whitney Meager of NASBE. He shared with the Board that he had attended a workshop on alcohol and drug abuse, and is working with Common Ground High School in New Haven on a school garden project.

#### **IV. Executive Session**

The Board did not meet in executive session.

#### **V. Consideration of Minutes of the April 15, 2013, State Board of Education Meeting**

Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Mr. Jones seconded, that the Board approve the Minutes of the April 15, 2013, meeting.

VOTE ON	In Favor:	Comer, Jaskiewicz, Jones, Taylor, Vrabely, Wright
MOTION:	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	Comer, Taylor
	Absent:	0

Motion approved unanimously.

#### **VI. Items for Discussion**

##### **A. Academic Update: Standards and Assessment Progress (Common Core , Civics, Arts, Fitness, Next Generation Science Standards)**

Dianna Roberge-Wentzell, Chief Academic Officer, was joined by Dr. Scott Shuler, Arts Consultant; and Ms. Elizabeth Buttner, Science Consultant. Dr. Roberge-Wentzell and her colleagues updated the Board on the Common Core State Standards and Smarter Balanced Assessments; the Next Generation Science Standards; Assessment of Student Progress in Civics, Fitness and the Arts; and the Social Studies Standards. Discussion ensued.

##### **B. Connecticut Council for Social Studies (CCSS) Presentation Regarding Social Studies and Civics Education**

Denise Merrill, Secretary of State, addressed the Board about the importance of civics and students developing good citizenship skills. She believed that social studies was not receiving as much support as it should in public schools – both in Connecticut and nationally.

Dr. John Tulley, President, Connecticut Council for Social Studies (CCSS), stated the importance of students being able to develop critical thinking skills and to evaluate history using evidence-based data. He thought that the Department should hire a Social Studies consultant to promote this work.

Mr. David Bosso, Teacher of the Year, spoke about civics readiness, and 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills. He noted that Social Studies represents the values of public education and the foundation for a democratic society.

Mr. Steven Armstrong, President Elect CCSS, expressed the need to finalize the social studies framework and review it within the context of the Common Core. Discussion ensued.

**C. Minimum Budget Requirement – Town of Columbia**

Carmen Vance, 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman; Ernest Sharpe, Town Finance Director; and Jonathan Luiz, Town Administrator, spoke to the Board about ECS penalties that are due because the Town’s appropriations for education in fiscal year 2011-12 were below those called for pursuant to the Minimum Budget Requirement statute. The Town officials requested that the Board waive the penalty for good cause. Discussion followed. The Board unanimously agreed to refer this matter for further consideration to the Finance, Audit & Department Matters Committee which, in turn, will present its findings to the full Board at the June 5, 2013, meeting.

**D. Safe Routes to School Program**

Sharon Okoye, Department of Transportation, gave a power point presentation to emphasize the benefits of children biking and walking to school. Discussion followed.

The Board unanimously agreed to consider agenda item IX.A., Petition for Declaratory Ruling Filed by St. Vincent’s Medical Center, at this time.

**IX. Items Requiring Action**

**A. Petition for Declaratory Ruling Filed by St. Vincent’s Medical Center Regarding Applicability of Section 10a-34(e) of the Connecticut General Statutes**

Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Ms. Comer seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 4-176 of the Connecticut General Statutes and Section 10-4-21 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, agrees to rule on the Petition for Declaratory Ruling filed by St. Vincent’s Medical Center, concerning whether Section 10a-34(e) of the Connecticut General Statutes applies to St. Vincent’s Medical Center, and authorizes the Commissioner to appoint a hearing officer to conduct a hearing consistent with the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act, C.G.S. Sections 4-176 *et seq.* and Section 10-4-11 *et seq.* of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

VOTE ON	In Favor:	Comer, Jaskiewicz, Jones, Taylor, Vrabely, Wright
MOTION:	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	0
	Absent:	0

Motion carried unanimously.

**VII. Report of the Commissioner**

Commissioner Pryor summarized the Appropriations Committee’s proposed 2013-2015 Biennial Budget and how it differed from the Governor’s Proposed Budget. He highlighted the proposed reductions in the areas of talent development and the Common Core; the Commissioner’s Network; charter schools; and transportation. Commissioner Pryor reviewed miscellaneous increases in certain programs

(agriculture science; interdistrict cooperation; wraparound services; and K-3 reading assessment); and the proposed restoration of grants that had been eliminated in the Governor's budget. He also summarized the committee's proposed funds to support districts to provide alternative high schools and to meet the needs of adults in need of literacy skills. Commissioner Pryor stated that the Committee supports the Governor's plan to create a new Office of Early Childhood, as well as the Governor's proposed increase in ECS funds for each year of the biennium, although using a different formula. Lastly, Commissioner Pryor noted that new positions and funding were incorporated into the proposed budget to support the reopening of J.M. Wright Technical High School.

#### **X. Financial Matters**

Mr. Mahoney presented the Quarterly Financial Report to the Board.

#### **XI. Committee Reports**

**A. Finance, Audit and Department Matters** -- No report was given.

**B. Legislation and Bylaws** -- No report was given.

**C. Policy Development** -- The committee is scheduled to meet tomorrow to continue its discussion of the Comprehensive Plan.

#### **D. Technical High School System Board**

Mr. Trefry reported on the following matters:

- Formation of an Advisory Committee for J.M. Wright Technical High School;
- Collaboration between the Superintendent of the Technical High School System and the President of Norwalk Community College on the establishment of a Grade 9-14 pathway for students in the Stamford and Norwalk areas;
- The need for manufacturing and welding programs in the southeastern part of Connecticut, and discussions with Electric Boat to facilitate this effort. Mr. Trefry thanked consultant John Murphy and Mr. Jaskiewicz for their assistance.
- Board members are invited to the May 21 meeting of the Technical High School Board to hear from experts in the area of career and technical education.

**E. NASBE** -- No report was given.

Mr. Taylor adjourned the meeting at 1:25 p.m.

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