

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION Hartford

Draft Minutes of the June 4, 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, June 4, 2014, in Room 1D of the Legislative Office Building, Hartford, Connecticut.

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Allan Taylor called the meeting to order at 10:19 a.m.

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

Absent: Gregory Gray, ex officio

Chairperson Allan Taylor asked for a moment of silence in memory of Dr. Vivian Cross, who dedicated her life to the improvement of student health and education.

II. Public Participation

1. Dr. Darcy Fiano, public school educator who works in an Alliance district involved in the K-3 Literacy Initiative, parent, and a researcher, expressed concerns regarding the K-3 Literacy Initiative with regard to the Department's lack of focus on oral language acquisition and development. A copy of Dr. Fiano's prepared remarks is included in the official file of this meeting.
2. Dr. Jess House, Dean of the School of Professional Studies at Western Connecticut State University, spoke in support of the Board adopting the AACTE-CT proposal, wherein courses in an appropriate master's degree must be related to the teacher's certification endorsement area. A copy of Dr. House's prepared remarks is included in the official file of this meeting.

3. Dr. Mary Gallucci, Windham parent, expressed her concerns regarding the Turnaround Plan for Windham Middle School. A copy of Dr. Gallucci's prepared remarks is included in the official file of this meeting.
4. Mr. Jerry Phillips, parent in Windham, expressed concerns about the Turnaround Plan for Windham Middle School, stating that resources are essential to turn around a school. He expressed his disapproval of the term "failing" when describing a school, noting the negative impact such a label has on morale.
5. Mr. Tom Stringfellow, resident of Manchester, spoke about several topics, including many historical events and initiatives geared to prevent bullying, and recommended articles and books pertaining to these topics.

V. Consideration of the Minutes of the May 7, 2014, State Board of Education Meeting

Mr. Jones moved, Mr. Keavney-Maruca seconded, that the Board approve the Minutes of the May 7, 2014, State Board of Education Meeting.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Items for Action

A. Approval of Revised Turnaround Plan for Years 2 and 3 of the Commissioner's Network: Windham Middle School, Windham

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten moved, Mr. Jaskiewicz seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-223h of the Connecticut General Statutes, adopts and approves the revised Turnaround Plan for Windham Middle School in Windham for Years 2 and 3 of the Commissioner's Network, subject to the conditions noted in the Commissioner's June 4, 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, Hopkins-Staten, Jaskiewicz, Jones, Keavney-Maruca, López, Taylor, Vrabely, Wright
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: 0

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Uniform Regional School Calendars

Dr. López moved, Ms. Comer seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Public Act 13-247 and the Guidelines of the Uniform Regional School Calendar Taskforce, approves the uniform regional school calendars submitted by Connecticut's Regional Educational Service Centers (Capitol Region Education Council; Cooperative Educational Services; Area Cooperative Educational Services; Education Connection; EASTCONN; and LEARN), and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Mrs. Keavney-Maruca moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the resolution be amended to read as follows:

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Public Act 13-247 and the Guidelines of the Uniform Regional School Calendar Taskforce, approves the uniform regional school calendars for the school year commencing July 1, 2014, submitted by Connecticut's Regional Educational Service Centers (Capitol Region Education Council; Cooperative Educational Services; Area Cooperative Educational Services; Education Connection; EASTCONN; and LEARN), and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion to amend carried unanimously.

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

Motion as amended carried unanimously.

C. Approval of Menu of K-3 Reading Assessments

By unanimous consent, the Board postponed consideration of agenda item VI.C., Approval of Menu of K-3 Reading Assessments, to the July 9, 2014, State Board of Education meeting.

[At 11:56 a.m., Commissioner Pryor and Ms. Comer recused themselves during the Board's consideration of agenda item VI. D., Approval of Charter School Enrollments.]

D. Approval of Charter School Enrollments

Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Mrs. Keavney-Maruca seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-66bb(c) of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the distribution of 8,183 seats in state charter schools and 63 seats at a local charter school for the 2014-15 school year, and grants enrollment waivers for 9 schools, as delineated in the June 4, 2014, memorandum to the Board, "Approval of Charter School Enrollments."

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

Motion carried unanimously.

[Commissioner Pryor and Ms. Comer returned to the meeting at 12:05 p.m.]

VII. Items Requiring Discussion

C. Status of Development of Draft Social Studies Position Statement and Curriculum Framework

Dr. Roberge-Wentzell presented an update on the status of the development of the draft Social Studies Position Statement and Curriculum Framework, and recognized the involvement of the Connecticut Council for Social Studies. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Pryor updated the Board on the National Core Arts Standards and noted that Dr. Scott Shuler, arts education consultant for the State Department of Education, played a leadership role in this effort. Commissioner Pryor distributed to the Board information about the National Core Arts Standards. A copy of the handouts is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.

[The Board recessed for lunch at 12:24 p.m.]

[The meeting reconvened at 1:13 p.m.]

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten and Dr. Gray were absent; Mr. Clayton Potter arrived at the meeting.

VII. Items Requiring Discussion

A. Achievement Gap Taskforce Master Plan to Eliminate the Achievement Gap in Connecticut

Mrs. Charlene Russell-Tucker, Chief Operating Officer, introduced Mr. Miguel Cardona, Performance Evaluation Specialist, Meriden Public Schools, and Co-Chair of the Achievement Gap Task Force; and Mr. Steven Hernandez, Public Policy Director for the Connecticut Commission on Children. Mr. Cardona and Mr. Hernandez presented a summary of the work of the Achievement Gap Taskforce and the findings and recommendations contained in its report, "Achievement Gap Taskforce Master Plan to Eliminate the Achievement Gap in Connecticut." Discussion followed.

