

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

**Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
September 3, 2014**

(Approved November 5, 2014)

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, September 3, 2014, in Room 1D of the Legislative Office Building, Hartford, Connecticut.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Allan Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

Present: Allan Taylor, Chairperson
Theresa Hopkins-Staton, Vice Chairperson
Erin D. Benham
Michael Caminear, Student
Megan Foell, Student
Charles Jaskiewicz
Patricia Keavney-Maruca
Estela López
Maria I. Mojica
Robert Trefry, ex officio
Joseph Vrabely

Absent: Gregory Gray, ex officio
Terry Jones
Stephen Wright

Attorney Louis Todisco administered the Oath of Office to State Board of Education members Erin D. Benham and Maria I. Mojica, and student members Michael Caminear and Megan Foell.

II. Public Participation

1. Bette Bergeron, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU), asked the Board to consider granting provisional approval, as opposed to probationary approval to the SCSU educator preparation programs. She expressed her confidence in the ability of the new Dean of the School of Education, Stephen Hegedus, to respond to and remedy areas identified as needing improvement by the end of this academic year.
2. Stephen Hegedus, Dean of the School of Education, Southern Connecticut State University, expressed his commitment to continuous improvement at the university's educator preparation program, and his confidence in completing the work that needs to be done to address identified "areas for improvement" (AFIs)

within the year. He stated that he does not think the current recommendation of probationary approval accurately reflects the progress already made toward correcting the AFIs.

3. Sonya Kunkel, Program Administrator of the Capitol Region Education Council (CREC) Advanced Alternate Route to Certification (AARC) for special education cross-endorsement, stated that efforts to correct AFIs identified in the AARC are underway. She said that CREC will provide a full round of performance data to Dr. Katie Toohey, the Program Approval Coordinator at the State Department of Education's Bureau of Educator Standards and Certification, at the in September 2015. A copy of Ms. Kunkel's prepared remarks is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
4. Attorney Corey Brinson, representing his client Dr. Joseph H. Johnson, expressed his support for allowing Dr. Johnson to serve as an educational administrator in Connecticut, and noted that he disagrees with the State Department of Education's interpretation of the regulatory language regarding educator certification (agenda item VI.C.).
5. Dr. Joseph H. Johnson addressed the Board regarding agenda item VI.C., Petition for Declaratory Ruling, and stated that he would like the opportunity to impact the lives of students within the New Haven Public School System, and asked the Board to help him find a pathway for certification to enable him to do so.
6. Cheryl Marceau reported on an article in the Bradley County News on August 20, 2013, "Common Core Lesson Plans." She expressed her opposition to the Common Core and to public schools promoting a religion to students, and invited the Board to attend a fact finding session regarding the Common Core on October 5. A copy of the news article is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
7. Gwen Samuel, parent advocate, spoke about the need for parental engagement, especially as the school year begins. Ms. Samuel stated that the Board must promote equal educational opportunities and protect the interests of all children. She recommended that the Board review policies related to student attendance.
8. Bob Hannafin, AACTE CT, Fairfield University, thanked Commissioner Pryor for his service in Connecticut and extended his wishes for continued success in his future endeavors.
9. Kathy Cordone, retired teacher, expressed her concerns about the Common Core, stating that there is no evidence to support the claim that the Common Core will result in college- and career-readiness. She added that academic standards should be developmentally appropriate and developed by Connecticut teachers.
10. Lisa Lessard, resident of Waterbury, addressed the Board on the Walsh School Turnaround Plan. She urged the Board to closely monitor the activities of Waterbury school officials, and to review data regarding how funds are used and whether programs are successful. She expressed her concern with a practice

within the Waterbury school district that had required special education students to earn locker privileges.

