

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Hartford**

**Minutes**  
**of the**  
**December 4, 2013, State Board of Education Meeting**  
*(approved January 8, 2014)*

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "*Board*") met on Wednesday, December 4, 2013, in Room 1D of the Legislative Office Building, Hartford, Connecticut.

**I. Call to Order**

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

Present: Allan Taylor, Chairperson  
Theresa Hopkins-Staten, Vice Chairperson  
Andrea Comer  
Charles Jaskiewicz  
Terry Jones\*  
Estela López  
Patricia Keavney-Maruca  
Joseph Vrabely

Absent: Jake Colavolpe, student member  
Gregory Gray, ex officio  
Clayton Potter, student member  
Robert Trefry, ex officio  
Stephen Wright

**II. Public Participation**

1. Allan Cook, Dean, School of Education, University of Bridgeport, and a representative of the American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education (AACTE), stated that the AACTE looks forward to working with the State Board of Education in any way possible.
2. Shantá Browdy, Hartford parent, expressed her concerns about the disparities between Sheff magnet schools and non-Sheff Hartford public schools. She stated that additional resources need to be allocated to the non-Sheff schools as well. She asked whether Hartford students' scores have been desegregated to compare their performance with others attending Sheff schools.
3. Neil Barry, Hartford parent, requested the Board's assistance in reconstituting the Hartford Board of Education, stating that the school system is in dire need.

4. John Humphries, outreach coordinator for the Sheff Movement Coalition, and parent of Hartford magnet school students, read prepared remarks regarding his concerns about the proposed repeal of Section 10-226h of the General Statutes. A copy of Mr. Humphries' statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
5. Milly Arcinegas, Hartford parent of two children, expressed her concerns regarding the quality of a child's education being dependent on a lottery system; no child should be subjected to having to attend a failing school, she stated.

### III. Consent Agenda

There were no items placed on the Consent Agenda.

### IV. Executive Session

The Board moved into Executive Session at 10:05 a.m.

Mr. Vrabely moved, Miss Comer seconded, that the Board move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation. Present in executive session were the following Board members: Allan Taylor, Theresa Hopkins Staten, Andrea Comer, Charles Jaskiewicz, Patricia Keavney-Maruca, Estela Lopez, Robert Trefry, and Joseph Vrabely. Also present for all or part of Executive Session were the following individuals: Commissioner Stefan Pryor; Chief Talent Officer Sarah Barzee; Division Director Glen Peterson; Attorney Robin Cecere; Interim Chief Financial Officer Kathleen Demsey; Chief Operating Officer Charlene Russell-Tucker; and Assistant Attorney General Ralph Urban.

[The Board reconvened in Public Session at 11:07 a.m.]

### VI. Items for Action

By unanimous consent, the Board considered agenda item VI.B., Consideration of Plan to Address Racial Imbalance: Middletown, at this time.

#### A. Consideration of Plan to Address Racial Imbalance: Middletown

Mrs. López moved, Mr. Jaskiewicz seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-226d of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the Middletown Board of Education's amendment to its plan to address racial imbalance at Macdonough School and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**A. Adoption of Legislative Proposals**

Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the State Board of Education adopts the 2014 Legislative Proposals, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Dr. Lopez moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that Section 3 of An Act Concerning Minor Revisions, contained in the proposed 2014 Legislative Proposals, be amended as follows:

In lieu of repealing the entirety of Section 10-226h of the Connecticut General Statutes, Programs and methods to reduce racial, ethnic and economic isolation, only subsections (b) and (c) be eliminated.

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

Motion to amend carried unanimously.

Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Mrs. Keavney-Maruca seconded, that the Board approve the 2014 Legislative Proposals, as amended.

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

Motion as amended carried unanimously.

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

Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the Board approve the Minutes of the November 6, 2013, State Board of Education Meeting.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

## VII. Items for Discussion

### A. Update on Student Suspensions

Mrs. Charlene Russell-Tucker, Chief Operating Officer; Mr. Morgan Barth, Division Director, Turnaround Office; and Mr. Ajit Gopalakrishnan, Bureau Chief, Bureau of Data Collection Research and Evaluation, presented an Update on Student Suspensions and Expulsions in Connecticut. Discussion followed.

[\*Mr. Jones arrived at 12:08 p.m.]

## VIII. Report of the Chair

Mr. Taylor reported on the following:

Theresa Hopkins-Staten was a guest at The University of St. Joseph School of Education's McAuley Lecture, *Education and Civil Rights in the 21st Century*, given by internationally known educator Pedro Noguera on November 7, 2013.

Stephen Wright, Robert Trefry and Allan Taylor joined Commissioner Pryor at the "Dialogue with the State Board of Education" session at the November 15<sup>th</sup> CABA convention. Former State Board of Education member Patricia Luke also attended. The session was divided into three groups: turnaround efforts/accountability, facilitated by Morgan Barth; Common Core, facilitated by Dr. Dianna Roberge-Wentzell; and talent development and assessment, facilitated by Dr. Sarah Barzee. The Commissioner and Board members rotated among the groups during the discussion period.

On November 21, 2013, Theresa Hopkins-Staten provided remarks at the 2013 Parental Recognition Involvement Award ceremony at the State Capitol. The award is given to parents whose involvement and engagement has contributed greatly to their local schools or community organizations.

Charter School Public Hearings:

- Patricia Keavney-Maruca will preside at the charter renewal hearing for Highville Charter School at Eli Whitney Technical High School, Gymnasium, 71 Jones Road, Hamden, CT 06514 on Thursday, December 12, 2013; and
- Robert Trefry will preside at the charter renewal hearing for Park City Prep at Bridgeport City Hall Common Council Chambers, 45 Lyon Terrace, Bridgeport, CT 06604 on Wednesday, December 18, 2013.

Allan Taylor will attend a briefing session on educator preparation policies conducted by the Hunt Institute on Friday, January 31, 2014, in Savannah, Georgia. Connecticut was invited by CCSSO and NASBE as it is participating with CCSSO in an effort to transform educator preparation. Seven states, including Connecticut, were selected to be part of the Network for Transforming Educator Preparation, funded by a grant received by CCSSO to involve stakeholders in revising licensure, program approval and data policies to ensure that educator preparation providers are cultivating teachers who are "Learner-ready on Day One" and principals who are "School-ready on Day One."

Mr. Taylor invited Mr. Jaskiewicz and Sarah Hemingway to provide an overview on the work of the MORE Commission committee that focused on a uniform school calendar and related issues (transportation, cost savings, uniform vacation periods, etc.). Mr. Jaskiewicz and Ms. Hemingway presented the draft Guidelines for a Uniform Calendar. A copy of the draft guidelines and recommendations was distributed to Board members and is included in the official file of this meeting. The committee will meet again on December 16, 2013, to develop a proposal, which will subsequently be presented to the Board for its feedback.

#### **IX. Report of the Commissioner**

Commissioner Pryor and Ms. Renee Savoie, Education Consultant, presented a report on Connecticut's performance in mathematics, science, and reading on the 2012 Program for International Student Assessment (PISA). Discussion followed.

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

No report was given.

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

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten reported on her attendance at the Parental Involvement Awards, sponsored by the Commission on Children, SERC and PRIC. She noted that she was pleased to make remarks at this event in honor of the parents being recognized.

Mrs. Keavney-Maruca reported that she attended the Conference on Student Attendance and the Achievement Gap. She reported that Hartford, Vernon and New Britain have had success in this area and suggested that these towns be invited to a future Board meeting to present.

##### **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**

No report was given.

**G. NASBE**

No report was given.

**Adjourn**

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 1:26 p.m.

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