

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Hartford**

**Minutes  
State Board of Education Meeting  
November 5, 2014  
(approved January 7, 2015)**

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, November 5, 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  
Megan Foell, Student  
Charles Jaskiewicz  
Terry Jones  
Patricia Keavney-Maruca  
Estela López  
Maria I. Mojica  
Robert Trefry  
Joseph Vrabely

Absent: Michael Caminear, Student  
Gregory Gray, ex officio  
Stephen Wright

**II. Public Participation**

1. Kristi Hummel, of the CREC Museum Academy, read prepared remarks about the importance of Connecticut adopting new Social Studies Frameworks. She noted that the frameworks will provide districts with new and updated state specific content that is aligned with the national C3 College Career and Civic Life Framework and the Common Core. A copy of Ms. Hummel's statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
2. Dr. David Bosso, of Berlin High School and former Connecticut Teacher of the Year, spoke in support of the reinvigorated Connecticut Socials Studies Framework. He noted that Connecticut has emerged as a national leader and example for the empowerment of teachers and students in our social studies classrooms. A copy of Dr. Basso's statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.

3. Noelle Coleman, social studies teacher at Manchester High School, spoke in support of the updated Connecticut Social Studies Framework. She stated that the frameworks require teachers to emphasize critical-thinking skills. A copy of Ms. Coleman's statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
4. Carolyn Ivanoff, Housemaster at Shelton Intermediate School, read prepared remarks in support of the Social Studies Framework. She stated that the framework advocates and defines a structure of preparation for civic life. A copy of Ms. Ivanoff's statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
5. Gene Stec, Social Studies Program Leader at Madison Middle School, town of Trumbull, urged the Board to approve the Draft Connecticut Framework as submitted. He emphasized that the framework supports the integration and teaching of civics, economics, geography and history throughout the year and places a new and greater emphasis on local and Connecticut state history within grades 6–8.
6. LaShaun Robinson, a parent of children attending Achievement First Hartford Academy, expressed concerns about what is occurring at Achievement First Hartford Academy, and her children's experiences at the school. Chairman Taylor asked Chief Operating Officer Charlene Russell-Tucker to speak with Ms. Robinson privately to address her concerns.
7. Jane Russell, a parent of a Hartford public school student, addressed the Board. State Board of Education Member Dr. López interpreted Ms. Russell's remarks into English. She stated that Ms. Russell noted that magnet schools do not have the diversity that is representative of Hartford and is asking for more opportunities for Hartford students.
8. Millie Arciniegas, a concerned parent, spoke about her concerns with regard to inequities between magnet schools and neighborhood schools. She emphasized that there should be equity for all students, and we need to provide more opportunities for English language learners and students requiring special education.
9. Nancy S. Niemi, Ph.D., Professor, Chair of Education of University of New Haven and President of the American Association of the Colleges of Teacher Education (AACTE) – CT, stated that the heads of teacher preparation programs are working with the RESC Alliance to address the issue of Minority Teacher Recruitment.
10. Gregory M. Jones, Chairman of the Legacy Foundation of Hartford, introduced his foundation to the Board. He noted that the foundation is a recipient of a grant from the Talent Office of the State Department of Education to help jumpstart the organization's program to build a pipeline to encourage young boys' interest in education.
11. Dr. Catherine O'Callaghan, Professor of Education and Chair of the Education Department at Western Connecticut State University (WCSU), spoke about the teacher pipeline project that WCSU and the Danbury Public Schools have developed.

The goal of the project is to recruit teaching fellows in the Danbury Public School system that more closely reflect the diversity of the student population.

12. James Thompson, Jr., Superintendent of Bloomfield Public Schools shared important highlights regarding successes in Bloomfield as a result of the system's three-year partnership with the State Department of Education. These include the development of an accountability plan, use of school improvement grant funds, improvements to the school climate, parent engagement, and increases in the graduation rate and reductions in the achievement gap. A copy of Mr. Thompson's statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
13. Tom Stringfellow, resident of Manchester, spoke on several topics as they relate to education. He recommended several books to the Board, including They Came Before Columbus, by Ivan Sertima.

### **III. Consent Agenda**

There were no items on the Consent Agenda.

### **IV. Executive Session**

The Board did not meet in Executive Session.

### **V. Consideration of Minutes**

#### **A. September 3, 2014, State Board of Education Meeting**

Mr. Vrabely moved, Mr. Jaskiewicz seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the September 3, 2014, State Board of Education meeting.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

#### **B. October 1, 2014, Meeting of the State Board of Education**

Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Mr. Trefry seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the October 1, 2014, Meeting of the State Board of Education.