11. Athena Wagner, resident of Waterbury, addressed the Board regarding the Walsh School Turnaround Plan. She stated that there needs to be strict oversight of funds given to Waterbury and a close examination of data to ascertain whether funds are being used effectively. Among concerns she raised were an increase in disciplinary incidents, student performance as indicated by the School Performance Index, and school governance councils not being in compliance. Ms. Wagner distributed a memorandum to the Board regarding school leadership in the Waterbury Public Schools (copy in official file).
12. Kelt Cooper, Superintendent of the New Britain Public Schools, discussed successful efforts and programs within his school district that have resulted in a reduction of the truancy rate, a reduction in in- and out-of-school suspensions, an increase in academic achievement, and better addressing the needs of English language learners. Superintendent Cooper noted that his district has benefitted from its partnership with the Department, and he commended and thanked Commissioner Pryor and the Department for their partnership.
13. James and Sandra Baker, parents of a former Hartford Magnet Trinity College Academy student, expressed their concerns about their daughter's demeaning experience when attending a Nature's Classroom field trip in 2012, particularly, the Nature's Classroom slavery reenactment exercise that neither the parents nor their daughter had any prior knowledge about and in which their daughter participated. They expressed their concern that Connecticut students continue to participate in Nature's Classroom program. A copy of Mr. and Mrs. Baker's prepared remarks is enclosed in the official file of this meeting. [Note: Later in the meeting, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten asked what steps could be taken to ensure that the type of experience in Nature's Classroom, as described by Mr. and Mrs. Baker, is not encountered by future participants. Commissioner Pryor responded that the Department would look into this matter and will report back to the Board.]
14. Carroll E. Brown, mother of Eric T. Brown, who served as principal of Walsh School in Waterbury, expressed concerns regarding Waterbury Public Schools and the conclusion of Mr. Brown's tenure as principal.
15. Dr. Ann Marie Mulready, Connecticut Association for Reading Research, read a prepared statement regarding concerns with the K-3 statewide literacy assessment plan, including (1) the list of assessments in the final plan and (2) the policy implications in relation to the law. A copy of Dr. Mulready's statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.

III. Consent Agenda

On a motion by Mr. Jaskiewicz, seconded by Mr. Vrabely, the Board considered the following consent agenda items:

A. Continuing Approval of Educator Preparation Program: Quinnipiac University

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-145d-9(g)(1)(A) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, grants full continuing approval to Quinnipiac University for the period September 3, 2014, through September 30, 2019, with an interim report due in spring 2016 that addresses the correction of the identified Areas for Improvement under NCATE standards 2 and 3, for the purpose of certifying graduates from Quinnipiac University in the following areas:

<u>Program</u>	<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>Program Level</u>	<u>Program Type</u>
Elementary Education	K – 6*	Initial	Graduate
Secondary Grades:			
English	7 - 12	Initial	Graduate
History/Social Studies	7 - 12	Initial	Graduate
Mathematics	7 - 12	Initial	Graduate
Biology	7 - 12	Initial	Graduate
Spanish	7 - 12	Initial	Graduate
Intermediate Administration	PK-12	Advanced	Graduate

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

B. Continuing Approval of Educator Preparation Program: Fairfield University

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-145d-9(g)(1)(A) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, grants full continuing approval to Fairfield University for the period September 3, 2014, through September 30, 2019, with an interim report due in spring 2017 regarding work that addresses the correction of the identified Area for Improvement under NCATE standard 2, for the purpose of certifying graduates from Fairfield University in the following areas:

<u>Program</u>	<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>Program Level</u>	<u>Program Type</u>
Elementary Education	K-6*	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Secondary Grades:			
English	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
History/Social Studies	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Mathematics	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Biology	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Chemistry	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Spanish	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Physics	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
General Science	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate

French	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
German	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Latin	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
TESOL	K-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Special Education	K-12	Initial	Graduate
School Library Media	PK-12	Advanced	Graduate
School Counselor	PK-12	Advanced	Graduate
School Psychologist	PK-12	Advanced	Graduate

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

C. Continuing Approval of Teach for America

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-145d-9(g)(1)(A) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, grants full continuing approval to Teach for America-Connecticut (TFA-CT) for the period September 3, 2014, through September 30, 2019, for the purpose of certifying graduates from TFA-CT in the following areas:

<u>Program</u>	<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>Program Level</u>
Elementary Education	K-6*	Initial
English Language Arts	7-12	Initial
History/Social Studies	7-12	Initial
Mathematics	7-12	Initial
Science:		
Biology	7-12	Initial
Chemistry	7-12	Initial
General Science	7-12	Initial
Physics	7-12	Initial
World languages:		
French	7-12	Initial
Spanish	7-12	Initial

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

D. Continuing Approval of Educator Preparation Program: Western Connecticut State University

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-145d-9(g)(1)(A) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, grants full continuing approval to Western Connecticut State University (WCSU) for the period September 3, 2014, through September 30, 2019, with an interim report due in spring 2015 that addresses the correction of the identified Area for Improvement under NCATE standard 5, for the purpose of certifying graduates from WCSU in the following areas:

<u>Program</u>	<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>Program Level</u>	<u>Program Type</u>
Elementary Education	K-6*	Initial	Undergraduate
Secondary Education:			
Chemistry	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate
Earth Science	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate
English	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate
History	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate
Mathematics	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Biology	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Spanish	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Music Education	PK-12	Initial	Undergraduate
Health Education	PK-12	Initial	Undergraduate
School Counseling	PK-12	Advanced	Graduate
Intermediate Administrator	PK-12	Advanced	Graduate

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

MOTIONS: In favor: Benham, Hopkins-Staten, Jaskiewicz, Keavney-Maruca,
 López, Mojica, Taylor, Vrabely
 Opposed: 0
 Abstained: 0
 Absent: Jones, Wright

Motions carried unanimously.

