

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

**Minutes**  
**of the**  
**May 7, 2014, State Board of Education Meeting**  
*(Approved June 4, 2014)*

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "*Board*") met on Wednesday, May 7, 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 9:40 a.m.

Present: Allan Taylor, Chairperson  
Jake Colavolpe, student member  
Andrea Comer  
Charles Jaskiewicz  
Terry Jones  
Patricia Keavney-Maruca  
Estela López  
Robert Trefry, ex officio  
Joseph Vrabely  
Stephen Wright

Absent: Gregory Gray, ex officio  
Theresa Hopkins-Staten, Vice Chairperson  
Clayton Potter, student member

**II. Public Participation**

1. Jeffrey Villar, Connecticut Council for Education Reform (CCER), commented on proposed changes to PEAC, noting that teachers have opportunities to weigh in on their goals, and deserve feedback on their performance. Mr. Villar described the link between instruction and student performance.
2. Agnes Burns, president of the Connecticut Association for Reading Research, spoke about the definition of reading, and the need to establish a clear purpose for the assessment of young readers. A copy of Ms. Burns' prepared remarks is included in the official file of this meeting.
3. Dr. Ann Marie Mulready, Connecticut Association for Reading Research, expressed her concerns about the assessment of K-3 literacy. A copy of Dr. Mulready's prepared remarks is included in the official file of this meeting.

4. Jennifer Alexander, Chief Executive Officer, Connecticut Coalition for Achievement Now, expressed her views on the proposed revisions to Connecticut's statewide system for educator evaluation, noting that while compromises might be in order, it is important that any modifications to the state's educator evaluation system must ensure that we preserve the link between an educator's performance review and achievement growth. A copy of Ms. Alexander's prepared remarks is contained in the official file of this meeting.
5. Tom Stringfellow, resident of Manchester, spoke about the importance of earth science and geography, the Common Core State Standards, and recommended to the Board several articles and books regarding slavery and progress in the Manchester Public Schools.

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Commissioner Stefan Pryor made a preliminary announcement regarding the 2013 NAEP results in reading and mathematics, highlighting Connecticut's successes in reading, mathematics and closing the gap.

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6. Michael Galluzzo, Assistant Executive Director, Connecticut Principal's Center of the Connecticut Association of Schools, spoke about alternative school programs and CAS' role in working with a large group of urban educators and legislators on how best to attract these underserved students in significant numbers. He noted that the recommendations in the Achievement Gap Task Force Master Plan provide a comprehensive approach to preparing all students to be college and career ready, and urged the Board to advocate for policies and legislation in support of the Master Plan. A copy of Mr. Galluzzo's prepared remarks is included in the official file of this meeting.
7. Rosa Torres, a parent of a child attending Luis Muñoz Marin School in Bridgeport, described her role in developing the Turnaround Plan for the school. She urged the Board to approve the plan.

On a motion by Mr. Jaskiewicz, seconded by Mr. Vrabely, the Board voted unanimously to consider item VI.A., Grandfathering Policy for the New Subject Area Master's Degree Requirement, at this time.

Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the Board postpone action on agenda item VI.A., Grandfathering Policy for the New Subject Area Master's Degree Requirement.

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

Motion to postpone failed.

## VI. Items for Action

### A. Grandfathering Policy for the New Subject Area Master's Degree Requirement

Dr. López moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (g) of Section 10-145b of the Connecticut General Statutes, adopts the recommended grandfathering clause for advancing a certificate from the provisional to the professional level on or after July 1, 2016, when the new content-based master's degree requirement takes effect, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried.

[The meeting was recessed at 10:48 a.m.]  
[The meeting reconvened at 11:11 a.m.]

On a motion by Mr. Jaskiewicz, seconded by Mr. Vrabely, the Board voted unanimously to consider item VII.C., Reading Assessments K-3, at this time.

## VII. Items for Discussion

### A. Reading Assessment K-3

Dr. Dianna Roberge-Wentzell, Chief Academic Officer, and Mrs. Ellen Cohn, Division Director, Division of Standards, Curriculum, and Instruction, in the Academic Office, presented a report and PowerPoint titled "Implementing K-3 Literacy Legislation – Overview of K-3 Reading Components from P.A. 12-116." Discussion followed.

On a motion by Dr. López, seconded by Mrs. Keavney-Maruca, the Board voted unanimously to consider item VI.B., An Update on Connecticut's Educator Evaluation and Support System and Approval of Proposed Revisions for the Connecticut Guidelines for Educator Evaluation, at this time.

On a motion by Mr. Jaskiewicz, seconded by Dr. López, the Board voted unanimously to add to the agenda item VI.C., Waiver of Extension of 2013-14 Educator Evaluation and Support Plan Revision Notification.

