

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

**Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
October 1, 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, October 1, 2014, in Room 1D of the Legislative Office Building, Hartford, Connecticut.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Allan Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:46 a.m.

Present: Allan Taylor, Chairperson
Theresa Hopkins-Staten, Vice Chairperson
Erin D. Benham
Michael Caminear, Student
Megan Foell, Student
Estela López
Maria I. Mojica
Robert Trefry
Joseph Vrabely
Stephen Wright

Absent: Gregory Gray, ex officio
Charles Jaskiewicz
Terry Jones
Patricia Keavney-Maruca

II. Public Participation

1. Jim Carl, Ph.D., Dean of the Farrington College of Education, Sacred Heart University, spoke about comparisons of academic achievement of U.S. students with their counterparts in other industrialized nations, and the role of educator preparation programs in teacher labor markets. He gave several recommendations to diversify the racial and ethnic make-up of the teaching force. A copy of Dr. Carl's prepared statement is included in the official file of this meeting.
2. Tom Stringfellow, resident of Manchester, spoke about numerous topics as they relate to education, including racism, LGBT issues, and the role of African Americans in U.S. history. He recommended several articles and books (including Family Pride and The History of the Philippines) to the Board for further information about these topics.

V. Consideration of Minutes of the September 3, 2014, Meeting of the State Board of Education

On a motion by Dr. López, seconded by Ms. Mojica, the Board voted unanimously to postpone action on the minutes of the September 3, 2014, meeting, subject to the inclusion of language regarding follow-up to concerns about the Nature's Classroom program, which were expressed by Mr. and Mrs. Baker during the "Public Participation" section of the September 3, 2014, meeting.

By unanimous consent, the Board considered agenda item VII.A., at this time.

VII. Items for Discussion

A. CAPSS/CAS Student Video: Individualized Learning and Technology

Dr. Joseph J. Cirusuolo, Executive Director, Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS), provided the Board with an overview of the Student Voices Contest, an initiative designed to obtain student voices in the discussion of creating 21st Century schools and student-centered learning. Janet Garagliano, Staff Associate for Leadership Development at CAPSS, elaborated on the program and introduced three Washington Middle School (Meriden) students who were selected as finalists in the video competition: Zeel Patel, Madison Wilson and Amanda Vazquez. Miss Patel, Miss Wilson and Miss Vazquez described to the Board their video project and the impact it had on their learning as well as their peers. They commented on how they became engaged in their learning, how technology enabled them to communicate with students abroad, and how their work resulted in increased confidence levels and enhanced communication skills. Discussion followed.

VI. Items Requiring Action

A. Intent to Amend Regulations Concerning Administration of Epinephrine

Ms. Hopkins-Staten moved, Dr. López seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Public Act 14-176, declares its intent to amend the Regulations of the Connecticut State Agencies by adding a new section 10-212a-11, Emergency Administration of Epinephrine to Students who do not have Prior Written Authorization, and directs the Commissioner to take necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

VII. Items for Discussion

Update by Special Master: New London Public Schools

Dr. Steven Adamowski, Special Master, New London Public Schools, presented the report to the Board. Discussion followed.

VIII. Report of the Chair

Chairman Allan Taylor referenced his written report, as follows:

Developing Tomorrow's Professionals: Joining the Commissioner at the September 26 ceremony in recognition of the 2014-15 DTP participants were Theresa Hopkins-Staten and Stephen Wright. This program provides training and support services designed to address the needs of young men of color, providing year-round overlapping mentoring, academic skill set training, university linkage, and technology training as it relates to academic performance and assessment. The DTP Program is designed to create, improve and sustain a young man's approach to academic partnership, character development, leadership, fatherhood, college matriculation and career options. The participants are required to attend 10 academic Saturdays, held at SCSU, under the guidance of academic mentors who provide four hours of rigorous instruction.

Theresa Hopkins-Staten and Stephen Wright expressed their support for this program and commented on the outstanding results of the DTP Program.

Steve Wright, Robert Trefry, Allan Taylor and Commissioner Pryor attended the annual CAFE Board of Directors "Back to School" meeting on September 9, 2014. Board members are reminded of the "Dialogue with the SBE" session to be held on Friday, November 14, 2014, at 10:45 a.m., at the Mystic Marriott in Groton.

Mr. Taylor congratulated Commissioner Pryor who was honored by the NAACP at a reception at Capital Community College on Saturday, September 27. Commissioner Pryor received the Dr. W.E.B. DuBois Award for Excellence in Human Development Advocacy. Steve Wright joined the Commissioner at the awards presentation.

Megan Foell attended the first meeting of the State Student Advisory Council on Education. The SSACE accepted the Commissioner's recommendations to focus its work on (1) community service – whether it should be optional or required; (2) the optimal

start time for school, based on research; (3) student assessments, particularly at the high school level; and (4) graduation requirements.

