

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

**Minutes
of the
July 15, 2013, State Board of Education Meeting**
(approved September 4, 2013)

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "*Board*") met on Monday, July 15, 2013, in Room 1D of the Legislative Office Building, Hartford, Connecticut.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Taylor called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

Present: Allan Taylor, Chair
Charles Jaskiewicz
Patricia Keavney-Maruca
Estela López
Clayton Potter
Robert Trefry, ex officio
Joseph Vrabely
Stephen Wright

Absent: Andrea Comer
Theresa Hopkins-Staton
Terry Jones

Attorney Laura Anastasio administered the Oath of Office to Clayton Potter, Student Member of the State Board of Education.

II. Public Participation

1. Eliza Halsey, New Haven, spoke in support of the Board's approval of the local charter school application for Elm City Montessori School in New Haven.
2. Maegan Parrott, New London Parents Advocates, New London, expressed her concerns regarding the need for the continued role of Special Master Adamowski in New London, and urged the Board to restore the local school board to full autonomy. A copy of Ms. Parrott's prepared remarks is contained in the official file of this meeting.
3. Jason Morris, parent, New London, expressed his concerns regarding the lack of transparency throughout the budget process, and the impact on New London Public Schools under the leadership of the superintendent and Special Master.

Mr. Taylor noted that he would like removed from the agenda item VI.F., Commissioner's Network Plan: Crosby High School, Waterbury. He also noted that item IV.B., pending litigation (Carmen L. Lopez et al. v. Paul Vallas) should be removed from Executive Session and, instead, added to the agenda as an item requiring action.

On a motion by Mr. Jaskiewicz, seconded by Mr. Wright, the Board voted unanimously to add to the agenda, item VI.M., Resolution to Authorize the Commissioner to Request on its Behalf, that the Attorney General Present the Board's and Commissioner's Concerns With the Court's Determination and Prior Decisions in the Matter of Lopez v. Vallas.

III. Consent Agenda

Mr. Jaskiewicz removed item III.F., Certificate of Exemption Putnam Science Academy from the Consent Agenda.

Dr. López moved, Mr. Jaskiewicz seconded, the Board approve the following Consent Agenda Items: III.A., Approval of Application for Funds: Chief Council of State School Officers (CCSSO); III.B., Approval of Application for Funds: Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP); III.C., Reappointments to the Impartial Hearing Board; III.D., Establishment of Cut Score for Praxis II Health Education Test; and III.E., Amendment to State Board of Education Bylaws.

A. Approval of Application for Funds: Chief Council of State School Officers (CCSSO)

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education approve the application for the Council of Chief State School Officers' grant entitled "Pilot of Education Preparation Recommendations" that will assist with the implementation of the six Educator Preparation Advisory Council principles and subsequent recommendations, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

B. Approval of Application for Funds: Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education approve the grant application to the Collaboration for Effective Educator Development, Accountability, and Reform Center, funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

C. Reappointments to the Impartial Hearing Board

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Sections 10-186(b)(2) and 10-233d(b) of the Connecticut General Statutes concerning school accommodations and student expulsions, respectively, hereby:

1. Appoints Ann F. Bird, R. Thomas Clark, Donal C. Collimore, Janis C. Jerman, Stanton H. Lesser, Thomas C. McNeill, Jr., Mary E. Oppenheim, Steven R. Rolnick and Frederic S. Ury to the Impartial Hearing Board for a one-year term beginning August 9, 2013;
2. Authorizes the Commissioner of Education to designate, as appropriate, on or more persons from the Impartial Hearing Board to conduct hearings as required; and
3. Directs the Commissioner of Education to take the necessary action.

D. Establishment of Cut Score for Praxis II Health Board

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education establishes, in accordance with Subsection (b) of Section 10-145f of the Connecticut General Statutes, a new cut score of 164 for the Praxis II Health Education (#5551) due to a change in the scoring scale, effective September 1, 2013, and directs the Commissioner to take necessary action.