## VI. Items for Action

### B. An Update on Connecticut's Educator Evaluation and Support System and Approval of Proposed Revisions for the Connecticut Guidelines for Educator Evaluation

Dr. López moved, Ms. Comer 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 an educator evaluation and support program, known as the Connecticut Guidelines for Educator Evaluation, by incorporating the attached "Proposed Guidelines Revisions" dated April 24, 2014, proposed by the Performance Evaluation Advisory Council (PEAC) and the "Extension of Waiver Provision" presented within these materials; and

That the State Board of Education approves the proposed changes to Connecticut's System for Educator Evaluation and Development (SEED), as summarized in the attached "Proposed Updates to the 2014 SEED Handbook," as recommended by the Performance Evaluation Advisory Council at its meeting on April 24, 2014, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

### C. Waiver of Extension of 2013-14 Educator Evaluation and Support Plan Revision Notification

Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Mrs. Keavney-Maruca seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to the Commissioner's May 7, 2014, memorandum to the Board, "Waiver of Deadline of Notification of 2013-14 Educator Evaluation and Support Plan Revisions," authorizes Highville Charter School, Shared Services, and Plymouth Public Schools, who were unable to meet the April 11, 2014, deadline for notification of their flexibility request, to submit to the State Department of Education for its review and approval their selected flexibilities outlined in Section 2.9 of the "Proposed Flexibilities to the Guidelines for Educator Evaluation," and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Jones removed item III.H., Application for Funds: United States Department of Agriculture 2015 Farm to School Grant, from the Consent Agenda.

### III. Consent Agenda

On a motion by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Jaskiewicz, the Board voted unanimously to consider III.H., Application for Funds: United State Department of Agriculture 2015 Farm to School Grant. Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the Board approve the following consent agenda items: III.A., Approval of Application for Funds: Special Education Federal IDEA, Part B; III.B., Connecticut Technical High School System Trade Reauthorization: Arts, Audio/Visual Technology, and Communications Clulster; III.C., Rolling Capital Equipment Plan for the Technical High School System; III.D., Designation of Teacher Shortage Areas; III.E., Request to Finance Advisory Committee to Transfer Funds; III.F., Adoption of the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators Tests in Reading, Writing and Mathematics; and III.I., Receipt of Report on Racial Imbalance Statistics.

#### A. Approval of Application for Funds: Special Education Federal IDEA, Part B

**RESOLVED**, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-11 of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the 2014 grant application entitled “Annual State Application Under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act, as Amended in 2004, for Federal Fiscal Year 2014” to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

#### B. Connecticut Technical High School System Trade Reauthorization: Arts, Audio/Video Technology, and Communications Cluster

**RESOLVED**, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-95i (b) of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the following trades for the periods indicated:

##### Arts, Audio/Video (A/V) Technology and Communications Career Cluster

Digital Media formerly Media Production	from January 2014 to January 2019
Graphics Technology	from January 2014 to January 2019
Sound Production Technology formerly Music Production	from January 2014 to January 2019

<u>Information Technology Career Cluster</u>	
Electronics Technology	from January 2014 to January 2019
Information Systems Technology	from January 2014 to January 2019
Pre-Electrical Engineering	from January 2014 to January 2019

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

**C. Rolling Capital Equipment Plan for the Technical High School System**

**RESOLVED**, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-95i(d) of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the Connecticut Technical High School System's Rolling Capital Improvement and Capital Equipment Plan 2015-2019, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

**D. Designation of Teacher Shortage Areas**

**RESOLVED**, That the State Board of Education approves the Designation of Certification Shortage Areas, 2014-15 (Fall Hiring Report), and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

**E. Request to Finance Advisory Committee to Transfer Funds**

**RESOLVED**, That the State Board of Education approves the request for Finance Advisory Committee (FAC) action to transfer \$9,690,600 between various accounts, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

**F. Adoption of the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators Tests in Reading, Writing and Mathematics**

**RESOLVED**, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Subsections (a) and (b) of Section 10-145f of the Connecticut General Statutes, adopts the Praxis™ Core Academic Skills for Educators tests in Reading (5712), Writing (5722) and Mathematics (5732), effective September 1, 2014, for any person seeking admission to an educator preparation program or certification, unless the person meets requirements for a waiver or exemption from such testing requirements, and directs the Commissioner to take necessary action.

**I. Receipt of Report on Racial Imbalance Statistics**

**RESOLVED**, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Sections 10-226a and 10-226b of the Connecticut General Statutes, accepts the Racial Imbalance Report, dated April 3, 2014, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motions carried unanimously.

