

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Hartford

Minutes  
State Board of Education Meeting  
December 7, 2016  
(approved January 4, 2017)

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, December 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 9:45 a.m.

Present: Allan B. Taylor, Chairperson  
Theresa Hopkins-Staten, Vice Chairperson  
Erin D. Benham  
Erik M. Clemons  
William P. Davenport  
Terry H. Jones  
Amina S. Lampkin, Student Member  
Estela López  
Coral Ortiz, 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. Katie O'Callaghan, Chair, Education and Education Psychology Department, Western Connecticut State University (WCSU), spoke in support of the Board's adoption of EdTPA, a pre-service performance assessment. She stated that this capstone assessment was piloted at WCSU and captured the ability of candidates to apply their pedagogical knowledge to instruction. Findings from the pilot also were helpful in addressing areas that required more attention.
2. Nate Snow, Executive Director, Teach for America – Connecticut, expressed his support for Connecticut's shift to the Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) standards and the pre-service assessment for teacher candidates (EdTPA). A copy of Mr. Snow's prepared remarks is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
3. Richard Therrien, K-12 Science Supervisor, New Haven Public Schools, and board member of the Connecticut Science Supervisors Association, urged the Board to re-emphasize its efforts to support science education, including the adoption and implementation of the Next Generation

Science Standards by districts, in the areas of professional development, accountability and reporting, material support, assessment development and timing, and certification. A copy of Mr. Therrien's prepared remarks is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.

4. Kenneth Di Pietro, Superintendent, Plainfield Public Schools, and a member of the Educator Preparation Advisory Council (EPAC), expressed his support for the Board's approval of the CAEP standards and EdTPA, and asked the Board to complete its efforts to revitalize Connecticut's educational system by supporting the necessary reforms in accreditation, certification and licensure. A copy of Mr. Di Pietro's prepared remarks is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
5. Dr. Ann Grosjean, member of the Connecticut Advisory Council for Teacher Professional Standards (CACTPS), presented the 2016 Annual Report of the CACTPS on behalf of chairperson Doreen Merrill. Dr. Grosjean summarized the history of the council, its work over the course of the past year, and the Council's recommendations to the Board (concerning the charge to the council, the work of EPAC and PEAC, the establishment of a professional standards board, and presenting the report to the State Board of Education). A copy of Dr. Grosjean's prepared remarks is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
6. Michael Alfano, Dean of the School of Education and Professional Studies at Central Connecticut State University, and a member of EPAC, spoke in support of adoption of the EPAC recommendations, including the CAEP standards, and the pre-service performance assessment, EdTPA. Dean Alfano summarized the lessons learned by CCSU as a result of its participation in the EdTPA pilot. A copy of Dean Alfano's prepared remarks is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
7. Tom Stringfellow, a resident of Manchester, addressed the board on several historical events and recommended several articles and texts, including topics such as the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pearl Harbor, World War II, Native Americans, and Vietnam. Mr. Stringfellow spoke about the need to deal with prejudice, racism and sexism. A copy of Mr. Stringfellow's notes is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
8. Joan Nicoll-Senft, Chair of the Department of Special Education and Interventions at CCSU, spoke about involvement in the EdTPA pilot program at CCSU, and the value of the assessment as a valid and reliable framework that was aligned to many of CCSU's key assessments and their focus on the teacher preparation programs. Ms. Nicoll-Senft also described her recommendations concerning the adoption of EdTPA, including discipline-specific professional development, resources for program development, ways to reduce the financial burden on students, and setting an incremental cut score. A copy of Ms. Nicoll-Senft's prepared remarks is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
9. Nathan Quesnel, Superintendent, East Hartford Public Schools, spoke about his membership on EPAC and his support of the vision and mission of EPAC to transform educator preparation in Connecticut to ensure that all students have access to highly qualified teachers who are "learner ready" on day one. He urged the Board to vote in favor of (1) the CAEP standards as the basis for continuing program approval and (2) EdTPA as a pre-service performance assessment. A copy of Superintendent Quesnel's prepared remarks is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten asked East Hartford Superintendent Quesnel to comment on recent media coverage by the Office of Civil Rights regarding an early 2015 audit of enrollment procedures for limited English proficient students in the East Hartford Public Schools.

Superintendent Quesnel stated that, given the collaborative manner in which the district approached this investigation and its willingness to cooperate with OCR and receive any technical advice regarding how to improve its practices and better serve its students, the district is disappointed in the manner in which OCR has chosen to characterize and publicize its findings. He noted that the district was not afforded the opportunity to review OCR's report in advance and to correct any inaccuracies. Superintendent Quesnel assured the Board that, historically, East Hartford has been a welcoming and supportive district to families entering the system. The district has accepted OCR's suggestions to revise some of the registration processes to reduce discomfort experienced by families who were concerned about their undocumented status and will continue to review and revise its practices and procedures to reinforce its message that all school-age children living in East Hartford are an important and welcome part of the school community.

III. Executive Session

The Board did not meet in executive session.

IV. Consideration of Minutes

Mr. Vrabely moved, Mr. Clemons seconded, that the Board adopt the Minutes of the November 2, 2016, State Board of Education Meeting, and the November 22, 2016, State Board of Education Workshop.

Mr. Jones noted that Ms. Sieve should be listed as "present" on page seven of the Minutes of November 2, 2016.

A. November 2, 2016, State Board of Education, Meeting, as corrected

VOTE ON

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

B. November 22, 2015, State Board of Education, Workshop

VOTE ON

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

Motions carried unanimously.

V. Items for Discussion

By unanimous consent, the Board agreed to consider agenda item X.B., Annual Report: 2015-16 Connecticut Technical High School System Strategic Plan, at this time.

B. Annual Report: 2015-16 Connecticut Technical High School System Strategic Plan

Robert J. Trefry, Chairperson of the Connecticut Technical High School Board, introduced Dr. Nivea L. