

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Hartford

Minutes of the October 2, 2013, State Board of Education Meeting (approved at the State Board Meeting – November 6, 2013)

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter “Board”) met on Wednesday, October 2, 2013, in Room 1D of the Legislative Office Building, Hartford, Connecticut.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:43 a.m.

Present: Allan Taylor, Chair
Theresa Hopkins-Staton
Jake Colavolpe
Andrea Comer
Charles Jaskiewicz
Terry Jones*
Patricia Keavney-Maruca
Clayton Potter
Robert Trefry, ex officio
Joseph Vrabely

Absent: Estela López
Stephen Wright

II. Public Participation

1. Dr. Kathleen A. Butler, Dean, School of Education, University of Saint Joseph, Member of American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education (AACTE), and a member of the Educator Preparation Advisory Council (EPAC), read prepared remarks regarding work currently underway at St. Joseph’s that mirrors the intention of EPAC principle #3. A copy of Dr. Butler’s statement is included in the official file of this meeting.
2. Ms. Lisa Lessard, advocate for parents and children at Walsh School in Waterbury, expressed concerns about how the School Governance Council (SGC) is operating and about the membership of the council.
3. Athena Wagner, Waterbury community leader and education advocate, expressed concerns regarding the Walsh School Governance Council (SGC), the absence of a plan to increase parental involvement, and the overall condition of education at Walsh School.

*[Terry Jones arrived at 9:56 a.m.]

[Joseph Vrabely exited the room at 10:05 a.m.]

4. Gwen Samuel, Connecticut Parents Union, stated that the interests of children must be protected first and foremost. She expressed her concerns pertaining to minority students' academic progress and student:teacher ratios.

[Joseph Vrabely returned at 10:10 a.m.]

5. Dr. Thomas Danehy, Superintendent, Winchester Board of Education, expressed his concern about the financial shortfall in Winchester due to alleged fraudulent behavior by a town official. He explained the impact on the school system, including the effects it has on meeting its statutory obligations, meeting payroll, paying creditors, and support for the Gilbert School.

III. Consent Agenda

There were no items placed on the Consent Agenda.

IV. Executive Session

The Board did not meet in Executive Session.

V. Consideration of the Minutes of the September 4, 2013 State Board of Education Meeting

Ms. Comer moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded, that the Board approve the Minutes of the September 4, 2013, State Board of Education Meeting.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, to add to the agenda Item VI.F., Initiation of Complaint Against Winchester Board of Education – (C.G.S. Section 10-4b).

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

Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Items for Action

D. Winchester 10-4b Initial Complaint Against Winchester Board of Education

Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the State Board of Education hereby initiates a complaint pursuant to Section 10-4b of the Connecticut General Statutes against the Winchester Board of Education for failure to implement the educational interests of the State, specifically for its failure to comply with the Minimum Budget Requirement, Sections 10-4a and 10-262i of the Connecticut General Statutes, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

By unanimous consent, the Board considered agenda item VI.B., Approval of Staffing Flexibility Agreement: Elm City Montessori School, New Haven, at this time.

B. Approval of Staffing Flexibility Agreement: Elm City Montessori School, New Haven

Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Mrs. Keavney-Maruca seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Sections 10-66nn and 10-66ee of the Connecticut General Statutes, accepts the Commissioner's recommendation and approves the staffing flexibility agreement for Elm City Montessori School in New Haven, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

By unanimous consent, the Board considered agenda item VI.E., Proposed Final Decision and Revocation of Certificate in the Matter of Stefan Pryor, Commissioner of Education, and Daniel R. Young, Certificate Holder, Case Number R-11-2, at this time.

E. Proposed Final Decision and Revocation of Certificate in the Matter of Stefan Pryor, Commissioner of Education, and Daniel R. Young, Certificate Holder, Case Number R-11-2

WHEREAS, The Connecticut State Board of Education (the State Board) received the Proposed Final Decision in the matter of Stefan Pryor, Commissioner of Education and Daniel Young, Certificate Holder; and

WHEREAS, Each individual member of the State Board casting a vote has read the Proposed Final Decision in the above-referenced matter; and

WHEREAS, The State Board received and has reviewed a letter, dated September 27, 2013, prepared on behalf of the Commissioner by Attorney Matthew Venhorst in which the Commissioner takes exception to certain provisions of the Proposed Final Decision, and further recommends deletion of (1) Section III, Paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 of the Proposed Final Decision; and (2) Section IV (E) of the Proposed Final Decision in its entirety; and

WHEREAS, The State Board accepts and adopts the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law set forth in the Proposed Final Decision, as amended with the deletions described herein and with the addition of Appendix A, as the Written Opinion of the State Board in this matter; and

WHEREAS, Such conduct on the part of the Certificate Holder constitutes just cause for revocation under the provisions of C.G.S. Section 10-145b(i)(1), subsections (C) and (E); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That (1) the Proposed Final Decision is amended, deleting Section III, Paragraphs 6, 7, and 8 of the Proposed Final Decision and Section IV(E) of the Proposed Final Decision in its entirety; and (2) That pursuant to Section 10-145d-612 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, the Connecticut State Board of Education revokes the educator certificate of Daniel Young; and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Mrs. Keavney-Maruca seconded, that the (1) the Proposed Final Decision is amended, deleting Section III, Paragraphs 6, 7, and 8 of the Proposed Final Decision and Section IV(E) of the Proposed Final Decision in its entirety; and (2) That pursuant to Section 10-145d-612 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, the Connecticut State Board of Education revokes the educator certificate of Daniel Young; and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Attorney Matthew Venhorst, representing the Commissioner, delivered prepared remarks. Mr. Young was not present, nor was he represented by Legal counsel.