VOTE ON

MOTION:	In Favor:	Benham, Hopkins-Staten, López, Mojica, Taylor, Vrabely
	Opposed:	0

Abstained: Jaskiewicz, Jones, Keavney-Maruca  
Absent: Wright

Motion carried unanimously.

## **VI. Items for Discussion**

### **A. Update on LEAD CT**

Dr. Sarah Barzee, Chief Talent Officer, CSDE, presented a report on LEAD Connecticut, followed by presentations by Andrew Lachman, Executive Director, Connecticut Center for School Change; Dr. Robert Villanova, Program Director, LEAD Connecticut; Mark Benigni, Superintendent, Meriden Public Schools; Elsie Torres-Brown, Principal, Meriden Public Schools; Jason Foster, Principal, Norwich Public Schools; and Dr. Abby Dolliver, Superintendent, Norwich Public Schools. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation, entitled "A Partnership For Educational Transformation," is contained in the official file. Discussion followed.

The Board recessed its meeting at 12:00 p.m.

The Board reconvened its meeting at 12:54 p.m.

Present were: Theresa Hopkins-Staten, Vice Chairperson  
Erin D. Benham  
Megan Foell, Student  
Charles Jaskiewicz  
Terry Jones  
Patricia Keavney-Maruca  
Estela López  
Maria I. Mojica  
Robert Trefry  
Joseph Vrabely

Absent were: Allan Taylor, Chairperson  
Michael Caminear  
Gregory Gray, ex officio

### **B. Department's Update on Minority Teacher Recruitment and RESC Minority Teacher Recruitment Initiatives**

Dr. Sarah Barzee, Chief Talent Officer, CSDE, presented a report on "Why the Need to Diversify Connecticut's Educator Workforce." Mrs. Charlene Russell-Tucker, Chief Operating Officer, gave an overview of minority teacher recruitment efforts. Dr. Sarah Barzee introduced Tamara Gloster, Education Specialist, CREC, who summarized some of the RESC MTR programs being implemented to attract minorities to the education profession.

(Mr. Taylor returned to the meeting at 1:40 p.m.).

Discussion ensued. Board members noted that more work in this area needs to be done to ensure that specific, realistic numerical targets are established and measured. Board members concurred that our recruitment efforts, incentives, interventions and supports must be research-based and result in significant progress.

Dr. Barzee noted that the Board will receive a proposed "action plan" containing short-, mid- and long-term goals at the January 2015 State Board of Education meeting.

A copy of the PowerPoint presentation, entitled "An Update on Minority Teacher Recruitment," is contained in the official file.

**C. Update on Educator Performance Advisory Council (EPAC)**

Dr. Sarah Barzee, Chief Talent Officer, CSDE, gave an update on the Educator Preparation Advisory Council (EPAC). She introduced Dr. Elsa Nunez, President of Eastern Connecticut State University, who gave a PowerPoint presentation on the history and role of EPAC and strategies being used in the educator preparation process. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation, entitled "Update for the State Board of Education on the Educator Preparation Advisory Council (EPAC)," is contained in the official file. Discussion followed.

**D. Draft Connecticut Social Studies Framework**

Dr. Dianna Roberge-Wentzell, Chief Academic Officer, CSDE, introduced the Draft Connecticut Social Studies Framework. She noted that the Framework was written by a team of Connecticut social studies educators, with writers coming from rural, suburban and urban districts. Dr. Roberge-Wentzell introduced Dr. Stephen Armstrong, CSDE; Dr. John Tulley, Professor of English, Connecticut State University; and Dr. Alan Marcus, NEAS School of Education, University of Connecticut; who presented an overview of the framework. "A copy of the Draft Connecticut Social Studies Framework" is contained in the official file. Discussion followed.

The Social Studies Framework will be placed on the State Department of Education's website to allow the public to comment on it prior to the Board's adoption of the Framework, scheduled for December 3, 2014.

Mr. Jaskiewicz left the meeting at 2:55 p.m.

Dr. López and Mr. Jones left the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

**E. Policy for Implementation of New Statutory Requirements for Master's Degree in an Appropriate Subject Area to Qualify for a Professional Educator Certificate**

Dr. Sarah Barzee, Chief Talent Officer, CSDE, and Nancy S. Niemi, Ph.D., Professor and Chair of Education, University of New Haven and President of the

American Association of the Colleges of Teacher Education (AACTE) – CT, presented a report on “Policy for Implementation of New Statutory Requirements for Master’s Degree in an Appropriate Subject Area, to Qualify for a Professional Educator Certificate.”

The Board, by unanimous consent, considered agenda item X.A. and X.B. at this time.

