

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Hartford

Minutes  
State Board of Education Meeting  
October 5, 2016  
(approved November 2, 2016)

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, October 5, 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 9:49 a.m.

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

Absent: William P. Davenport  
Mark Ojakian, Ex Officio

II. Public Participation

1. Subira Gordon, Executive Director of the Commission on Equity and Opportunity, spoke to the Board about Connecticut's efforts to improve minority teacher recruitment and retention, and barriers to achieving our goals. She noted that this is a challenge nationwide. Ms. Gordon stated that a culture that welcomes and supports teachers of color needs to be developed.
2. Steven Hernandez, Executive Director of the Commission on Women, Children and Seniors, summarized the work of the Task Force created by Public Act 15-108, and noted (1) minority teacher recruitment programs should show documentation of effectiveness; (2) barriers to minority teacher recruitment and retention should be

- identified and removed; (3) attention should be focused on “grow your own” programs via mentorships; and (4) the importance of accountability and oversight.
3. Pam Murphy, member of the Connecticut Arts Administration Association, spoke in support of the State Board of Education’s adoption of the national core arts standards, noting that they are student-centered, help to develop critical skills, are grounded in inquiry, and are cross disciplinary. A copy of Ms. Murphy’s prepared statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
  4. Lawrence Truman, resident of Hartford, expressed his concerns about the need for drug education.
  5. Rashana Rush, mother of a student enrolled in Achievement First Summit, expressed her concerns about the lack of communication by the school administration in response to allegations concerning an incident involving her child and a teacher at AF Summit.
  6. Tom Stringfellow, resident of Manchester, spoke about Latino Heritage Month, the achievements of African Americans on display at the newly opened African American History Museum, and recommended readings pertaining to civil rights and race: Civil Rights for Beginners, Critical Race Theory (Second Edition), and Essence Magazine (October 2016).

### III. Executive Session

The Board met in executive session at approximately 11:30 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 September 7, 2016, State Board of Education Meeting.

#### VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

V. Items Requiring Action

A. Adoption of 2017 Legislative Proposals

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the State Board of Education adopts the 2017 Legislative Proposals and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Dr. López moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded, that the 2017 Legislative Proposals be amended by deleting the following two proposals:

1. The proposal titled, "Technical Changes and Statutory Cleanup: 2 Percent Setaside," (Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-262k), and
2. The proposal titled "An Act Concerning the Definition of a Diverse Educational Setting for Interdistrict Magnet Schools (Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-264I, subsections 3 and 4).

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

Motion to amend carried unanimously.

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

Motion as amended carried unanimously.

B. Guidelines for Alternative Education Settings

Mr. Wright moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to section 2 of Public Act 15-133, An Act Concerning Alternative Education, establishes the "Guidelines for Alternative Education Settings," and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.



VI. Report of the Chair

Chairperson Taylor referred Board members to the "Report of the Chair" in the Board's supplemental materials folder.

VII. Report of the Commissioner

Commissioner Wentzell referenced her written report. The Commissioner noted that she was pleased to inform the Board that the Affirmative Action Plan was approved by the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities for the third consecutive year and commended Equal Employment Opportunity Director Levy Gillespie and his team.

Dr. Wentzell highlighted the following:

- o The Nonnewaug High School's Annual Farm-to-Table Harvest Dinner was a successful and enjoyable event, and she appreciated being invited by Board member William Davenport;
- o Her meeting with Department of Veterans Affairs Commissioner Sean Connelly. Commissioner Wentzell referenced that SDE and Veterans Affairs are collaboratively working on initiatives to consider recognition of veterans in our schools. They also discussed the possibility of a pathway to educator licensure both at the teacher and administrator level for people who have served in the military; and
- o A recently launched "Equity and Excellence" Tour. The first roundtable discussion focused on chronic absenteeism and was held in New Britain to highlight Vance Village Elementary School's efforts in reducing absenteeism. She noted that additional roundtables will be held throughout the State to highlight themes of the Board's strategic plan.

