

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
June 1, 2016
(approved July 6, 2016)

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, June 1, 2016, in Room 1D of the Legislative Office Building, 300 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Allan Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:45 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
Timothy J. Noel-Sullivan, Student Member
Malia K. Sieve
Robert J. Trefry, Ex Officio
Joseph J. Vrabely, Jr.
Stephen P. Wright

Absent: Maria I. Mojica
Mark Ojakian, Ex Officio

II. Public Participation

1. Ms. S. Hudson, resident of Hartford, expressed her concerns about the lottery selection process for public school choice schools, noting that the process does not provide equitable access to applicants.
2. Ms. Hyacinth Yennie, parent and advocate, expressed her concerns that the intent of *Sheff v. O'Neill* is not being fulfilled, noting that greater segregation exists now. She stated that we need to invest more within the community, particularly for Hartford's neighborhood schools.
3. Dr. Aaron Lewis, parent and child advocate, spoke about the need for enhanced accountability measures to ensure that students are safe, and that investigations take place when staffing issues are suspected, to avoid potential danger to students.

4. Members of the State Student Advisory Council on Education presented their end-of-year report to the State Board of Education. SSACE focused its attention on three areas in 2015-16: (a) disparities in the provision of extracurricular activities across Connecticut schools; (b) health and wellness; and (c) the 12th grade experience. Presenting to the Board were the following SSACE members:

Extracurricular Opportunity & Involvement was presented by:

1. Alexandra Prendergast – Danbury High School
2. Sean Hackett – Guilford High School

Health and Wellness was presented by:

3. Eric Benninghoff – Weston High School
4. Lauren Hickey – Bacon Academy

The 12th Grade Experience was presented by:

5. Danté Solano – Francis T. Maloney High School
6. Michael Secchiaroli – Notre Dame High School

A question and answer period followed. The Board thanked the students for their thorough, informative and thought-provoking presentation.

III. Executive Session

The Board did not meet in executive session.

The Board recessed its meeting at 11:01 a.m.

The Board reconvened the meeting at 11:08 a.m. The following members were present:

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

Absent: Maria I. Mojica
Mark Ojakian, Ex Officio

V. Items Requiring Action

The Board considered agenda item V.A., Request for Reconsideration of Automatic Revocation of Educator Certificate in the Matter of Dale Kukucka, at this time.

A. Request for Reconsideration of Automatic Revocation of Educator Certificate in the Matter of Dale Kukucka

Mr. Taylor moved, Dr. López seconded, that pursuant to its authority under subsection (d) of Section 10-145d-612a of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, the State Board of Education denies Mr. Dale Kukucka's Request for Reinstatement of his Connecticut professional educator certificate, endorsed for biology, Grades 7-12, and mathematics, middle school, In the Matter of Dale Kukucka, Former Certificate Holder.

Roll Call Vote

Board Member	In Favor	Opposed	Abstained	Absent
Erin Benham	X			
Erik M. Clemons	X			
William P. Davenport	X			
Theresa Hopkins-Staten	X			
Terry H. Jones	X			
Estela Lopez	X			
Maria Mojica				X
Malia K. Sieve	X			
Joseph J. Vrabely, Jr.	X			
Stephen P. Wright	X			
Allan B. Taylor	X			

Motion carried unanimously.

By unanimous consent, the Board considered agenda items X.A., Presentation by the New England Secondary Schools Consortium, at this time.

X. Items for Discussion

A. Presentation by the New England Secondary Schools Consortium

Mark Kostin, Ed.D., Associate Director of Great Schools Partnership, provided an overview about the New England Secondary School Consortium (NESSC). Dr. Kostin presented Chairperson Allan Taylor with the 2016 Connecticut State Champion Award. Mr. Taylor was selected as the Connecticut recipient of this award for his extraordinary commitment to public-school students in Connecticut.

IV. Consideration of Minutes

Mr. Wright moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the Board adopt the Minutes of the May 4, 2016, State Board of Education Meeting.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

V. Items Requiring Action

B. Approval of Charter School Enrollments

Mr. Clemons recused himself from the vote on agenda item V.B., Approval of Charter School Enrollments.

Mr. Wright moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the State Board of Education approves the distribution of 9,572 seats in state charter schools and 126 seats at a local charter school for the 2016-17 school year and, pursuant to Section 10-66bb(c) of the Connecticut General Statutes, grants enrollment waivers for seven schools, as delineated in the June 1, 2016, memorandum to the Board, "Approval of Charter School Enrollments," and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON MOTION:	In favor:	Taylor, Wright
	Opposed:	Benham, Davenport, Hopkins-Staten, Jones, Lopez, Sieve, Vrabely
	Recused:	Clemons
	Absent:	Mojica

Motion failed.

On a motion by Ms. Sieve, seconded by Mrs. Hopkins-Staten, the Board voted unanimously to reconsider the resolution.

Mr. Vrabely moved, Ms. Sieve seconded, to amend the resolution and pertinent information contained in the June 1, 2016, memorandum referenced therein, by excluding Achievement First Hartford Academy (AFHA) from those schools being granted an enrollment waiver in 2016-17; adjusting the total enrollment from 9,572 to 9,567 to reflect the deletion of the five additional seats requested by AFHA; and changing the number of enrollment waivers from seven to six.

VOTE	In favor:	Davenport, Hopkins-Staten, Jones, Lopez, Sieve, Vrabely
TO	Opposed:	Benham, Taylor, Wright
AMEND:	Recused:	Clemons
	Absent:	Mojica

Motion to amend carried.