IV. Executive Session

The Board did not meet in Executive Session.

V. Consideration of Minutes

A. July 9, 2014, State Board of Education Meeting

Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the July 9, 2014, State Board of Education meeting.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

B. August 4, 2014, Special Meeting of the State Board of Education;

Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Ms. Keavney-Maruca seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the August 4, 2014, Special Meeting of the State Board of Education.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Note: Later in the meeting, the Board voted to reconsider and amend the minutes as follows.

On a motion by Mrs. Hopkins-Staten, seconded by Mr. Vrabely, the Board voted unanimously to reconsider the minutes of the August 4, 2014, Special Meeting.

Mr. Vrabely moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded, that page 3 of the minutes be amended by adding the following language prior to the vote on the motion:

During that discussion, in response to a question prompted by the comments of Mrs. Crudup earlier in the meeting, Reverend Morrison, Chair of the Board of Booker T. Washington Academy, affirmed that the school will not be an adjunct of the church and will have a nonsectarian curriculum, as does any other Connecticut public school.

VOTE ON

MINUTES AS AMENDED: In Favor: Benham, Hopkins-Staten, Jaskiewicz, Keavney-Maruca,
Mojica, Vrabely
Opposed: 0
Abstained: Taylor, López
Absent: Jones, Wright

Motion as amended carried unanimously.

C. August 7, 2014, State Board of Education Retreat; and

Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Ms. Hopkins-Staten seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the August 7, 2014, State Board of Education Retreat.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

D. August 21, 2014, Special Meeting of the State Board of Education.

Ms. Keavney-Maruca moved, Mr. Jaskiewicz seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the August 21, 2014, Special Meeting of the State Board of Education.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Items Requiring Action

A. Consideration of Network Plan: Walsh Elementary School, Waterbury

Dr. López moved, Mrs. Keavney-Maruca 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 Walsh School in Waterbury for Years 2 and 3 of the Commissioner's Network, subject to the conditions noted in the Commissioner's September 3, 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.

The Board recessed its meeting at 1:00 p.m.

The Board reconvened its meeting at 1:45 p.m.

The Board, by unanimous consent, considered agenda item VII.B. at this time.

B. Consideration of Turnaround Plan: Dunbar School, Bridgeport

Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Mr. Vrabely 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 Dunbar School in Bridgeport for Years 2 and 3 of the Commissioner's Network, subject to the conditions noted in the Commissioner's September 3, 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: Taylor, Hopkins-Staten, Benham, Jaskiewicz, Keavney-Maruca, López, Mojica, Vrabely
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: Jones, Wright

Motion carried unanimously.

The Board resumed its consideration of agenda item VI.A., Network Plan for Walsh Elementary School, at this time.

VI. Items Requiring Action (continued)

A. Consideration of Network Plan: Walsh Elementary School Waterbury (continued)

Mrs. Hopkins-State moved, Dr. López seconded, that the resolution be amended by inserting the following language after the word "Network" in the third line:

...subject to receipt of a progress report at the State Board of Education's February 2015 meeting, including an update on absenteeism, a family engagement plan, in-school and out-of-school suspensions; and professional development and teacher evaluations; and...

VOTE ON

AMENDMENT: In favor: Benham, Hopkins-Staten, Jaskiewicz, Keavney-Maruca, López, Mojica, Taylor, Vrabely
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: Jones, Wright

Vote on amendment carried unanimously.

MOTION AS
AMENDED, TO
READ AS FOLLOWS:

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-223h of the Connecticut General Statutes, adopts and approves the revised Turnaround Plan for Walsh School in Waterbury for Years 2 and 3 of the Commissioner's Network, subject to receipt of a progress report at the State Board of Education's February 2015 meeting, including an update on absenteeism, a family engagement plan, in-school and out-of-school suspensions, and professional development and teacher evaluations; and subject to the conditions noted in the Commissioner's September 3, 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 AS

AMENDED: In favor: Benham, Hopkins-Staten, Jaskiewicz, Keavney-Maruca,
López, Mojica, Taylor, Vrabely
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: Jones, Wright

Motion as amended carried unanimously.