Mr. Jaskiewicz returned to the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

**X.A. Budget Reduction Options: 2015-16 and 2016-17**

Ms. Hopkins-Staten moved, Mr. Jaskiewicz seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to the directive from the Office of Policy and Management, submits Budget Reduction Options for Fiscal Years 2015-16 and 2016-17, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Ms. Hopkins-Staten moved, Mr. Jaskiewicz seconded, that the resolution regarding budget reduction items, be amended by removing from the original list of proposed reduction items, item “C,” Suspension of Connecticut Technical High School System (CTHSS) Athletic Programs, from the Budget Reduction Options – Fiscal Years 2015-16 and 2016-17.

VOTE ON

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

Motion to amend carried unanimously.

Mr. Vrabely moved, Mr. Jaskiewicz seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to the directive from the Office of Policy and Management, submits Budget Reduction Options for Fiscal Years 2015-16 and 2016-17, as amended, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

MOTION AS

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

Motion as amended carried unanimously.

**X.B. Budget Expansion Options: 2015-16 and 2016-17**

Mr. Vrabely moved, Mr. Jaskiewicz seconded, that the State Board of Education pursuant to the instructions from the Office of Policy and Management, approves the Budget Expansion Options 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, Jaskiewicz,  
Keavney-Maruca, Mojica, Taylor, Vrabely  
Opposed: 0  
Abstained: 0  
Absent: Jones, López, Wright

Motion carried unanimously.

**VII. Items Requiring Action**

There were no items requiring action.

**VIII. Report of the Chair**

Chairman Allan Taylor referenced his written report, which included the following topics:

1. The "Connecting Faith, Families & Schools for Student Success Conference" was held on October 23, 2014, at Wesleyan University. Bill Strickland, president and CEO of Manchester Bidwell Corp and author of "Make the Impossible Possible" was the keynote speaker. Steve Wright and Pat Keavney-Maruca attended the conference.
2. An overview of NASBE Annual Conference 2014, NASBE annual committees and study groups in the coming year.

**IX. Report of the Commissioner**

Commissioner Pryor presented the report "CSTA K-12 Computer Science Standards: Mapped to Common Core State Standards." He noted that among occupations, computer science and related fields are seeing among the greatest field of growth and that Connecticut needs to foster student interest and preparation in this area. He also stated that Connecticut needs to develop standards in an effort to close the gap.

Commissioner Pryor suggested that the working group be formed to examine the potential development of standards and other activities in this area.

Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Ms. Keavney-Maruca seconded, that the State Board of Education authorize the Commissioner to form a workgroup to discuss the potential development of computer science standards and activities.

VOTE ON

MOTION: In favor: Benham, Hopkins-Staten, Jaskiewicz,  
Keavney-Maruca, Mojica, Taylor, Vrabely  
Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0  
Absent: Lopez, Wright

Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Pryor updated the Board regarding the fact that he had initiated a review of the state's school and district accountability system, including how test scores and other data are used to assess schools and district performance. He stated that staff members from the State Department of Education and he have held discussions with stakeholders for the past year regarding multiple ways to broaden the approach taken by the system in ensuring and measuring: (1) college and career readiness; (2) the delivery of a well-rounded education including civics, the arts, and fitness; and (3) that students are supported, enabled to build qualities such as persistence, and engaged in other forms of personal development. Commissioner Pryor stated that the objective is to evolve the accountability system so it is more comprehensive and yet still comprehensible. He noted that the work on this subject is ongoing.

## **XI. Committee Reports**

### **A. Academic Standards and Assessment**

Mr. Wright reported that the committee spent a considerable amount of time on the Social Studies Frameworks and will be continuing its discussion of the Next Generation Science Standards and the Arts.

### **B. Accountability and Support**

No report was given.

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

No report was given.

### **D. Legislation and Policy**

Ms. Hopkins-Staten reported that the Committee met this morning and discussed technical legislative proposals, which will be brought to the board next month. The committee continued its discussion of chronic absenteeism and alliance district expulsion and attendance rates.

### **A. Connecticut Technical High School System Board**

Mr. Trefry noted that he attended ribbon cutting ceremonies at two schools, namely – Horace C. Wilcox Technical High and J.M. Wright Technical High Schools. He noted that discussions are underway regarding using CTHSS after hours to expose students and adults to trades.

Mr. Trefry noted that Superintendent Dr. Nivea L. Torres was honored by the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission's (LPRAC), with its annual Latina Citizen of the Year Award.

**B. NASBE**

No report was given.

Chairman Allan Taylor adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dianna R. Wentzell, Secretary