

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Hartford

Minutes  
State Board of Education Meeting  
April 6, 2016

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, April 6, 2016, in Room 307 of the State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Allan Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:42 a.m.

Present: Allan B. Taylor, Chairperson  
Theresa Hopkins-Staten, Vice Chairperson  
Erin D. Benham  
Susannah M. Beyl, Student Member  
Erik M. Clemons  
William P. Davenport  
Terry H. Jones  
Estela López  
Maria I. Mojica  
Timothy J. Noel-Sullivan, Student Member  
Malia K. Sieve  
Robert J. Trefry, Ex Officio  
Joseph J. Vrabely, Jr.  
Stephen P. Wright

Absent: Mark Ojakian, Ex Officio

II. Public Participation

1. Dr. Michael P. Alfano, Dean, School of Education and Professional Studies, Central Connecticut State University, spoke in support of agenda item V.D., New Program Approval (MAT Content Programs: History/Social Studies and Special Education), Central Connecticut State University. A copy of Dr. Alfano's prepared remarks is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
2. Patrice McCarthy, Deputy Director and General Counsel, Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, and member of the Performance Evaluation Advisory Committee (PEAC), spoke in support the Board's approval of agenda item V.B., Adoption of PEAC Recommendations, to amend the PEAC Guidelines (i.e., allow local educational agencies to continue with implementation of their current CSDE-approved plan for the 2016-17

school year; and continued flexibility with respect to the incorporation of state test data in the evaluation of educators through the 2016-17 school year).

3. Tom Stringfellow, resident of Manchester, recommended several articles, books and movies describing the role of African Americans throughout history. He also spoke about gun violence, the value of multilingualism, Earth Day, and special education.
4. Matthew Borrelli, former teacher and school administrator, addressed the Board about how to change systems to improve the education for children. Mr. Borrelli read prepared remarks about the importance of supervising educators; what test scores measure; and the misuse of race and the impact of poverty on learning. A copy of Mr. Borrelli's prepared remarks is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
5. Jennifer Alexander, Chief Executive Officer of ConnCAN, expressed concerns about PEAC's proposal to delay the incorporation of student achievement growth in educator evaluations. Ms. Alexander stated that this is an important part of a balanced approach to evaluation, and urged the Board to ensure that this link is ultimately made. A copy of Ms. Alexander's prepared remarks is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
6. Ann Marie Mulready, Ph.D., Connecticut Association for Reading Research (CARR), expressed CARR's concerns about the elimination of the English Language Arts Performance Task from the Smarter Balanced Assessment. A copy of Dr. Mulready's prepared remarks is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
7. Jeffrey Villar, Executive Director of the Connecticut Council for Educator Reform, spoke about the PEAC recommendations to the State Board of Education (agenda item V.B.). Mr. Villar acknowledged Connecticut's achievement gap, the college and career readiness rate, and the related costs to Connecticut. He stated that the SBAC assessment provides for consistency across the state and allows for the elimination of redundant assessments. He stressed the importance of sending a message to all educators regarding their responsibility for student learning, without regard to race or economic background.
8. Janet L. Steinmayer, President of Mitchell College, expressed her support for agenda item V.C., Continuing Program Approval, Mitchell College. She described Mitchell College's support for improvement in its early childhood education, which prepares undergraduate students for certification in nursery through grade three. A copy of Ms. Steinmayer's prepared remarks is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
9. Attorney Dennis O'Brien, representing the town of Chaplin, urged the Board to consider his written request for a partial waiver of the proposed 2015-16 minimum budget requirement penalty at the Board's earliest convenience.
10. Sylvia Henderson, a resident of Windsor, vice president of Parents Advancing Change in Education, and a member of the clergy in Windsor, expressed her concerns about Windsor's move from differentiated instruction to leveled instruction for purposes of cost

containment. Ms. Henderson stated that the Windsor Board of Education needs to receive information about the value of differentiated instruction in order to make informed decisions.

11. Dr. James C. Carl, Dean, Farrington College of Education, Sacred Heart University, spoke in support of agenda item V.E., New Program Approval: Sacred Heart University, Speech and Language Pathology Program. Dean Carl also stated that additional time is needed to finalize Sacred Heart's master degree requirements to meet the state requirement of a master's degree in an appropriate subject matter area to maintain certification. A copy of Dr. Carl's prepared remarks is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
12. Michael Galluzzo, Connecticut Association of Schools, spoke in support of the PEAC process and the recommendations contained in the resolution before the State Board of Education today (agenda item V.B.). Mr. Galluzzo stated his opposition to Senate Bill 380, noting that student growth is an appropriate measure across the board for all students.
13. Lenny Speiller, Vice President of Communications and External Relations, Achievement First, was unable to attend the meeting but submitted written testimony in support of agenda item V.A., Approval of Material Changes to Elm City College Preparatory School. A copy of Mr. Speiller's written statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.