By unanimous consent, the Board considered agenda item VII.A., Update on Crosby High School Turnaround Planning Process, at this time.

VII. Items for Discussion

A. Update on Crosby High School Turnaround Planning Process

Mr. Morgan Barth, Division Director, Turnaround Office, and Waterbury Superintendent of Schools Kathleen Ouellette presented the report to the Board. Discussion followed.

The Board returned to Items Requiring Action at this time.

VI. Items Requiring Action (continued)

C. Petition for Declaratory Ruling Concerning Certification of an Individual

Dr. López moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 4-176 of the Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) and Section 10-4-21 of the Connecticut Regulations of State Agencies

(Regulations), agrees/declines to rule on the Petition for Declaratory Ruling filed by Joseph Johnson concerning whether the provision under Section 10-145d-574(c) of the Regulations, requiring 50 months of successful teaching or service in public schools in a position or positions requiring certification in the state where employed means that the petitioner must have held the required certification during such service. In the event the State Board of Education agrees to rule, it hereby authorizes the Commissioner to appoint a hearing officer to conduct a hearing consistent with the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act, C.G.S. Section 4-176 et seq. and Section 10-4-11 et seq. of the Regulations.

Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Dr. López seconded, that the resolution be amended to read as follows:

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 4-176 of the Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) and Section 10-4-21 of the Connecticut Regulations of State Agencies (Regulations), agrees to rule on the Petition for Declaratory Ruling filed by Joseph Johnson concerning whether the provision under Section 10-145d-574(c) of the Regulations, requiring 50 months of successful teaching or service in public schools in a position or positions requiring certification in the state where employed means that the petitioner must have held the required certification during such service. The State Board hereby authorizes the Commissioner to appoint a hearing officer to conduct a hearing consistent with the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act, C.G.S. Section 4-176 et seq. and Section 10-4-11 et seq. of the Regulations.

VOTE ON

AMENDMENT: In favor: Benham, Hopkins-Staten, Jaskiewicz, Keavney-Maruca,
López, Mojica, Taylor, Vrabely
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: Jones, Wright

Motion to amend carried unanimously.

VOTE ON

MOTION AS

AMENDED: In favor: Benham, Hopkins-Staten, Jaskiewicz, Keavney-Maruca,
López, Mojica, Taylor, Vrabely
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: Jones, Wright

Motion as amended carried unanimously.

D. CREC Advanced Alternate Route to Certification Program for Cross Endorsement in Special Education

Dr. López moved, Ms. Keavney-Maruca seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-145d-9(g)(1)(B) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, grants provisional approval to the Advanced Alternate Route to Certification for Cross Endorsement in Special Education (AARC) program, administered by the Capitol Region Education Council (CREC), for the period September 3, 2014, through September 30, 2017, with a report due in spring 2017 that addresses the correction of identified Areas for

Improvement under NCATE standards 1, 2 and 3, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

A. Education Preparation Program: Southern Connecticut State University

Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-145d-9(g)(1)(C) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, grants probationary approval to Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) for the period September 3, 2014, through September 30, 2017, with a report due and on-site visit required in spring 2017 that addresses the correction of the identified Areas for Improvement under NCATE standards 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6, and progress reports due every six months prior to the on-site visit, for the purpose of certifying graduates from SCSU in the following areas:

<u>Program</u>	<u>Grades</u>	<u>Certification</u>	<u>Program Type</u>
Art Education	PK-12	Initial	Undergraduate/graduate
Comprehensive Special Education	K-12	Initial	Undergraduate/graduate
Early Childhood	Birth-K	Initial	Graduate
Early Childhood	Nursery-3	Initial	Undergraduate/graduate
Elementary Education	K-6*	Initial	Undergraduate/graduate
Elementary/Bilingual Dual	K-6*	Initial	Undergraduate
Elementary/Special Education Dual	K-6*	Initial	Undergraduate
Health Education	PK-12	Initial	Undergraduate/graduate
Physical Education	PK-12	Initial	Undergraduate/graduate
Secondary Education:			
Biology	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/graduate
Chemistry	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/graduate