ROLL CALL VOTE

	In Favor	Opposed	Abstained	Absent
Andrea Comer	X			
Theresa Hopkins-Staten	X			
Charles A. Jaskiewicz, III	X			
Terry Jones	X			
Patricia Keavney-Maruca	X			
Estela López				X
Joseph Vrabely	X			
Stephen Wright				X
Allan Taylor	X			

Motion carried unanimously.

A. Connecticut Administrator Test: Adjusting Passing Score

Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the State Board of Education establishes, in accordance with Subsection (b) of Section 10-145f of the Connecticut General Statutes, a new minimum cut score of "eight" for the Connecticut Administrator Test required for issuance of an initial educator certificate endorsed for intermediate administration or supervision (#092), effective October 15, 2013, and directs the Commissioner to take necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Establishment of and Appointments to State Board of Education Comprehensive Plan Ad Hoc Committee

Mr. Jaskiewicz, Mrs. Keavney-Maruca seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Article II, Section 4, of its Bylaws, establishes a Comprehensive Plan Ad Hoc Committee and appoints thereto Theresa Hopkins-Staten, Estela Lopez, Robert Trefry, Stephen Wright, and Allan Taylor, to serve as Chairperson of the Committee.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

D. EPAC Report

Mr. Hopkins-Staten moved, Mr. Jaskiewicz seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Special Act 12-3, An Act Concerning Teacher Preparation, receives and approves the addendum to the interim report from the Educator Preparation Advisory Council (EPAC), *Framework for Reforming Teacher and School Leader Preparation Programs in Connecticut*, and directs the Commissioner to take necessary action to transmit such report to the Education Committee and Higher Education Committee of the General Assembly.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

VII. Items for Discussion

A. Social Studies Framework Revision (alignment with C3 and Common Core State Standards) – Progress Update

Dr. Dianna Roberge-Wentzell, Chief Academic Officer, presented the report to the Board. Discussion ensued.

VIII. Report of the Chair

Mr. Taylor referred to his written report, included in the supplemental materials folder. He invited Mrs. Hopkins-Staten to comment on the Developing Tomorrow's Professionals Recognition Breakfast. Mrs. Hopkins-Staten stated that she was very impressed with the program and the students at the recognition event. She commented on the high level of interest in the program (800 applications) versus the program capacity (approximately 50 students), and asked that the Department explore potential funding sources to increase support for this program.

Mr. Taylor stated that the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet on October 24, 2013, at 9:00 a.m. at the Legislative Office Building in Room 1C.

Mr. Trefry noted that the meeting with the CAGE Board of Directors Meeting was very positive and collaborative.

Mr. Jones spoke about STEM and the importance of preschool.

Mr. Potter shared that he attended his first State Student Advisory Council on Education (SSACE) meeting. Council members addressed student motivation, parent/teacher involvement, school climate (bullying), and the Common Core State Standards.

IX. Report of the Commissioner

Commissioner Pryor spoke about the anticipated impacts of the federal government shutdown on educational programs in Connecticut and staffing at the State Department of Education. The CSDE receives, and provides to districts, employees, and other recipients, approximately \$44 million per month in federal funds, spanning approximately 30 federal programs. 130 CSDE employees are funded by federal sources, via the US Department of Education or US Department of Agriculture. Based on guidance from these federal departments, the state's access to federal funds will likely not be impacted through the month of October. A lengthier shutdown, however, would raise significant issues. Other federal programs in the state not administered by the CSDE, including Head Start, face more immediate unfortunate impacts. The Department is working closely with the Office of Policy and Management and other state agencies to continue to monitor the situation. Commissioner Pryor commended federal officials for providing timely information prior to the advent of the shutdown.

Commissioner Pryor informed the Board that six local education agencies have applied for or are in the process of applying for Race to the Top-District (RTTT-D) funds for school districts: Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, CREC, Norwalk, and the Connecticut Technical High School System. All six have received technical assistance during the application process.

Commissioner Pryor noted that, to date, 14 Alliance Districts have been approved. Joining the previously approved Alliance Districts (Bloomfield, Danbury, East Hartford, Hamden, West Haven and Windsor Locks) are Bristol, Derby, East Haven, Manchester, Meriden, New Haven, Norwich, and Stamford.

The Commissioner described the recent meeting with the CABE Board of Directors as positive, and said he was pleased to have had the opportunity to explain the Department's Common Core work; he noted that CABE members raised constructive questions.

Mr. Taylor requested a response by the Department to the concerns raised earlier about the School Governance Councils at Walsh School.

X. Financial Matters

No report was given.

XI. Committee Reports

A. Finance, Audit, and Budget

Mr. Taylor stated that the committee was apprised of the situation in Winchester regarding its budget shortfall. He was pleased to announce that the Affirmative Action Plan was approved by CHRO. The report provided by Gloria McCree is very positive, and he was glad to hear about progress made in the CTHSS with regard to implementing systemic fixes to inventory control issues.

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. Trefry reported that the firm Thomas Miller and Associates is now in the process of interviewing Board members and others. He noted that the groundbreaking ceremony at Wright Technical High School will be held on October 10, 2013.

G. NASBE

No report was given.

Other

Adjourn

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 12:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Stefan Pryor, Secretary