

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

**Minutes**  
**of the**  
**January 8, 2014, 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, January 8, 2014, in Room 1D of the Legislative Office Building, Hartford, Connecticut.

**I. Call to Order**

Vice Chairperson Theresa Hopkins-Staten called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Present: Theresa Hopkins-Staten, Vice Chairperson  
Jake Colavolpe, student member  
Andrea Comer  
Charles Jaskiewicz  
Patricia Keavney-Maruca\*  
Estela López  
Clayton Potter, student member  
Robert Trefry, ex officio  
Joseph Vrabely  
Stephen Wright

Absent: Gregory Gray, ex officio  
Terry Jones  
Allan Taylor, Chairperson

**II. Public Participation**

1. Jim Carl, Dean, Isabelle Farrington College of Education, Sacred Heart University, and speaking on behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education—Connecticut (AACTE-CT), referenced a *New York Times* article entitled, "Why Other Countries Teach Better," and commented on the state role in education finance and high-quality teacher preparation, as two essential practices that impact the education of Connecticut's students. Dean Carl's written statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
2. Sheila Reese, parent of a student attending the Renzulli Academy in Hartford, expressed her support for the Renzulli Academy to be considered a school rather than a program, and noted that the school is deserving of recognition by Hartford. Ms. Reese requested state intervention in helping to halt the eviction of the Academy from its current location.

[\*Patricia Keavney-Maruca arrived at 9:45 a.m.]

3. Hyacinth Yennie, parent of former students in the Hartford Public Schools, expressed her concerns about the education of Hartford's students, the need for proper resources and respect for teachers, and the need to closely examine how funds are currently being allocated in the system. Ms. Yennie stated that she believed the Hartford school system has not improved as a result of *Sheff v. O'Neill*.
4. Susan Hoffnagle, Chair of the Winchester Board of Education, read prepared remarks that reflected her personal views concerning the audit conducted in Winchester and made recommendations to the Board and Commissioner regarding the Minimum Budget Requirement. Ms. Hoffnagle's written statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
5. Dr. Thomas Danehy, Superintendent of the Winchester Schools, read prepared remarks regarding the complaint filed pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-4b and the negative impact of the Town's actions on the Board of Education's ability to serve its function. Dr. Danehy's written statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
6. Neil Berry, parent of a Hartford student, expressed his concerns about the misinformation being released with regard to Hartford magnet schools, and the conduct of certain Hartford school personnel. Mr. Berry stated that he thought that *Sheff v. O'Neill* has had a detrimental impact on the Hartford Public Schools.
7. Rafael Guadalupe, parent of student attending Sand School in Hartford and Interim Vice-President of the PTO, expressed his concerns about the SAND School nearly being forcibly converted to a magnet school. Mr. Guadalupe stated that we must acknowledge the behavior of and hold school leaders accountable for their actions.
8. Attorney Kevin Nelligan, representing the Town of Winchester, addressed agenda item VI.B., Winchester 10-4b Report, and requested that the Board table the motion for a short period of time to allow for a conference of the parties and to work out the outstanding issues noted in the report.

### **III. Consent Agenda**

There were no items placed on the Consent Agenda.

### **IV. Executive Session**

The Board did not hold an Executive Session.

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

Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Mr. Wright seconded, that the Board approve the Minutes of the December 4, 2013, State Board of Education Meeting.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**VI. Items for Action**

**A. Approval of Amended Plan to Address Racial Imbalance: Manchester**

Dr. López moved, Ms. Comer seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-226d of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the Manchester Board of Education's amendment to its plan to address racial imbalance and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Mr. Vrabely moved, Mr. Jaskiewicz seconded, that the motion be amended to read as follows (new language in italics):

**RESOLVED**, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-226d of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the Manchester Board of Education's amendment to its plan to address racial imbalance *contingent upon the approval of the referendum concerning funding for the school construction proposal; and*

**RESOLVED**, *That in the event that such referendum is not approved, the State Board of Education requires the Manchester Board of Education to provide an amended plan to address racial imbalance within ninety days of such vote; and* directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Amendment carried unanimously.

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

Motion, as amended, carried unanimously.

## **B. Winchester 10-4b Report**

Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Dr. Lopez seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Section 10-4b of the Connecticut General Statutes, orders in the matter of SBE v. Winchester Board of Education

- That a subcommittee of three members of the State Board of Education be appointed to conduct an inquiry regarding the Complaint to be completed within thirty (30) days of this order;
- That the Commissioner of Education be admitted as a party to the proceedings for the purpose of representing the educational interest of the state in the inquiry;
- That the Town of Winchester be added as a party to the inquiry, the State Board of Education hereby having found that the Town of Winchester may be responsible for the failure or inability of the Winchester Board of Education to implement the educational interests of the state;
- That such claims as pertain to the 2013-2014 fiscal year be dismissed; and
- That the Complaint be amended in order to carry out the provisions of this resolution; and

directs the Commissioner to take all actions necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

## **VII. Items for Discussion**

### **A. Presentation on Work of the Connecticut Council for Education Reform and Future Policy Recommendations**

Ramani Ayer, Vice Chair, Board of Directors, Connecticut Council for Education Reform (CCER), and Jeffrey Villar, Executive Director of CCER, Future Policy, spoke about the history of CCER, its areas of focus, its direct work with school districts, and recommendations to the State Board of Education concerning expansion of Alternate Route to Certification Programs, and review of categorical grants for opportunities to reallocate funding to low-performing schools. Discussion ensued.

### **B. Cardio-pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) in Connecticut Schools**

Board member Charles Jaskiewicz introduced the following individuals, who spoke about the feasibility and benefits of teaching Connecticut's students how to perform hands-only CPR, and suggestions as to

how the Board can facilitate this: Gloria Bindelglass, R.N.; Andrew Bindelglass, student at Joel Barlow High School who participated in training; Dr. Gil Lancaster, Cardiologist; Dr. Thomas Nero, Cardiologist, and Bruce Hoffman, Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Corp. A copy of the presenters' PowerPoint presentation is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.

**C. Update on Mastery-Based Learning**

Dr. Dianna Roberge-Wentzell, Chief Academic Officer, provided the Board with an update on the Department's efforts to create and distribute guidance to support educators in schools and districts who are interested in implementing a mastery-based credit system. Discussion followed.

**D. Update on Commissioner's Network**

Mr. Morgan Barth, Division Director, Turnaround Office, provided an update on the Commissioner's Network Schools, which currently includes eleven schools that are provided on-the-ground support, new resources and flexibilities to improve student achievement. Mr. Barth summarized the progress of the Network Schools to date, based on CMT and CAPT results. Discussion followed.

**E. Update on the Arts Standards and the Common Arts Assessment Initiative**

Dr. Dianna Roberge-Wentzell, Chief Academic Officer, and Dr. Scott Shuler, Education Consultant, updated the Board on the status of the development of PreK-12 Arts Standards, Common Arts Assessments and Accountability, and the timeline for the revised K-12 Arts Framework. Discussion followed.

**VIII. Report of the Chair**

Vice-Chairperson Theresa Hopkins-Staten referred Board members to the written report of the Chair, which reads as follows:

1. Patricia Keavney-Maruca presided over a charter school hearing for the renewal of Highville Charter School on December 12, 2013. Robert Trefry presided over a charter school hearing for the renewal of Park City Prep Charter School on December 18, 2013. These two items are expected to be placed on the February agenda for State Board of Education consideration.
2. Mr. Wright will attend the Governmental Affairs Committee meeting of NASBE on January 24, 2014.
3. Mr. Taylor will attend the CCSSO and NASBE-sponsored briefing on educator preparation policies, conducted by the Hunt Institute, Friday, January 31, 2014, in Savannah, GA. Connecticut is a participant with CCSSO in an effort to transform educator preparation and to ensuring that policies are in place that will assist students in becoming college and career ready.

4. On December 18, 2013, Mr. Jones and Mr. Jaskiewicz participated on a conference call with NASBE and Department staff with regard to the state's work with the NASBE Policy Grant. The grant funds activities to promote effective obesity prevention policies in Connecticut's school. Grant objectives focus on school nutrition and physical activity for students. Discussion included a summary of current state activities and the coordinated efforts in place across the state to maximize grant funds and enhance student health and wellness.

NASBE will be conducting a site visit in the coming month, and meeting with representatives of the districts participating in department wellness projects (Coordinated School Health Director Grant, CDC Chronic Disease Grant [Healthy School Communities for Successful Students] and the VITALS program).

5. On December 18, 2013, Mr. Jones and Mr. Jaskiewicz participated on a conference call with NASBE and Department staff with regard to the state's work around nutrition, student health, and coordinated efforts across the state to maximize grant funds and enhance health and wellness. NASBE will be conducting a site visit in Connecticut on February 28, 2014, and will meet with representatives of districts participating in the NASBE Policy Grant and other key stakeholders.
6. The February 5, 2014, State Board of Education meeting of the Board will be held in Room 307 of the State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford.

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

Commissioner Stefan Pryor invited Charlene Russell-Tucker, Chief Operating Officer, to update the Board on the Walsh School (Waterbury) School Governance Council. Mrs. Russell-Tucker presented a summary of the Department's findings and recommendations regarding the Walsh School Governance Council.

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

Interim Chief Financial Officer Kathleen Demsey informed the Board that she intends to present the Second Quarter Financial Report and an update on the Governor's Budget proposal at the February 5, 2014, State Board of Education Meeting.

#### **IX. Committee Reports**

##### **A. Academic Standards and Assessment**

Mr. Wright reported that a meeting schedule will be developed in the near future.

##### **B. Accountability and Support**

No report was given.

##### **C. Finance, Audit and Budget**

No report was given.

**D. Legislation and Policy Development**

No report was given.

**E. Connecticut Technical High School System Board**

Mr. Trefry reported that the Board is working on finalizing a strategic plan and is in the middle of its search for a Superintendent of Schools.

**F. NASBE**

Mr. Wright reported that he participated in a good webinar on the National Science Standards, and will be attending a meeting of the Governmental Affairs Committee later this month.

By unanimous consent the meeting was adjourned at 1:24 p.m.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Stefan Pryor, Secretary