Earth Science	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/graduate
English	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/graduate
French	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/graduate
German	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/graduate
Italian	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/graduate
History/Social Studies	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/graduate
Mathematics	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/graduate
Physics	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/graduate
Spanish	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/graduate
Remedial Reading/Language Arts	1-12	Advanced	Graduate
School Counseling	PK-12	Advanced	Graduate
School Library Media	PK-12	Advanced	Graduate
School Psychologist	PK-12	Advanced	Graduate
Speech & Language Pathology	PK-12	Advanced	Graduate
Reading/Language Arts Consultant	PK-12	Advanced	Graduate
Intermediate Administration	PK-12	Advanced	Graduate
Superintendent of Schools	PK-12	Advanced	Graduate

*Pursuant to Public Act 12-63, amended by Public Act 13-122 (Section 11), on or after July 1, 2017, an endorsement for elementary education will be issued for Grades 1-6 only to in-state graduates

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

VII. Items for Discussion (continued)

B. Update on Network Schools and Alliance Districts

Mr. Morgan Barth, Division Director, Turnaround Office, presented an update on the Commissioner's Network Schools and Alliance Districts. A copy of Mr. Barth's Power Point presentation is included in the official file of this meeting.

VIII. Report of the Chair

Chairman Allan Taylor referenced his written report, as follows:

- Reminder that the CAFE Back-to-School meeting will be held on September 9 at CAFE (Wethersfield) at 5:00 p.m.

- Annual NASBE Conference, October 2014, in Denver, CO. Mr. Taylor and Mr. Wright will attend. Mr. Wright will serve as Connecticut's voting delegate; Mr. Taylor will serve as the voting alternate.
- Save the Date: CABE/CAPSS Convention: November 14, 2014, Marriott, Groton. Details to follow on the "Dialogue with the SBE" session scheduled on this date.
- Save the Date: The Teacher of the Year Ceremony will be held on December 2, 2014, at the Bushnell Theater in Hartford.
- Theresa Hopkins-Staten has been invited to give remarks at the 2014 Parental Recognition Involvement Award ceremony. This award is given to parents in recognition of their impact and contributions to local schools and/or community organizations. This event will be held on November 20, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. in the Old Judiciary Room of the State Capitol Building.

IX. Report of the Commissioner

2014 Back-to-School Conference

Commissioner Stefan Pryor reported on his Back-to-School Conference for Connecticut's superintendents, held at the Legislative Office Building on August 19, 2014, attended by 140 superintendents, guests and staff members. Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman made opening remarks. Commissioner Pryor spoke about the survey administered to superintendents last May and how the Department is responding to the needs identified by superintendents in several areas (including Common Core Standards, teacher evaluation, professional development needs, and technical assistance). He referenced several publications that were produced in response to the survey and each superintendent was provided a packet. Commissioner Pryor also spoke about early signs of progress evident statewide, the necessity of a well-rounded education for students, and the integral role of the arts in education.

Update on Booker T. Washington Academy

Commissioner Pryor asked Mr. Morgan Barth and Mr. Mark Linabury to give a status report on Booker T. Washington's readiness to open. The details of this report are contained in Mr. Barth's September 3, 2014, memorandum to the State Board of Education.

X. Financial Matters

A. Current Services and Capital Budget Request for 2015-16 and 2016-17

Ms. Kathleen Demsey, Chief Financial Officer, reported that despite a \$20 million negative balance in the magnet school account, the 2013-14 agency budget closed out with a \$4.8 million surplus.

She stated that she will be presenting the current services budget for the coming fiscal year at the Board's October 1, 2014, meeting. Expansion and reduction options will also be presented in accordance with guidance from the Office of Policy and Management.

XI. Committee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessment

No report was given.

B. Accountability and Support

Dr. López reported that the committee met on July 30, 2014. Mr. Barth gave a detailed overview of the status of the Commissioner's Network Schools and Alliance Districts.

C. Finance, Audit, and Budget

Mr. Taylor reported that the committee met on August 21, 2014, and considered several matters, including the Annual Audit Plan. He noted that a copy of the plan was forwarded to members of the Board in the weekly mailing.

D. Legislation and Policy

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten reported that the committee met prior to today's Board meeting, and received a presentation by New Britain Superintendent of Schools Kelt Cooper on his district's successful efforts to reduce chronic absenteeism.

E. Connecticut Technical High School System Board

Mr. Trefry stated that he was pleased with the reopening of J.M. Wright Technical High School in Stamford.

F. NASBE

Mr. Taylor reported on NASBE under his report earlier in the meeting.

Chairman Allan Taylor adjourned the meeting at 4:22 p.m.

Signed _____
Stefan Pryor, Secretary