**H. Application for Funds: United State Department of Agriculture 2015 Farm to School Grant**

Mr. Wright moved, Mr. Jaskiewicz seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Public Law 111-296, The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, which amended Section 18 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, approves the 2015 Connecticut Farm to School grant application for submission to the United States Department of Agriculture, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**VII. Items Requiring Action**

**B. Approval of Applications for the Commissioner's Network**

**2. Robert J. O'Brien STEM Academy, East Hartford**

Dr. López moved, Mr. Jaskiewicz seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-223h of the Connecticut General Statutes, adopts and approves the Turnaround Plan for Robert J. O'Brien STEM Academy in East Hartford for the Commissioner's Network, subject to the conditions noted in the Commissioner's May 7, 2014, memorandum to the State Board of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action, including, but not limited to, expending such funds as may be necessary to execute and implement the foregoing.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**VII.B. Approval of Applications for the Commissioner’s Network (continued)**

**3. Luis Muñoz Marin School, Bridgeport**

Mrs. Keavney-Maruca moved, Mr. Jaskiewicz seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-223h of the Connecticut General Statutes, adopts and approves the Turnaround Plan for Luis Muñoz Marin School in Bridgeport for the Commissioner’s Network, subject to the conditions noted in the Commissioner’s May 7, 2014, memorandum to the State Board of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action, including, but not limited to, expending such funds as may be necessary to execute and implement the foregoing.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

[The Board recessed for lunch at 1:08 p.m., and reconvened at 1:50 p.m.]

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Governor Dannel P. Malloy and Commissioner Stefan Pryor highlighted Connecticut’s performance on the 2013 Grade 12 NAEP reading test, and noted the significance of narrowing the gap. They commended teachers, administrators and students and all others who contributed to these positive results. They then introduced the following individuals who joined them at the podium: Melodie Peters, President, AFT CT; Joseph Cirasuolo, Executive Director, CAPSS; and Patrice McCarthy, Deputy Executive Director and General Counsel of CAFE. A copy of the press release is included in the official file of this meeting.

[The meeting was recessed at 2:10 p.m.]  
[The meeting reconvened at 2:20 p.m.]

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**VII.B. Approval of Applications for the Commissioner’s Network (continued)**

**1. Lincoln-Bassett School, New Haven**

Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Mr. Jones seconded that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-223h of the Connecticut General Statutes, adopts and approves the Turnaround Plan for Lincoln-Bassett School in New Haven for the Commissioner’s Network, subject to the conditions noted in the Commissioner’s May 7, 2014, memorandum to the State Board of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action, including, but not limited to, expending such funds as may be necessary to execute and implement the foregoing.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**4. Uncas School, Norwich**

Mr. Vrabely moved, Mr. Jaskiewicz seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-223h of the Connecticut General Statutes, adopts and approves the Turnaround Plan for Uncas School in Norwich for the Commissioner's Network, subject to the conditions noted in the Commissioner's May 7, 2014, memorandum to the State Board of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action, including, but not limited to, expending such funds as may be necessary to execute and implement the foregoing.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

On a motion by Dr. López, seconded by Ms. Comer, the Board voted unanimously to add to the agenda item VII.B.5., Approval of Clark School Turnaround Plan.

**5. Clark School, Hartford**

Dr. López moved, Ms. Comer seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-223h of the Connecticut General Statutes, adopts and approves the Turnaround Plan for John C. Clark School in Hartford for the Commissioner's Network, subject to the terms and conditions noted in the Commissioner's May 7, 2014, memorandum to the State Board of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action, including, but not limited to, expending such funds as may be necessary to execute and implement the foregoing.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**V. Consideration of the Minutes of the April 2, 2014, State Board of Education Meeting**

Mr. Jones moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded that the Board approve the Minutes of the April 2, 2014, State Board of Education Meeting.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

On a motion by Mr. Jaskiewicz, seconded by Ms. Comer, the Board voted unanimously to add to the agenda item VI.D., Resolution – Nomination of Chairperson Allan B. Taylor for 2014 National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Distinguished Service Award.

Mr. Wright moved, Ms. Comer seconded, that the Board nominate Chairperson Allan B. Taylor for the 2014 National Association of State Boards of Education Distinguished Service Award, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**VIII. Report of the Chair**

Mr. Taylor referenced his written report (copy in official file). Mr. Jones spoke about the Governor's recent visit to a preschool program in Shelton.

**IX. Report of the Commissioner**

Commissioner Pryor invited Chief Operating Officer Charlene Russell-Tucker to give a PowerPoint presentation on "Alliance District Convening – Connecting Community Partners and Social Service Providers." Discussion of the importance of working collaboratively with partners to address specific topics of mutual concern (e.g., chronic absence, homelessness), and maintaining those partnerships, followed.

Commissioner Pryor introduced Ms. Renee Savoie, Education Consultant, who gave a PowerPoint presentation on Connecticut's Performance on the 2013 NAEP in Grade 12, reading and mathematics.

**X. Financial Matters**

Commissioner Pryor and Mrs. Kathy Demsey, Chief Financial Officer, gave an overview of changes to the budget, and highlighted concerns about reduced funding for the Department's Talent Office and a shortfall in the magnet school account. Discussion ensued.

**XI. Committee Reports**

**A. Academic Standards and Assessment**

No report was given.

**B. Accountability and Support**

No report was given.

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

No report was given.

**D. Legislation and Policy**

No report was given.

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

No report was given.

**F. NASBE**

No report was given.

By unanimous consent the meeting was adjourned at 3:51 p.m.

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