E. Amendment to State Board of Education Bylaws

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Article I, Section 3, of its Bylaws, adopts the State Board of Education Bylaws, as amended on July 15, 2013.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

F. Certificate of Exemption Putnam Science Academy

Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Sections 10-8a-1 to 10-8a-8 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, issues a Certificate of Exemption to the Putnam Science Academy ("PSA"), 18 Maple Street, Putnam, CT 06260, for the period of July 15, 2013, through July 14, 2018; contingent upon the following:

- The school must address the State Fire Code violations detailed in the Site Visit Committee's Report before August 31, 2013 (prior to the 2013-2014 school year);
- PSA shall notify the Division of Legal and Governmental Affairs upon correction of the safety issues and verification by the local fire marshal;
- In the event that PSA cannot complete the remediation before August 31, 2013, PSA shall provide the reasons for the delay and a timeline for such remediation, which shall be subject to the approval of the Commissioner;

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Mr. Wright seconded, that the third bullet within the resolution be amended to read as follows:

- In the event that PSA cannot complete the remediation before August 31, 2013, PSA shall provide the reasons for the delay, *temporary remedial measures taken to conduct operations*, and a timeline for such remediation, which shall be subject to the approval of the Commissioner;

VOTE ON	In Favor:	Jaskiewicz, Keavney-Maruca, López, Taylor, Vrabely, Wright
AMENDMENT:	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	0
	Absent:	Comer, Hopkins-Staton, Jones

Motion to amend carried unanimously.

VOTE ON	In Favor:	Jaskiewicz, Keavney-Maruca, López, Taylor, Vrabely, Wright
MOTION, AS	Opposed:	0
AMENDED:	Abstained:	0
	Absent:	Comer, Hopkins-Staton, Jones

Motion as amended carried unanimously.

IV. Executive Session

The Board did not meet in Executive Session.

V. Consideration of the Minutes of the June 26, 2013, State Board of Education Meeting

Dr. López moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the Board approve the Minutes of the June 26, 2013, State Board of Education Meeting.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Items for Action

A. Receipt of Investigation Report In the Master of Todd Gagliardi, Coaching Permit Holder

Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Mrs. Keavney-Maruca seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-145d-613 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, the Connecticut State Board of Education is in receipt of the written report in In the Matter of Stefan Pryor, Commissioner of Education and Todd Gagliardi, Permit Holder for review prior to action on the revocation; and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Receipt of Investigation Report In the Master of Lisa Felten, Educator Certificate Holder

Dr. López moved, Mr. Jaskiewicz seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-145d-612 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, the Connecticut State Board of Education is in receipt of the written report in In the Matter of Stefan Pryor, Commissioner of Education and Lisa Felten, Certificate Holder for review prior to action on the revocation; and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Approval of Local Charter School Application: Elm City Montessori

Dr. López moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-66bb of the Connecticut General Statutes, accepts the Commissioner's recommendation and grants approval of a local charter to Elm City Montessori School for the period July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2019, said approval granted subject to the conditions noted in the Commissioner's July 15, 2013, memorandum to the State Board of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

D. Commissioner's Network Plan: Briggs School, Norwalk

Mrs. Keavney-Maruca moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the State Board of Education adopts and approves the Turnaround Plan for Briggs High School in Norwalk for the Commissioner's Network, subject to the conditions noted in the Commissioner's July 15, 2013, memorandum to the State Board of Education. The State Board of Education hereby directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action, including, but not limited to, expending such funds as may be necessary to execute and implement the foregoing.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

E. Commissioner's Network Plan: Walsh Elementary School, Waterbury

Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Mrs. Keavney-Maruca seconded, that the State Board of Education adopts and approves the Turnaround Plan for Walsh School in Waterbury for the Commissioner's Network, subject to the conditions noted in the Commissioner's July 15, 2013, memorandum to the State Board of Education. The State Board of Education hereby directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action, including, but not limited to, expending such funds as may be necessary to execute and implement the foregoing.

Dr. Lopez moved, Mr. Jaskiewicz seconded, that the resolution be amended to read as follows:

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education adopts and approves the Turnaround Plan for Walsh School in Waterbury for the Commissioner's Network, subject to the conditions noted in the Commissioner's July 15, 2013, memorandum to the State Board of Education *and to the amendment of condition 3, to add as its last sentence: The revised plan for years 2 and 3 shall be presented to the State Board of Education for its approval.* The State Board of Education hereby directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action, including, but not limited to, expending such funds as may be necessary to execute and implement the foregoing.

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

Motion to amend carried unanimously.

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

Motion as amended carried unanimously.