VIII. Financial Matters

A. Budget Reduction and Reallocation Options

Mr. Vrabely moved, Dr. López seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to the directive from the Office of Policy and Management, submits Budget Reduction and Reallocation Options for the 2017–2019 Biennial Budget, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

IX. Consent Agenda

A. Receipt of Report on Agricultural Science and Technology Education Graduates, Five Years After Graduation

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten moved, Mr. Wright seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-65a (b) of the Connecticut General Statutes, receives the report on the status of the class of 2010 graduates of agricultural science and technology education centers, and continues to support the State's investment of resources to the Agricultural Science and Technology Education Programs and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

[Coral Ortiz left the meeting at 2:05 p.m.]

X. Items for Discussion

A. Update on Growth Model

Chief Performance Officer Ajit Gopalakrishnan presented a PowerPoint presentation update to the Board on the Growth Model for the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments in English Language Arts and Mathematics. Discussion ensued.

[Stephen Wright left the meeting at 2:25 p.m.]

[Amina Lampkin left the meeting at 2:32 p.m.]

B. Update on Minority Teacher Recruitment

Ellen Cohn, Deputy Commissioner for the Implementation of Education Reform, and Chief Talent Officer Dr. Sarah Barzee presented updates on the minority teacher recruitment efforts, initiatives, and partnerships being supported by the CSDE to the Board. Discussion ensued.

C. Update on the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

Ellen Cohn, Deputy Commissioner for the Implementation of Education Reform, presented an update on ESSA, highlighting key changes and the Department's process of stakeholder input and engagement. She also shared with the Board the timeline for developing Connecticut's consolidated state plan, and the 2016-17 Superintendents' ESSA Webinar Series. Discussion ensued.

D. Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium and SAT Results

Chief Performance Officer Ajit Gopalakrishnan presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments in English Language Arts and Mathematics, for Grades 3 through 8, and the 2015-16 SAT assessment results. Discussion ensued.

[Erik Clemons left the meeting at 3:01 p.m.]

[Erin Benham left the meeting at 3:03 p.m.]

XI. Committee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessment

No report was given.

B. Accountability and Support

Dr. López reported that the committee met in September. The committee met with representatives of two Commissioner Network Schools: Thirman L. Milner, Hartford, and James J. Curiale School, Bridgeport, to discuss their challenges of the last year. Dr. López stated that two other Network schools will be invited to the October committee meeting. Chief Performance Officer Ajit Gopalakrishnan presented on the Growth Model to the committee. Chief Talent Officer Dr. Sarah Barzee presented updates on the minority teacher recruitment to the committee.

C. Finance, Audit, and Budget

Mr. Taylor reported that the committee met in August to review several audit matters. He noted that the committee was informed of CHRO's approval of the Affirmative Action Plan.

D. Legislation and Policy Development Committee

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten reported that the committee met this morning. Chief Talent Officer Dr. Sarah Barzee presented to the committee an update on the minority teacher recruitment efforts, initiatives, and partnerships being supported and advanced by the State Department

of Education. Mrs. Hopkins-Staten commended Chief Turnaround Officer Desi Nesmith on the need for the Alliance District Symposium, "Advancing Trauma-Informed Systems for Children," to be held on Monday, October 17, 2016. Mrs. Hopkins-Staten highlighted the DTP, Developing Tomorrow's Professionals' 2016 Recognition Breakfast held on September 22, 2016. She applauded the success of this program, and indicated that 44 young men representing schools across the state successfully completed the program. Mr. Taylor provided remarks at the event, and Mr. Trefry and Mr. Wright were in attendance. Dr. Stephen Hoag of the CSDE was recognized with a plaque for his years of dedication to the DTP program.

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

Mr. Trefry reported that the CTHSS Board continues to review the implications of the budget on the CTHSS, noting that they have increased the tuition for the aviation program. Mr. Trefry reported that Superintendent Torres and the Board had celebrated and recognized the district's Teachers of the Year, and commended them for their commitment and impact on students. The CTHSS Board also recognized the SkillsUSA students who won medals at this year's SkillsUSA National Competition held this past summer.

#### F. NASBE

Mr. Taylor reports that he and Stephen Wright will be attending the NASBE 2016 Annual Conference in October.

Chairperson Taylor adjourned the meeting at 3:48 p.m.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Dianna R. Wentzell, Secretary  
State Board of Education