B. FoodCorps Presentation

Mr. Curt Ellis, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer of FoodCorps; Jiff Martin, UConn Extension; and FoodCorps Service Members Eileen Garcia, Ansonia district, Massaro Community Farm in Woodbridge; Madison Wierzel, Bridgeport District, Wholesome Wave; and Kate Callahan, Windham District, Windham Regional Community Council, presented an overview of FoodCorps and its mission, and the impact their work has on student nutrition, education, and engagement. Discussion followed.

E. End-of-year Presentation by SSACE

Mr. David Maloney, Director of the State Student Advisory Council on Education (SSACE), introduced SSACE members Natalina Schappach, Hope Modugno, Jason Gallant, and Sophia Ronga, who spoke about the three areas the SSACE focused on during the 2013-14 school year: School Climate, Student Motivation, and Common Core State Standards. A copy of the SSACE PowerPoint presentation is included in the official file of this meeting.

III. Consent Agenda

Dr. López moved, Mrs. Keavney-Maruca seconded, that the Board approve the following consent agenda items: III.A., Approval of Annual Audit Plan; III.B., Approval of 2015 Meeting Schedule; III.C., Appointments to Impartial Hearing Board; III.D., Adoption of Praxis II Middle School Math and Science Test; and III.E., Recognition of Career and Technical Student Organizations.

A. Approval of Annual Audit Plan

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education adopts the Annual Audit Plan for the period of July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

B. Approval of 2015 Meeting Schedule

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 1-225 of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the 2015 schedule of regular meeting dates, as follows:

January 7, 2015
February 4, 2015
March 4, 2015
April 1, 2015
May 6, 2015
June 3, 2015
July 8, 2015
August 5, 2015 (retreat)
September 2, 2015
October 7, 2015
November 4, 2015
December 2, 2015

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

C. Appointments to Impartial Hearing Board

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Sections 10-186(b)(2), 10-233d(b) and 10-15d of the Connecticut General Statutes and Sections 10-145-611(h), 612(h), 613(f), and 10-4-12(f) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, hereby reappoints the following individuals to conduct hearings and render decisions as an impartial hearing board, or otherwise, on matters where they may be appointed to serve in accordance with law for the period from the conclusion of their current appointments through August 31, 2015:

Ann F. Bird
R. Thomas Clark
Donal C. Collimore
Janis C. Jerman
Stanton H. Lesser
Thomas C. McNeill, Jr.
Steven R. Rolnick
Frederic S. Ury

D. Adoption of Praxis II Middle School Math and Science Tests

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (b) of Section 10-145f of the Connecticut General Statutes, adopts the Praxis II Tests for Middle School Mathematics (5169) and Middle School Science (5440), effective September 1, 2014, for any person seeking certification in such areas, unless the person meets requirements for an exemption from such testing requirements as provided in subsection (f) of Section 10-145f of the Connecticut General Statutes, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

E. Recognition of Career and Technical Student Organizations

Whereas, Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) are a co-curricular, integral part of the local, state and national career and technical education programs;

Whereas, The development of individual student leadership skills is the keystone of these organizations; and

Whereas, All CTSO chapters were asked to identify an outstanding service project; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Connecticut Board of Education recognizes the following CTSO Outstanding Service Award Recipients:

- Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA), Danbury High School, Danbury
- Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Nonnewaug High School, Woodbury
- FFA, formerly known as Future Farmers of America, Ledyard High School, Ledyard
- Future Health Professionals (HOSA), Lyman Hall High School and Sheehan High School, Wallingford
- SkillsUSA, W.F. Kaynor Technical High School, Waterbury
- Technology Student Association (TSA), Litchfield High School, Litchfield

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motions carried unanimously.

By unanimous consent, the Board added to the agenda and approved item VII.F., Recognition of Clayton Potter.

F. Recognition of Clayton Potter

Whereas, Section 10-1 of the Connecticut General Statutes provides for the appointment of two student members to the Connecticut State Board of Education; and

Whereas, Governor Dannel P. Malloy appointed Clayton Potter of New London, Connecticut, to the State Board of Education for a one-year term commencing July 1, 2013; and

Whereas, During his tenure, Mr. Potter has served with distinction and has contributed greatly to the Board's discussions of education policy issues; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education extends to Clayton Potter its appreciation for his commitment to educational excellence and equity in Connecticut public schools and best wishes for success in his future endeavors.

By unanimous consent, the Board added to the agenda and approved agenda item VII.G., Recognition of Jake Colavolpe.

G. Recognition of Jake Colavolpe

Whereas, Section 10-1 of the Connecticut General Statutes provides for the appointment of two student members to the Connecticut State Board of Education; and

Whereas, Governor Dannel P. Malloy appointed Jake Colavolpe of East Haven, Connecticut, to the State Board of Education for a one-year term commencing July 1, 2013; and

Whereas, During his tenure, Mr. Colavolpe has served with distinction and has contributed greatly to the Board's discussions of education policy issues; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education extends to Jake Colavolpe its appreciation for his commitment to educational excellence and equity in Connecticut public schools and best wishes for success in his future endeavors.

VIII. Report of the Chair

Mr. Taylor reported on the Governor's and his attendance at the O'Brien STEM Academy in East Hartford, part of the Commissioner's Network.

IX. Report of the Commissioner

Commissioner Pryor reported on the National Core Arts Standards earlier in the meeting.

X. Financial Matters

Mrs. Kathy Demsey, Chief Financial Officer, stated that the year ended in “the black” and she will present the end-of-year report to the Board at a future meeting.

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

Mr. Trefry reported on his attendance at the Legislative Breakfast at J.M. Wright Technical High School, noting that the school building looks spectacular.

F. NASBE

No report was given.

By unanimous consent the meeting was adjourned at 3:39 p.m.

Signed: _____
Stefan Pryor, Secretary