### III. Executive Session

The Board did not meet in executive session.

### IV. Consideration of Minutes

Mr. Vrabely moved, Mr. Jones seconded, that the Board adopt the Minutes of the February 29, 2016, State Board of Education Workshop and the March 2, 2016, State Board of Education Meeting.

#### A. February 29, 2016, State Board of Education, Workshop

##### VOTE ON

MOTION:	In favor:	Benham, Clemons, Davenport, Hopkins-Staten, Jones, López, Mojica, Sieve, Taylor, Vrabely, Wright
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	0
	Absent:	0

B. March 2, 2016, State Board of Education, Meeting

VOTE ON

MOTION: In favor: Benham, Clemons, Davenport, Hopkins-Staten, Jones,  
López, Mojica, Sieve, Taylor, Vrabely, Wright  
Opposed: 0  
Abstained: 0  
Absent: 0

Motions carried unanimously.

V. Items Requiring Action

A. Approval of Material Change to Elm City College Preparatory School

Dr. López moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 9 of Public Act 15-239, An Act Concerning Charter Schools, approves the material changes to Elm City College Preparatory School's (ECCP) operations, including, (a) expanding the Greenfield educational model to include Grades 1-4 for the 2016-17 school year, and (b) moving Grades 5 and 6 from 495 Blake Street, New Haven, to join the ECCP elementary school at 403 James Street, New Haven, with the conditions delineated in the Commissioner's April 6, 2016, memorandum to the Board, "Approval of Material Changes to Elm City College Preparatory School Charter," and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

MOTION: In favor: Benham, Clemons, Davenport, Hopkins-Staten, Jones,  
López, Mojica, Sieve, Taylor, Vrabely, Wright  
Opposed: 0  
Abstained: 0  
Absent: 0

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Adoption of PEAC Recommendations

Dr. López moved, Ms. Mojica 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, Sections 1.3 and 2.3(c), by approving recommendations made by the Performance Evaluation Advisory Council (PEAC), regarding educator evaluation and support plan submission and approval (Section 1.3) and use of state test data in educator evaluation in the 2016-17 school year (Section 2.3(c)), as described in the Commissioner's April 6, 2016,

memorandum to the State Board of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Mr. Jones moved, Dr. López seconded, that the resolution be amended by inserting the following language after the word "action":

, with the understanding that the Board fully supports and expects the implementation of the use of state test data in the 2017-18 school year, with a further report to the Board by November 2016, and informs PEAC that the State Board of Education will not grant any additional extensions.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: (by roll call)	In favor:	Benham, Davenport, Hopkins-Staten, Jones, López, Mojica, Sieve, Taylor, Wright
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	Clemons, Vrabely
	Absent:	0

Motion carried.

Mr. Taylor then called for a roll call vote on the following resolution, as amended:

RESOLVED, 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, Sections 1.3 and 2.3(c), by approving recommendations made by the Performance Evaluation Advisory Council (PEAC), regarding educator evaluation and support plan submission and approval (Section 1.3) and use of state test data in educator evaluation in the 2016-17 school year (Section 2.3(c)), as described in the Commissioner's April 6, 2016, memorandum to the State Board of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action, with the understanding that the Board fully supports and expects the implementation of the use of state test data in the 2017-18 school year, with a further report to the Board by November 2016, and informs PEAC that the State Board of Education will not grant any additional extensions.

VOTE ON MOTION AS AMENDED: (by roll call)	In favor:	Benham, Davenport, Hopkins-Staten, Jones, López, Mojica, Sieve, Taylor
	Opposed:	Wright
	Abstained:	Clemons, Vrabely
	Absent:	0

Motion carried.



VOTE ON

MOTION: In favor: Benham, Clemons, Davenport, Hopkins-Staten, Jones, López, Mojica, Sieve, Taylor, Vrabely, Wright  
Opposed: 0  
Abstained: 0  
Absent: 0

Motion carried unanimously.

E. New Program Approval: Sacred Heart University, Speech and Language Pathology Program

Mr. Vrabely moved, Mr. Wright seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-145d-9(g)(2)(A) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, grants full approval to Sacred Heart University (SHU) for the period April 6, 2016, through September 30, 2018, for the purpose of certifying graduates from SHU in the following new certification area:

<u>Program</u>	<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>Program Level</u>	<u>Program Type</u>
Speech/Language Pathology	K-12	Advanced	Graduate

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

MOTION: In favor: Benham, Clemons, Davenport, Hopkins-Staten, Jones, López, Mojica, Sieve, Taylor, Vrabely, Wright  
Opposed: 0  
Abstained: 0  
Absent: 0

Motion carried unanimously.

