

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Hartford

Minutes  
State Board of Education Meeting  
September 7, 2016  
(approved October 5, 2016)

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, September 7, 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 9:41 a.m.

Present: Allan B. Taylor, Chairperson  
Erin D. Benham  
\*Erik M. Clemons  
William P. Davenport  
Amina S. Lampkin, Student Member  
Estela López  
Maria I. Mojica  
Coral L. Ortiz  
Malia K. Sieve  
Robert J. Trefry, Ex Officio  
Joseph J. Vrabely, Jr.  
Stephen P. Wright

Absent: Theresa Hopkins-Staten, Vice Chairperson  
Terry H. Jones  
Mark Ojakian, Ex Officio

II. Public Participation

1. Richard Sadlon, Director of Music, Darien Public Schools, spoke in support of the National Core Arts Standards (NCAS) as Connecticut's new art standards, and offered his support in disseminating the standards throughout the state. A copy of Mr. Sadlon's prepared statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
2. Joy Supples, visual arts teacher at Ella T. Grasso Technical High School, and a member of the Visual Arts Committee, shared her insights about the standards and some initial concerns the Visual Arts Committee had regarding the extent to which the technical aspects of artmaking were represented in the NCAS. She noted that this concern was subsequently addressed in the visual arts section of the proposed Position Statement on the Implementation of Connecticut Arts Standard. Ms. Supples stated that NCAS is an important framework to instill quality art education and innovation. A copy of Ms. Supples' prepared statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.

3. Patrick Pagano, an instructor at the University of Connecticut (Stamford), and an artist, expressed his support for adoption of the arts standards and noted that the standards will support students in gaining a cultural context of art history.
4. Samantha Pacheco, a parent of three children and president of SAND Elementary School PTO, thanked the Board for investigating the November 2015 incident at SAND. She noted her concern that parents have not yet received a letter about the results of the investigation from the Hartford Public School System, and would like to know what steps will be taken to ensure that a similar incident does not occur in the future.

\*[Mr. Clemons arrived at 9:56 a.m.]

5. Monica Carrasco, parent of a child who was involved in the November 2015 incident at SAND School, expressed her concern that she has not received a letter from the Hartford school district regarding the incident.
6. Gwen Samuel, founder of the CT Parents Union, thanked the Board for its commitment to investigating the incident at SAND School. She referenced her August 29, 2016, e-mail concerning corrective action at SAND. She stated that federal law states that public schools must not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability in any of their programs or activities. Therefore, she believed the Board should mandate--rather than recommend--that SAND comply with the law and ensure that SAND School is not engaging in any discriminatory practices, prior to students returning to the building. Ms. Samuel questioned whether all school districts have updated their mandated reporter policies by the February 1, 2016, deadline established in legislation.
7. Yolande Spears, Vice President for Education and Community Relations, Bushnell Theatre, expressed her support for the proposed arts standards, position statement and policy guidance. She appreciated the delineation of responsibilities for the stakeholder groups. Ms. Spears stated that the Bushnell would like to host a professional development session on how to apply and implement the arts standards.
8. Thomas Stringfellow, resident of Manchester, addressed the Board on several matters. He congratulated the two new student members of the Board; expressed his support for the arts standards; and recommended several publications that address matters such as subtle racism, the role of African Americans in wars, and standardized testing.

### III. Executive Session

The Board met in executive session at approximately 11:00 a.m., following consideration of "Items Requiring Action."

IV. Consideration of Minutes

Mr. Vrabely moved, Dr. López seconded, that the Board adopt the Minutes of the July 6, 2016, State Board of Education Meeting and the August 4, 2016, State Board of Education Retreat.

A. July 6, 2016, State Board of Education, Meeting

VOTE ON

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

B. August 4, 2016, State Board of Education, Retreat

VOTE ON

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

Motions carried unanimously.

V. Items Requiring Action

B. Approval of Whole School Management Services Contract Between Achievement First and Achievement First Hartford Academy

Mr. Vrabely moved, Mr. Davenport seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-66tt of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the contract for whole school management services between Achievement First Hartford Academy, Inc. and Achievement First, Inc. and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Approval of Whole School Management Services Contract Between Capital Prep Harbor Charter and Capital Preparatory Schools, Inc.

Dr. López moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-66tt of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the contract for whole school management services between Capital Prep Harbor School, Inc. and Capital Preparatory Schools Incorporated and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

A. Approval of Commissioner's Network Plan: Columbus School (Bridgeport)

Mr. Wright moved, Mrs. Benham seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-223h of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended by Section 258 of Public Act 15-5, of the June 2015 Special Session, approves the Turnaround Plan for Columbus School in Bridgeport for the Commissioner's Network, for the period September 7, 2016, through September 6, 2019, subject to the conditions noted in the Commissioner's September 7, 2016, memorandum to the State Board of Education, 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.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

III. Executive Session

On a motion by Dr. López, seconded by Mr. Vrabely, the Board voted unanimously to move into executive session at 10:55 a.m. for the purpose of discussing with counsel pending litigation (CCJEF).

