

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION Hartford

Minutes of the November 6, 2013, State Board of Education Meeting

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "*Board*") met on Wednesday, November 6, 2013, in Room 1D of the Legislative Office Building, Hartford, Connecticut.

I. Call to Order

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

Present: Allan Taylor, Chairperson
Theresa Hopkins-Staton, Vice Chairperson
Jake Colavolpe, student member
Gregory Gray, ex officio
Charles Jaskiewicz
Terry Jones
Estela López
Patricia Keavney-Maruca
Clayton Potter, student member
Robert Trefry, ex officio
Joseph Vrabely
Stephen Wright

Absent: Andrea Comer

Attorney Matthew Venhorst administered the Oath of Office to Dr. Gregory Gray, ex officio member of the State Board of Education.

II. Public Participation

1. Beayanka Pinckney Naraine, resident of Hartford, President of the Montessori Magnet School located at Moylan School, and a member of the School Governance Council, expressed her concern that the pathway to Erdkinder still has not been realized in Hartford and requested support from the State Board of Education. A copy of Ms. Pinckney Naraine's prepared remarks is included in the official file of this meeting.
2. Nancy Mendez, Hartford parent of a student at the Montessori Magnet School at Moylan, expressed her support for the Montessori method of learning and for a pathway for Erdkinder through middle school and high school.
3. Shanta Torres, Chairperson of the Erdkinder Initiative, and parent of a student at the Annie Fisher Magnet Montessori School, expressed concerns about the Erdkinder pathway not being in place, and asked what will be done to ensure that the needs of the students leaving

the Montessori School will be met until such time as the Erdkinder Middle School Program is operational.

4. Eliana Tsukroff, Hartford parent, expressed her support of the Montessori Magnet School and the educational benefits to students. She questioned what is impeding the progress toward the middle school Erdkinder program.
5. George Slate, resident of Windsor, expressed his concerns about Dr. Marlon James' study at Windsor High School, stating that it is not a panacea. The study was funded by Alliance District grant funds, Mr. Slate noted. The district still awaits raw data from Dr. James, as part of his contract.
6. Gwen Samuel, parent from Meriden, founder of Connecticut Parents Union, and a representative of Teach our Children-Youth Unleashed, thanked the Board members and Dr. Roberge-Wentzell for participating in the "Common Core and Equity" forum for parents, students and the community, at Yale University. She inquired about the status of the implementation of school governance councils, and noted the importance of parents as partners in the education process.
7. Christy D'Aquila, Parent of three children attending Montessori programs, expressed her support of the pathway to Erdkinder. She noted that the Montessori method of teaching engages students on a physical, intellectual and spiritual level.
8. Jill Jenkins, resident of Windsor, noted that Dr. Marlon James' study was conducted to determine why the achievement gap exists at Windsor High School. She expressed her concern that, although the community is multicultural, the school is segregated and students are tracked based on their perceived abilities.
9. Sylvia Henderson, resident of Windsor, stated that she is a partner with parents who are advocating change within the school system. Dr. James' study has been beneficial in pointing out the extent of the achievement gap in Windsor and the need for change. The smaller communities need leadership and assistance from the state level in order to succeed, she stated.
10. Mira Debs, graduate student and researcher at Yale University and founding Board member of Elm City Montessori in New Haven, expressed her support for the Erdkinder Middle School.
11. Kevin Basmadjian, Dean, School of Education at Quinnipiac University, expressed his concerns about the effective date of requiring applicants for a professional educator certificate on or after July 1, 2016, to complete a master's degree in an appropriately-related subject matter area. He asked the Board to consider extending the effective date by two years, to allow the Department to gather pertinent information and to allow institutions of higher education as well as prospective and practicing teachers adequate time to revise their academic programs. Dr. Basmadjian urged the Board to direct EPAC to narrow its focus to reviewing principles and strategies to support teachers in high need schools.

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 October 2, 2013 State Board of Education Meeting

Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded, that the Board approve the Minutes of the October 2, 2013, State Board of Education Meeting.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Items for Action

There were no items requiring action.

VII. Items for Discussion

A. Legislative Proposals

Miss Sarah Hemingway, Legal and Governmental Affairs Office, presented an overview of draft 2014 Legislative Proposals. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Pryor noted that additional proposals might be included in the 2014 Legislative Package (e.g., proposal to support school turnaround efforts, secondary school reform, educator preparation, etc.)

[Mr. Taylor exited the room at 11:00 a.m.]

By unanimous consent, the Board agreed to consider agenda item VII.B., at 12:30 p.m., following the lunch recess.

[Mr. Taylor returned at 11:15 a.m.]