Upcoming events:

- *Connecting Faith, Families & Schools for Student Success*, October 23, 2014, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Wesleyan University. This conference Connecticut Faith, Families & Schools for Student Success, October 23, 2014, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Wesleyan University: This conference will focus on working together to keep our students in school and engaged. Theresa Hopkins-Staten, Patricia Keavney-Maruca, and Steve Wright will attend the conference. The keynote speaker is Bill Strickland, a nationally recognized visionary leader who delivers educational and cultural opportunities to students and adults within an organizational culture that fosters innovation, creativity, responsibility and integrity; and
- *Anne Marie Murphy Paraeducator of the Year Awards Ceremony*, November 6, 2014, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., at the Cromwell Crowne Plaza.

Mr. Taylor also reported that he delivered opening remarks at the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) Common Core Implementation meeting on September 29, 2014, and announced his plans to attend a meeting of the New England Secondary School Consortium on October 10, 2014, which will focus on competency-based learning.

IX. Report of the Commissioner

Commissioner Pryor referenced a memorandum to the Board dated October 1, 2014, regarding the Developing Tomorrow's Professionals (DTP) Program of the State Department of Education. He introduced State Department of Education consultant Dr. Stephen Hoag, who oversees the program, and Mr. Robert Felder, one of the mentors in the program. Dr. Hoag provided an overview of the history of the program and the importance of student engagement in learning. He described the DTP program as being focused on developing a skill-set, including understanding the "language" of education, time management and study skills, listening, being able to demonstrate knowledge and skills, etiquette, how to compete intellectually, and being prepared to graduate college within four years. Mr. Felder described the mentors' roles in the program and the impact of the program on closing the achievement gap. He stated that the program needed more funding and mentors. Discussion ensued regarding the need for additional funding for this program and the capacity of DTP to accommodate many more young men of color. The Board asked Department staff to locate resources to support this proven program and to enable it to expand to accommodate many more participants.

Commissioner Pryor commended Chief Operating Officer Charlene Russell-Tucker for preparing the draft regulations concerning the administration of epinephrine so quickly.

Commissioner Pryor updated the Board on the Educator Preparation Advisory Council. He described the work of three committees:

- Data and Accountability – charged with responsibility to develop an accountability system to guide the review of educator preparation programs through the state program review process. It would also provide the data to identify a program as Effective, At-Risk or Low Performing. The data, accountability and reporting system is intended for both public reporting (accountability) and program improvement.
- Program Review – charged with responsibility to develop a revised process for “program review” of educator preparation programs in CT and to consider the standards and the process being developed by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) in order to determine how Connecticut ought to proceed (i.e. adopt 6 CAEP standards; adopt CAEP process; form a partnership with CAEP);
- Assessment Development– charged with responsibility to review, develop or adopt various assessment processes including teacher and district feedback surveys, evaluation of student teaching, and pre-service performance assessment of teacher candidates.

It is expected that the full Educator Preparation Advisory Council (EPAC) will reconvene in late November or December 2014 to hear from each of the three subcommittees with proposed recommendations. It is also expected that an EPAC progress report will be delivered to the Board in either November or December 2014.

Commissioner Pryor thanked Dr. Sarah Barzee, Chief Talent Officer, and Dr. Elsa Nunez, President of Eastern Connecticut State University, for their work. Dr. Barzee stated that the institutions of higher education are fully immersed in the work of EPAC.

X. Financial Matters

A. Current Services and Capital Budget Requests, 2015-16 and 2016-17

Dr. López moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the State Board of Education approves the Current Services Budget Request for Fiscal Years 2015-16 and 2016-17, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Budget Reduction and Expansion Options 2015-16 and 2016-17

Mr. Vrabely moved, Mr. Wright seconded, that the State Board of Education approves the Capital Budget Request for Fiscal Years 2015-16 and 2016-17, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

XI. Committee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessment

Mr. Wright reported that the committee met on September 24, 2014, and reviewed mastery based learning guidelines, the K-5 social studies frame-work, and the K-3 social and intellectual habits standards.

B. Accountability and Support

No report was given.

C. Finance, Audit, and Budget

Mr. Taylor said he had previously circulated the Auditors' Report for Board members' information.

D. Legislation and Policy

Ms. Hopkins-Staten reported the Committee met this morning and received a report on the work of the Alternative Schools Program Stakeholders' Workgroup and an update on charter school accountability measures. The committee continued its discussion of educational services for vulnerable students.

A. Connecticut Technical High School System Board

Mr. Trefry referenced the recent CTHSS Newsletter, noting that it highlighted the accomplishments of several CTHSS individuals.

B. NASBE

Mr. Taylor reported that he and Mr. Wright are attending the annual convention October 16-18, 2014. Mr. Morgan Barth, Director of the Turnaround Office, will be a presenter at the conference.

Chairman Allan Taylor adjourned the meeting at 12:56 p.m.

Signed: _____
Stefan Pryor, Secretary