Mr. Taylor called for a vote on the motion as amended, to read as follows:

RESOLVED, That that the State Board of Education approves the distribution of 9,567 seats in state charter schools and 126 seats at a local charter school for the 2016-17 school year and, pursuant to Section 10-66bb(c) of the Connecticut General Statutes, grants enrollment waivers for six schools, as delineated in the revised June 1, 2016, memorandum to the Board, "Approval of Charter School Enrollments," and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON	In favor:	Davenport, Hopkins-Staten, Jones, Lopez, Sieve, Taylor, Vrabely
MOTION AS	Opposed:	Benham, Wright
AMENDED:	Recused:	Clemons
	Absent:	Mojica

Motion as amended carried.

C. Appointment of Interim Chief Academic Officer

Mr. Vrabely moved, Mr. Jones seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-2a of the Connecticut General Statutes and its Bylaws, appoints Dr. Isabelina Rodriguez as Interim Chief Academic Officer, effective immediately, to serve until such time as a Chief Academic Officer is appointed, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Report of the Chair

No report was presented.

VII. Report of the Commissioner

Commissioner Wentzell referenced her written report. The Commissioner then deferred to Legislative Liaison Laura Stefon to provide a summary of the 2016 legislative session. A copy of the Commissioner's written report is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.

VIII. Financial Matters

Chief Financial Officer Kathy Demsey reported on the ongoing process of budget reductions.

IX. Consent Agenda

Mr. Vrabely moved, Mr. Jones seconded, that the Board approve the following consent agenda items: X.A., Recognition of Career and Technical Education Student Organizations; X.B., Recognition of GED Scholar; and X.C., Recognition of the Connecticut Association for Adult and Continuing Education (CAACE) Student Award Winners.

A. Recognition of Career and Technical Education 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 State Board of Education recognizes the following CTSO Outstanding Service Award Recipients:

- Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA), Hamden High School, Hamden
- Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Masuk High School, Monroe
- Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), Fairfield Ludlowe High School, Fairfield
- FFA organization (formerly known as Future Farmers of America), Nathan Hale-Ray High School, East Haddam
- Future Health Professionals (HOSA), Brookfield High School, Brookfield
- SkillsUSA, W. F. Kaynor Technical High School, Waterbury

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

A. Recognition of GED Scholar

WHEREAS, Richard Chi, of Durham, and Jason Miller, of Windsor, have demonstrated exceptional skill and proficiency in the four subject areas of the high school equivalency examination by attaining a score of 764 on the General Educational Development Tests (GED) in 2015; and

WHEREAS, They are the Connecticut residents with the highest scores on the examination; and

WHEREAS, They have brought honor to themselves, to the State Board of Education and the State of Connecticut; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Connecticut State Board of Education honors Richard Chi and Jason Miller, with great appreciation for their accomplishments in a major adult education endeavor and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

B. Recognition of the Connecticut Association for Adult and Continuing Education (CAACE) Student Award Winners

WHEREAS, Adult education exemplifies the concept of lifelong learning with more than ten-thousand Connecticut residents in adult basic education/secondary school completion programs and nearly twelve-thousand Connecticut residents in English as a second language and U.S. citizenship preparation programs; and

WHEREAS, The Connecticut Association for Adult and Continuing Education (CAACE), through its CAACE Student Award, recognized four individuals who have overcome numerous obstacles and hardships to persist and succeed in adult education; and

WHEREAS, These individuals exemplify the spirit and determination necessary to achieve a goal and serve as role models to all adult and young learners in our communities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Connecticut State Board of Education recognizes the following individuals for their accomplishment in this major adult education endeavor:

Alexander Day	EDUCATION CONNECTION
Lisa Lebreiro	Naugatuck Adult Education
Joseph O'Neill	Manchester Adult Education
Trey Wells	EASTCONN Adult Education

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

E. Connecticut Technical High School System (CTHSS) Board

Mr. Trefry reported that the Board is reviewing the implications of the budget on the CTHSS. He reported that on Friday, June 3, 2016, U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal, Senator Chris Murphy, and U.S. Congressman Joe Courtney will join the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Grasso Technical High School.

F. NASBE

No report was presented.

V.D. Resolution in Honor of Timothy J. Noel-Sullivan

Mr. Taylor moved, Mrs. Hopkins seconded, that the Board approve the following resolution:

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 Timothy J. Noel-Sullivan of Hartford, Connecticut, to the State Board of Education for a one-year term commencing July 1, 2015; and

WHEREAS, During his tenure, Mr. Noel-Sullivan 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 Timothy J. Noel-Sullivan its appreciation for his commitment to educational excellence and equity in Connecticut public schools and best wishes for continued success in his future endeavors.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

V.E. Resolution in Honor of Susannah M. Beyl

Mr. Taylor moved, Mrs. Hopkins seconded, that the Board approve the following resolution:

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 Susannah M. Beyl of West Haven, Connecticut, to the State Board of Education for a one-year term commencing July 1, 2015; and

WHEREAS, During her tenure, Ms. Beyl 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 Susannah M. Beyl its appreciation for her commitment to educational excellence and equity in Connecticut public schools and best wishes for continued success in her future endeavors.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Vrabely commended Mrs. Hopkins-Staton on her commitment and dedication as the outgoing Chair of the Greater Hartford Urban League's Board of Directors.

Chairperson Taylor adjourned the meeting at 1:31 p.m.

Signed: _____
Dr. Dianna R. Wentzell, Secretary