

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

Minutes
of the
February 6, 2014, State Board of Education Meeting
(approved March 5, 2014)

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "*Board*") met on Thursday, February 6, 2014, in Room 307, State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Allan Taylor called the meeting to order at 1:39 p.m.

Present: Allan Taylor, Chairperson
Theresa Hopkins-Staton, Vice Chairperson
Andrea Comer
Terry Jones
Patricia Keavney-Maruca
Robert Trefry, ex officio
Joseph Vrabely
Stephen Wright

Absent: Jake Colavolpe, student member
Gregory Gray, ex officio
Charles Jaskiewicz
Estela López
Clayton Potter, student member

On a motion by Ms. Comer, seconded by Mr. Jones, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the revised agenda, which includes item VI.E., and to consider agenda item VI.D., Appointment of Superintendent of Schools, Connecticut Technical High School System, immediately after public participation.

II. Public Participation

1. Bruce Ravage, Founder and Director of Park City Preparatory Charter School, spoke in support of the proposal to renew the charter of Park City Preparatory Charter School, and to add Grade 5 to the school.
2. Craig Drezek, Director of Highville Charter School, spoke in support of the proposal to renew the charter of Highville Charter School, and to add Grades 10, 11 and 12 over a three-year period.
3. Dr. Trowers-Lawrence and Ms. Jackie Bryant gave a presentation on the "Daddy and Me Reading Contest," and spoke about the benefits of engaging fathers in literacy initiatives.

Commissioner of Education Stefan Pryor introduced the following new State Department of Education staff members to the State Board of Education: Ms. Natalie Wagner, Director, Office of Legal and Governmental Affairs; Mr. Sergio Rodriguez, Education Staff Assistant, Office of Student Supports and Organizational Effectiveness; and Ms. Shannon Marimón, Division Director, Bureau of Educator Effectiveness and Professional Learning.

VI. Items for Action

A. Appointment of Superintendent of Schools, Connecticut Technical High School System

Mrs. Keavney-Maruca moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (c) of Section 10-95 of the Connecticut General Statutes and Article IV of its Bylaws, approves the recommendation of the Connecticut Technical High School System Board and the Commissioner of Education concerning the appointment of a candidate for Superintendent of the Technical High School System and hereby appoints Nivea L. Torres as Superintendent of the Technical High School System, effective immediately, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

III. Consent Agenda

Mr. Vrabely moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded, that the Board approve the following consent agenda items: III.A., Approval of Summer Food Service State Plan; and III.B., Reappointments to the Connecticut Advisory Council for School Administrator Professional Standards.

A. Approval of Summer Food Service State Plan

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 13 of the National School Lunch Act of 1946, as amended by P.L. 108-265, P.L. 110-246, P.L. 111-80 and reauthorized on December 13, 2010, under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, P.L. 111-296, approves the State Plan for Fiscal Year 2014 - Summer Food Service Program for Children, for submission to the United States Department of Agriculture, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

B. Reappointments to the Connecticut Advisory Council for School Administrator Professional Standards

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (b) of Section 10-144e of the Connecticut General Statutes, reappoints Judith Resnick and Gary Alger to serve as State Board of Education representatives to the Connecticut Advisory Council for School Administrator Professional Standards through January 15, 2016, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motions carried unanimously.

IV. Executive Session

The Board did not meet in Executive Session.

V. Consideration of the Minutes of the January 8, 2014, State Board of Education Meeting

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten moved, Mrs. Keavney-Maruca seconded, that the Board approve the Minutes of the January 8, 2014, State Board of Education Meeting.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Items for Action

A. Adoption of “Proposed Flexibilities: Guidelines for Educator Evaluation”

Mrs. Keavney-Maruca moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (c)(2) of section 10-151b of the Connecticut General Statutes, amends the guidelines for a teacher evaluation and support program, known as the Connecticut Guidelines for Educator Evaluation, by incorporating the attached “Proposed Flexibilities to the Guidelines for Educator Evaluation” recommended by the Performance Evaluation Advisory Council at its meeting on January 29, 2014, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Mrs. Keavney-Maruca moved, Mr. Wright seconded, to amend proposed section 2.9 of the Proposed Flexibilities to the Guidelines for Educator Evaluation, as follows:

The second sentence of the first paragraph should read as follows:

Any district that adopts flexibility components in accordance with this section in the 2013-14 school year shall, within 30 days of adoption of such revisions by its local or regional board of education, and no later than March 30, 2014, submit its plan revisions to the State Department of Education for its review and approval.

The second sentence of section a. should read as follows:

For each goal/objective, each teacher, through mutual agreement with his/her evaluator, will select multiple Indicators of Academic Growth and Development and evidence of those indicators, based on the range of criteria used by the district.

The first sentence of section c. should read as follows:

Teachers who receive and maintain an annual summative performance evaluation designation of proficient or exemplary (or the equivalent annual summative ratings in a pre-existing district evaluation plan) during the 2012-13 or any subsequent school year and who are not first or second year teachers shall be evaluated with a minimum of one formal in-class observation no less frequently than...year.

Also under section c., fourth line from end, insert the word "the" before procedures in 2.3(2)

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

Motion to amend carried unanimously.

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten moved, Mr. Wright seconded, to amend the resolution by inserting in the last line, before "and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action." the following:

and including those exemptions referenced on page 2 of the Commissioner's February 5, 2014, memorandum to the State Board of Education, "Exemption for Educators in Unified School District #1, Unified School District #2, Adult Education, Approved Private Special Education Facilities, Central Office and Charter School Administrators and Pre-K"

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

Amendment carried unanimously.