G. Proposed Amendments to the Guidelines for Educator Evaluation

Dr. López moved, Mrs. Keavney-Maruca seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to sections 51-56 of P.A. 12-116, and in consultation with the Performance Evaluation Advisory Council (PEAC), approves the proposed amendments to the evaluation core requirements, formally entitled "Connecticut Guidelines for Educator Evaluation" (June 2012) and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

H. Proposed Changes to the State Model for Educator Evaluation and Development (SEED)

Mrs. Keavney-Maruca moved, Dr. López seconded, that the State Board of Education approves the proposed changes to Connecticut's System for Educator Evaluation and Development (SEED), the state model for educator evaluation and support and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

I. Proposal Flexibility Requests to ESEA Waiver

Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the State Board of Education approves the recommended flexibility request to Connecticut's ESEA waiver and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action; and that the State Board of Education, pursuant to P.A. 12-116, as amended by P.A. 13-245, approves the recommended amendment to the guidelines for educator evaluation and support for the 2013-2014 school year, provided that the flexibility request requiring such amendment is approved by the United States Department of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

[The Board recessed for lunch at 1:35 p.m.]

[The Board reconvened from lunch at 2:19 p.m.]

J. Resignation, Chief Turnaround Officer

Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Mrs. Keavney-Maruca seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Article IV of its Bylaws, accepts with regret the resignation of Debra Kurshan, Chief Turnaround Officer, effective the close of business on July 18, 2013, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

K. Updates to State Department of Education Organizational Structure

Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Mrs. Keavney-Maruca seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-3a of the Connecticut General Statutes, accepts the Commissioner's recommendation and grants approval to implement an updated organizational structure for the State Department of Education, as indicated in the attached organizational charts, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

L. Reappointment of Special Master

Mr. Wright moved, Mr. Jaskiewicz seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (e)(2) of Section 10-223e of the Connecticut General Statutes, extends the term of Dr. Steven Adamowski as Special Master of the New London Public Schools, for the term July 1, 2013, through September 30, 2013, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

M. Resolution Regarding Direction to Attorney General in the Matter of Lopez v. Vallas

Mr. Wright moved, Mr. Jaskiewicz seconded, that the Board considers the trial court's decision in Lopez v. Vallas to raise significant issues of public interest regarding the future of the Bridgeport schools and the authority of the State Board of Education and Commissioner, and one that merits an expeditious review. The Board directs that the Commissioner, on its behalf, request, regarding any appeal or other review of the trial court decision in Lopez v. Vallas, that the Attorney General take such steps as he deems appropriate and necessary to present the Board's and Commissioner's concerns with the court's determinations regarding the authority and prior decisions of the Board and the Commissioner in regards to Bridgeport Acting Superintendent Vallas.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

By unanimous consent, the Board voted to address agenda item VII.A. at this time. The Board recessed its meeting at 12:20 p.m. and reconvened at 12:30 p.m.

VII. Items for Discussion

A. Update on Plan to Correct Racial Imbalance in Greenwich

Attorney Laura Anastasio introduced to the Board William McKersie, Superintendent of Greenwich Public Schools; Leslie Moriarty, Chairperson of the Greenwich Board of Education; Mike Zuba, Associate-Senior Planner with Milone & MacBroom; and John Curtin, Special Projects Manager with the Greenwich Board of Education.

The representatives of the Greenwich Public School System presented to the Board a Power Point presentation titled, "Addressing Racial Imbalance and Facility Utilization Issues in the Greenwich Public Schools; Changing Demographics, and Resource Allocation." Discussion followed.

VIII. Report of the Chair

Mr. Taylor reported that the parties in the Fairfield 10-4b Matter have reached a settlement, which will be reviewed by the Hearing Panel. A proposal by the Hearing Panel will be submitted to the full State Board of Education for its consideration and action. This will be accomplished by a telephone conference call, posted as a public meeting, within the next month.

IX. Report of the Commissioner

Commissioner Pryor explained that the proposed federal flexibility will allow districts to avoid "double-testing" of students by giving districts the option to choose either the Smarter Balanced field test or the state test (i.e., CMT or CAPT).

X. Financial Matters

No report was given.

XI. Committee Reports

A. Finance, Audit, and Budget

No report was given.

B. Legislation and Bylaws

No report was given.

C. Academic Standards and Assessment

No report was given.

D. Accountability and Support

No report was given.

E. Legislation and Policy Development

No report was given.

F. Technical High School System (THSS) Board

Mr. Jaskiewicz attended a meeting of the Eastern Workforce with CTHSS Consultant Mr. Murphy, and reported that the pilot welding program at E.T. Grasso Technical High School is expected to begin in December 2013.

G. NASBE

Mr. Taylor will attend the NASBE 2013 Annual Conference in July with Stephen Wright and Andrea Comer.

Adjourn

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Stefan Pryor, Secretary