Present in executive session were Board members Mrs. Benham, Mr. Clemons, Mr. Davenport, Ms. Lampkin, Dr. López, Ms. Mojica, Ms. Ortiz, Ms. Sieve, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Trefry, Mr. Vrabely, and

Mr. Wright. Also present for all or part of executive session were Commissioner Wentzell, and Attorney Louis Todisco.

The Board recessed its Executive Session at 1:06 p.m.

The Board reconvened in Executive Session at 2:00 p.m.

Present in executive session were Board members Mrs. Benham, Mr. Clemons, Mr. Davenport, Ms. Lampkin, Dr. López, Ms. Mojica, Ms. Ortiz, Ms. Sieve, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Trefry, Mr. Vrabely, and Mr. Wright. Also present for all or part of executive session were Commissioner Wentzell, Director of Legal Affairs Peter M. Haberlandt, and staff attorneys Louis Todisco and Matthew Venhorst. Mrs. Hopkins-Staten and Mr. Jones were absent.

On a motion by Mr. Davenport, seconded by Mr. Vrabely, the Board voted unanimously to move out of Executive Session and reconvene in public session at 3:35 p.m. Present were, Mr. Davenport, Ms. Lampkin, Dr. López, Ms. Sieve, Mr. Taylor, Trefry, Mr. Vrabely, and Mr. Wright. Mrs. Benham, Mr. Clemons, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten, Mr. Jones, Ms. Mojica, Mr. Ojakian, and Ms. Ortiz were absent.

#### VI. Report of the Chair

Chairperson Taylor referred Board members to the "Report of the Chair" in the Board's supplemental materials folder. He thanked all the Board members who agreed to chair the nine charter school renewal hearings that are scheduled from November 2016 through March 2017. Mr. Taylor invited and encouraged Board members to attend the Developing Tomorrow's Professionals Recognition Breakfast, on September 22, 2016, at 8:30 a.m., at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville. 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 stated there would be follow up on chronic absenteeism and noted that Chief Operating Officer Charlene Russell-Tucker has presented on this topic nationally. Commissioner Wentzell shared that she has had the pleasure of visiting in a number of Connecticut public schools over the past two weeks. She added that she plans to visit the Network Schools and will invite Board members to join her. A copy of the Commissioner's written report is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.

#### VIII. Financial Matters

##### A. Current Services Budget Request

Dr. López moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the State Board of Education approves the Current Services Budget Request for Fiscal Years 2017-18 and 2018-19, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Capital Budget Request

Mr. Wright moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the State Board of Education approves the Capital Budget Request for Fiscal Years 2017-18 and 2018-19, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

IX. Consent Agenda

Dr. López moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the Board approve the following consent agenda items: IX.A., Approval of Concussion and Head Injury Annual Review for Coaches; IX.B., Education Connection: Change of Name; and IX.C., Recommendation of Appointment of an Impartial Arbitrator.

A. Approval of Concussion and Head Injury Annual Review for Coaches

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Subsection (b)(2) of Section 10-149b of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the coaches' Concussion and Head Injury Annual Review, 2016-17, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

B. Education Connection: Change of Name

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education pursuant to Section 10-66a of the Connecticut General Statutes, recognizes the name change of the regional educational service center called "Education Connection," to EdAdvance, effective August 11, 2016; and the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-66h of the Connecticut General Statutes, transfers the approval status previously granted to Education Connection to EdAdvance, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

C. Recommendation of Appointment of an Impartial Arbitrator

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (a) of Section 10-153f of the Connecticut General Statutes, recommends Michael Ricci as a candidate for appointment as an impartial arbitrator representing the interests of the public in general, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

X. Items for Discussion

A. Update on Chronic Absenteeism

Due to time constraints, Agenda item, X.A., Update on Chronic Absenteeism, was postponed.

B. Introduction to Connecticut Arts Standards

Due to time constraints, Agenda item, X.B., Introduction to Connecticut Arts Standards, was postponed.

XI. Committee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessment

No report was given.

B. Accountability and Support

No report was given.

C. Finance, Audit, and Budget

No report was given.

D. Legislation and Policy Development Committee

No report was given.

E. Connecticut Technical High School System (CTHSS) Board

Mr. Trefry commented on the tuition and fall class of the aviation program. Mr. Trefry extended an invitation to the Board members to attend the CTHSS "Diversity in Workforce" roundtable on September 15, 2016.

F. NASBE

No report was given.

Chairperson Taylor adjourned the meeting at 3:47 p.m.

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