F. Continuing Program Approval: University of Hartford

Mr. Jones moved, Mrs. Benham seconded, 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 University of Hartford (UHART) educator preparation programs for the period September 30, 2016, through September 30, 2021, for the purpose of certifying graduates from UHART in the following areas:

<u>Program</u>	<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>Program Level</u>	<u>Program Type</u>
Early Childhood Education	Birth – K	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Early Childhood Education	Nursery – 3	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
*Elementary Education	K – 6	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Elementary and Special Education	K - 6 & K – 12	Initial	Undergraduate
Music	PK – 12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
English	7 – 12	Initial	Undergraduate
Mathematics	7 – 12	Initial	Undergraduate
School Psychology	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: Benham, Clemons, Davenport, Hopkins-Staten, Jones, López, Mojica, Sieve, Taylor, Vrabely, Wright  
 Opposed: 0  
 Abstained: 0  
 Absent: 0

Motion carried unanimously.

On a motion Ms. Sieve, seconded by Mr. Davenport, the Board voted unanimously to consider agenda item, V.G., Waiver of Repayment of Special Education Excess Cost Grant Pursuant to Section 10-76g: Winchester, at this time.

G. Waiver of Repayment of Special Education Excess Cost Grant Pursuant to Section 10-76g: Winchester

WHEREAS, The Town of Winchester, pursuant to Section 304(b) of Public Act 15-5 of the June Special Session, has applied for a waiver of the first of five repayments of \$144,173 required to be made annually by April 30<sup>th</sup> under Section 304(a) of Public Act 15-5 of the June Special Session for reimbursement of overpayments



Absent: Susannah M. Beyl, Student Member  
Theresa Hopkins-Staten, Vice Chairperson  
Mark Ojakian, Ex Officio  
Stephen P. Wright

VI. Report of the Chair

Chairperson Allan Taylor highlighted his travel to Washington D.C. for attendance at (1) the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) Policymakers Convening Network for Transforming Educator Preparation, and (2) attendance at NASBE's Legislative Conference 2016. Mr. Wright and Mr. Taylor met with Senator Chris Murphy. Mr. Taylor reported that in concert with NASBE, Connecticut will host a meeting on data privacy.

VII. Report of the Commissioner

Commissioner Wentzell referenced her written report. The Commissioner reported that she would send to the Board her legislative testimony during the 2016 Session. Commissioner Wentzell indicated that she has held meetings with staff in Hartford and Middletown regarding budget strategy discussion. As a guest teacher, Commissioner Wentzell taught three 9<sup>th</sup> grade civics classes at Berlin High School. Commissioner Wentzell attended CCSSO's Annual Legislative Forum and Network for Transforming Educator Preparation. At the request of Commissioner Wentzell, Director of Legal Affairs Peter M. Haberlandt provided an update on the Connecticut State Department of Education Investigation into the November 2015 District Training Exercise at SAND Elementary School in Hartford. A copy of the Commissioner's written report is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.

VII. Items for Discussion

A. Five-year Comprehensive Plan for Education

Chairman Taylor introduced the draft Five-year Comprehensive Plan for Education, "Ensuring Equity and Excellence for All Connecticut Students." Discussion ensued regarding the process from this point forward.

[Timothy J. Noel-Sullivan left the meeting at 1:35 p.m.]

B. Report on Student Discipline

Chief Operating Officer Charlene Russell-Tucker and Chief Performance Officer Ajit Gopalakrishnan gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Board. Discussion ensued. A copy of their PowerPoint presentation is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.

## XI. Committee Reports

### A. Academic Standards and Assessment

Mr. Wright reported that the next meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2016.

### B. Accountability and Support

Dr. López reported the Accountability and Support Committee met on March 14, 2016, and received an update on Alliance Districts, Next Generation Accountability and Booker T. Washington School. The committee met on April 4, 2016, and invited members of the Legislation and Policy Committee to discuss the status of Waterbury's improvement plan.

### C. Finance, Audit, and Budget

Mr. Taylor reported that the Finance, Audit and Budget Committee met on February 25, 2016, and discussed the results of ongoing audits. The committee is scheduled to meet on May 23, 2016.

### D. Legislation and Policy Development Committee

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten reported that the committee met this morning. Chief Operating Officer Charlene Russell-Tucker and Bureau Chief Isabelina Rodriguez led the discussion on the draft Transition Bill of Rights. Bureau Chief John Frassinelli and USDA employee Cheryl Fogerty provided an update to the Committee on the Child Nutrition Programs.

### E. Connecticut Technical High School System (CTHSS) Board

Mr. Trefry reported that today CTHSS has a display in the Judiciary Room of the State Capitol. Mr. Trefry referenced \$4 million in rescissions, a decline in fuel costs, and priority positions in the CTHSS. The Skills USA Competition was held this week. Mr. Trefry announced that the National Automotive Competition was held in New York City. Two students from Norwalk Technical High School won the competition.

### F. NASBE

Mr. Taylor reported that the Mr. Wright and he attended the NASBE Legislative Conference held on April 3-5, 2016, in Washington, D.C.

Chairperson Taylor adjourned the meeting at 2:31 p.m.

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