VIII. Report of the Chair

Mr. Taylor reported on the following:

"PARENTS, STUDENTS COMMUNITY & COMMON CORE - How Students and Communities Benefit From Equity in College/Career Readiness Standards: Patricia Keavney-Maruca and others attended this forum on November 4, 2013, at Yale University. Speakers included Byron Garrett, Chairman of the National Family Engagement Alliance and former CEO of the National PTA, and Marlon C. James, Ph.D., Wendy Smith, Ph.D., and Robert Simmons, Ph.D. of Loyola University Chicago and Loyola University Maryland.

McAuley Lecture, School of Education at University of St. Joseph: will be sponsoring a lecture on Thursday, November 7, delivered by Dr. Pedro Noguero, "Education and Civil Rights in the 21st Century. Mr. Taylor and Mrs. Hopkins-Staten have been invited as guests of Dr. Kathleen Butler, Dean of the School of Education.

Here to Learn: Chronic Absence and the Achievement Gap: a forum sponsored by the Connecticut Commission on Children, the Black & Puerto Rican Caucus, and the Achievement Gap Task Force will be held on Tuesday, November 12, 2013, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Room 1E of the Legislative Office Building. The keynote speaker is Hedy Nai-Lin Chang, who directs Attendance Works. To date, Mrs. Keavney-Maruca has registered to attend.

NASBE 2014 Study Groups and Committees: NASBE has invited its members to review the descriptions of the 2014 Study Groups on (1) Rural Education and (2) Student Engagement, as well as the overview of 2014 committees and to notify NASBE of interest in serving on any of the committees. The descriptions were sent via e-mail and included in the November 1st weekly mailing packet. Mr. Taylor has expressed his interest in serving on the Student Engagement Study Group.

Mrs. Keavney-Maruca, Mr. Wright and Mr. Jones reported on their visit to the Nonnewaug Agriculture Program.

NASBE's College and Career Readiness Policy Institute: Implementing the Common Core State Standards: Mr. Wright and Mr. Taylor will attend this Northeastern forum in Albany on Friday, November 8, 2013, and will report back to the Board next month.

CABE/CAPSS Convention: The annual convention will be held November 15-16. The session titled, "Dialogue with the State Board of Education" is scheduled on November 15. Board members Allan Taylor, Charles Jaskiewicz, Robert Trefry, and Stephen Wright will join Commissioner Pryor on the panel.

Teacher of the Year Ceremony: Allan Taylor, Robert Trefry, Patricia Keavney-Maruca and Estela Lopez will attend the 2014 Teacher of the Year Ceremony at the Bushnell Theater on November 19, 2013, to honor the district teachers of the year and Mr. Mastroianni, the 2014 Teacher of the Year.

IX. Report of the Commissioner

Commissioner Pryor reported that Connecticut was selected as one of seven states to participate in the Network for Transforming Educator Preparation (NTEP), a two-year pilot program supported by the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). CCSSO Executive Director Chris Minnich traveled to Connecticut to make the announcement. Connecticut will receive a \$100,000 grant and technical

assistance to advance efforts already underway that support the transformation of educator preparation programs in an effort to ensure that teachers and administrators are “learner-ready” and equipped with the knowledge, skills and dispositions needed to prepare all students for success in college or careers. State Board of Education Chairman Allan Taylor and Representative Andy Fleishmann were present and made remarks at the October 23, 2013, press conference.

Commissioner Pryor invited Chief Operating Officer Charlene Russell-Tucker to update the Board on the Department’s review of the School Governance Council at Walsh School in Waterbury, prompted by public comments made at the October 2013 State Board of Education meeting. Mrs. Russell-Tucker stated that the Department has held meetings with representatives, and continues to gather information and review the processes regarding the membership of the School Governance Council.

X. Financial Matters

A. Quarterly Financial Report

Mrs. Demsey, Interim Chief Financial Officer, presented the report to the Board. Discussion ensued.

B. Mid-term Budget Technical Adjustment

Mrs. Demsey, Interim Chief Financial Officer, presented the report to the Board. Discussion ensued.

C. Mid-term Capital Budget

Mrs. Demsey, Interim Chief Financial Officer, presented the report to the Board. Discussion ensued.

D. Budget Reduction Options

Mrs. Demsey reported that she and Commissioner Pryor have had discussions with Secretary Barnes, Office of Policy Management, and have been talking about potential and practical ways to respond to OPM’s request for reduction options.

[The Board recessed its meeting at 11:55 a.m.]

[The Board reconvened at 12:40 p.m.]

VII.B. Study on Excellence and Equity: Impact of Racial Inopportunity on Student Development and Achievement at Windsor High School

Dr. Marlon C. James, Loyola University, Chicago School of Education; Ms. Doreen Richardson, Former Chair of Windsor Board of Education; and Mr. Russell Sills, Principal, Windsor High School, presented the report on the Impact of Racial Inopportunity on Student Development and Achievement at Windsor High School. Discussion ensued.

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. Trefry reported that the consulting firm Thomas Miller and Associates is moving forward on the strategic planning process.

G. NASBE

No report was given.

Adjourn

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 3:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: _____

Stefan Pryor, Secretary