

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
July 6, 2016
(approved September 7, 2016)

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, July 6, 2016, in Room 1D of the Legislative Office Building, 300 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

I. Call to Order

Vice-Chairperson Theresa Hopkins-Staten called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Present: Theresa Hopkins-Staten, Vice Chairperson
Erin D. Benham
Erik M. Clemons
William P. Davenport
Terry H. Jones
Amina S. Lampkin, Student Member
Estela López
Maria I. Mojica
Malia K. Sieve
Robert J. Trefry, Ex Officio
Joseph J. Vrabely, Jr.
Stephen P. Wright

Absent: Mark Ojakian, Ex Officio
Allan B. Taylor, Chairperson

II. Public Participation

1. Mr. Thomas Stringfellow, resident of Manchester, stated that the Manchester Board of Education had recently held a discussion regarding transgender rights, and recommended "Whistling Vivaldi," a book that addresses how to address stereotypes.

III. Executive Session

The Board did not meet in executive session.

7. Paul Laurence Dunbar School, Bridgeport
8. Crosby High School, Waterbury
9. Walsh Elementary School, Waterbury
10. Wilbur Cross High School, New Haven
11. Windham Middle School, Windham

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.

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten moved, Mr. Wright seconded, that the resolution be amended by inserting the following language after the list of Cohort II schools:

and directs each of the above-listed schools to report to the State Board of Education Accountability and Support Committee on its priorities and progress in the 2016-17 school year;

VOTE ON	In favor:	Benham, Clemons, Davenport, Hopkins-Staten,
AMENDMENT:		Jones, López, Mojica, Sieve, Vrabely, Wright
	Opposed:	None
	Abstained:	None
	Absent:	Taylor

Amendment carried unanimously.

VOTE ON	In favor:	Benham, Clemons, Davenport, Hopkins-Staten,
MOTION		Jones, Lopez, Mojica, Sieve, Vrabely, Wright
AS	Opposed:	None
AMENDED:	Abstained:	None
	Absent:	Taylor

Motion as amended carried unanimously.

E. Adoption of i-Ready Diagnostic Reading Assessment for Inclusion in Menu of Research-based K-3 Universal Reading Assessments

Mr. Vrabely moved, Dr. López seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-14t of the Connecticut General Statutes, and State Board of Education action on July 9, 2014, approves the adoption of the i-Ready Diagnostic Reading Assessment for inclusion in the Menu of Research-based Grade K-3 Universal Reading Assessments, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Abstained: 0
Absent: Taylor

Motion carried unanimously.

F. Adoption of Annual Audit Plan

Mr. Vrabely moved, Mrs. Benham seconded, that the State Board of Education adopts the Annual Audit Plan for the period of July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

G. Consideration of Approval of Proposed Contract for Whole School Management Services Between Achievement First Hartford Academy and Achievement First, Inc.

H. Consideration of Approval of Proposed Contract for Whole School Management Services Between Capital Prep Harbor School, Inc. and Capital Preparatory Schools Incorporated

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten moved, Dr. López seconded, that the Board postpone action on agenda item V.G., Consideration of Approval of Proposed Contract for Whole School Management Services Between Achievement First Hartford Academy and Achievement First, Inc., and agenda item V.H., Consideration of Approval of Proposed Contract for Whole School Management Services Between Capital Prep Harbor School, Inc. and Capital Preparatory Schools Incorporated.

VOTE ON MOTION TO POSTPONE: In Favor: Benham, Clemons, Davenport, Hopkins-Staten, Jones, López, Mojica, Sieve, Vrabely, Wright
Opposed: None
Abstained: None
Absent: Taylor

Motion to postpone carried unanimously.

VI. Report of the Chair

Vice-Chair Hopkins-Staten referred Board members to the "Report of the Chair" in the Board's supplemental materials folder. Chair Hopkins-Staten announced the two newly-appointed student members, Amina Lampkin, a senior at Hall High School, in West Hartford, and Coral Ortiz, a senior at Hillhouse High School in New Haven. The Vice-Chair thanked the Board members who represented the Board at the various technical high school graduation ceremonies in June. A copy of the Chair's written report is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.

VII. Report of the Commissioner

Commissioner Wentzell referenced her written report. The Commissioner highlighted the launching of the Red, White, and Blue Schools Initiative, which is a partnership between the State Department of Education and the Office of the Secretary of the State that will reward schools that develop programs that foster strong civic engagement among students. The program is available to all K-12 schools in Connecticut and will launch in the fall of the 2016-17 school year. At the invitation of Board members Terry Jones and William Davenport, Commissioner Wentzell attended and presented remarks at the 2016 State FFA (agriculture education) Convention. The Commissioner applauded the Summer Meals Blitz Kick-off that provides students with meals during the summer. 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.

[Mr. Clemons left the meeting at 1:16 p.m.]

VIII. Financial Matters

Chief Financial Officer Kathy Demsey reported on the status of implications of the budget reductions.

IX. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of 2017 Meeting Schedule

Mrs. Benham moved, Mr. Davenport seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 1-225 of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the 2017 schedule of regular meeting dates, as follows:

January 4, 2017
February 1, 2017
March 1, 2017
April 5, 2017

May 3, 2017
June 7, 2017
July 19, 2017
August 3, 2017 (retreat)
September 6, 2017
October 4, 2017
November 1, 2017
December 6, 2017

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

X. Items for Discussion

There were no agenda items for Discussion.

XI. Committee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessment

Mr. Wright reported that the committee met on June 23, 2016. The State Department of Education staff has reviewed the Connecticut arts standards, which have been well vetted and have received extensive input from stakeholders across the state. Mr. Wright anticipates that the fine arts standards will be presented to the Board for approval in September. The committee also discussed a draft position statement on computer science standards.

B. Accountability and Support

No report was given. The committee's last meeting was held on May 23, 2016.

C. Finance, Audit, and Budget

No report was given.

D. Legislation and Policy Development Committee

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten reported that the committee met this morning. The committee discussed the new statutory requirements regarding charter management organizations contracts. Due to the time constraints, the committee was not able to complete overview, discussion, and questions and answers to advance the subject matter to the Board. The committee recommended to the Board the postponement of the Board's agenda item V.G., Consideration of Approval of Proposed Contract for Whole School Management Services Between Achievement First Hartford Academy and Achievement First, Inc., and agenda item V.H., Consideration of Approval of Proposed Contract for Whole School Management Services Between Capital Prep Harbor School, Inc. and Capital Preparatory Schools Incorporated.

E. Connecticut Technical High School System (CTHSS) Board

Mr. Trefry reported that the Board continues to review the implications of the budget on the CTHSS. Mr. Trefry thanked Chief Financial Officer Kathy Demsey for her help. Superintendent Nivea Torres discussed their proactive approach and strategies to deal with the budget reduction. Dr. Torres thanked Ms. Demsey and her team, and Dr. Estela López and Board of Regents for their collaboration with the technical school system. Mr. Trefry highlighted the performance of the technical high schools at the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills conference held on June 20-24, 2016, in Louisville, Kentucky. Prince Technical High School was a Gold Medalist in Audio-Radio Production; Kaynor Technical High School was a Bronze Medalist in Technical Drafting; and Connecticut Technical Schools earned a total of 30 top-twenty placements.

F. NASBE

Mr. Wright reported that the federal legislature has started to adopt rulemaking on the Every Student Succeed Act (ESSA), including flexibility and money for Title I. Mr. Wright will pass on information to Board.

Vice-Chairperson Hopkins-Staten adjourned the meeting at 1:28 p.m.

Signed: _____
Dr. Dianna R. Wentzell, Secretary