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

Motion, as amended, carried unanimously.

B. Renewal of Charter: Highville Charter School

Mrs. Comer moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded, that the Board, pursuant to subsection (g) of Section 10-66bb of the Connecticut General Statutes, renews the charter of Highville Charter School from July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2020, and grants approval to expand the grade levels to add Grades 10 through 12, to be phased in during the period 2014-15 through 2016-17, and subject to available funds for additional seats, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

(Mrs. Comer left the meeting at 4:03 p.m.)

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

Motion carried unanimously.

(Mrs. Comer returned to the meeting at 4:05 p.m.)

C. Renewal of Charter: Park City Preparatory Charter School

Mrs. Keavney-Maruca moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the Board, pursuant to subsection (g) of Section 10-66bb of the Connecticut General Statutes, renews the charter of Park City Prep Charter School from July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2019, and grants approval to expand the grade levels to add Grade 5, beginning in the 2014-15 school year and subject to available funds for additional seats, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

E. Windham Special Master and Search Process for Windham Superintendent of Schools

On a motion by Mrs. Keavney-Maruca, seconded by Mr. Vrabely, the Board considered the following resolution:

Be it jointly resolved by the State Board of Education and the Windham Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-223e of the Connecticut General Statutes:

RESOLVED, That the Connecticut State Department of Education shall conclude the Special Master function for the Windham school district as of June 30, 2014, with a final report due by the Special Master to the State Board of Education by September 15, 2014;

RESOLVED, That the Windham Board of Education, acting through its Superintendent Search Committee, shall lead the search for a new Superintendent of Schools for the Windham school district;

RESOLVED, That in conducting such search, the Windham Board of Education, acting through its Superintendent Search Committee, shall coordinate with the State Commissioner of Education (or a designee) in order to identify and agree upon qualities and qualifications desired and expected of candidates for the position;

RESOLVED, That the Windham Board of Education, acting through its Superintendent Search Committee, will then conduct a search for candidates, select candidates for a first round of interviews, and interview such candidates;

RESOLVED, That the Windham Board of Education, acting through its Superintendent Search Committee, will then identify no fewer than three finalists for the position, or fewer upon consent of the State Commissioner of Education;

RESOLVED, That the Windham Board of Education, acting through its Superintendent Search Committee, and the State Commissioner of Education (or designee) shall then jointly conduct interviews of the finalists and jointly recommend a final candidate for appointment by the Windham Board of Education;

RESOLVED, That upon such joint recommendation, the Windham Board of Education shall elect such jointly-recommended final candidate to serve as its Superintendent of Schools exclusively as an employee of the Windham Board of Education;

RESOLVED, That the Windham Board of Education and State Commissioner of Education (or designee) shall jointly determine the period of service and renewal date of the contract for the Superintendent of Schools, which shall be incorporated into the Superintendent's contract;

RESOLVED, That the Windham Board of Education and State Commissioner of Education (or designee) shall jointly make the determination regarding renewal of the contract, which joint determination shall be incorporated into the Superintendent's contract;

RESOLVED, That if the jointly-selected Superintendent vacates the office prior to June 30, 2019 for any reason, including but not limited to non-renewal or termination, the Windham Board of Education and the State Commissioner of Education shall engage in the same joint process for selecting the next Superintendent;

RESOLVED, The State Department of Education shall continue to provide additional funding to the Windham school district in an amount of \$750,000 per year, in addition to its ECS and Alliance District allocations, during the Superintendent's initial period of service.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

VII. Items for Discussion

There were no items scheduled for discussion.

VIII. Report of the Chair

Chairperson Allan Taylor reported the following:

1. He met with the AACTE deans and department heads of education on Friday, January 17, 2014, to discuss the impact of reform efforts on their programs, the new Master's degree program requirements, and the challenges affiliated with the successful implementation of the Common Core.
2. The Winchester 10-4b Hearing has been scheduled for February 19, 2014, at 1:00 p.m., in the State Office Building, Room 126, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford. Mr. Taylor will chair the panel, and will be joined by Board members Estela Lopez and Stephen Wright. In the event of inclement weather, the hearing will be held on February 21, 2014, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 307.

VIII. Report of the Chair (continued)

3. Board members have been invited to attend a lecture with Dr. Freeman Hrabowski III on February 12th, at the Edgerton Center for the Performing Arts at SHU, 7:00 PM. This event is being sponsored by The Farrington College of Education at Sacred Heart University. Dr. Hrabowski is the President of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, a nationally known figure in education and a noteworthy advocate of STEM. The topic of the evening will be, "The Power to Change: Encouraging Minority Achievement in Education."

IX. Report of the Commissioner

Commissioner Stefan Pryor invited Mrs. Ellen Cohn, Division Director of Standards, Curriculum, and Instruction in the Academic Office, to make a presentation on the Connecticut State Department of Education Common Core website: <http://ctcorestandards.org/>. A copy of the Power Point presentation is enclosed in the official records of this meeting.

X. Financial Matters

A. Quarterly Financial Report

Interim Chief Financial Officer Kathleen Demsey presented the report to the Board. Discussion followed.

XI. Committee Reports

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten reported that the Legislation and Policy Development Committee meeting will be rescheduled.

Mr. Trefry reported that the Connecticut Technical High School System Board is pleased with the appointment of Dr. Nivea Torres as Superintendent of Schools, and the Board is making significant progress on developing its strategic plan.

By unanimous consent the meeting was adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

Signed: _____
Stefan Pryor, Secretary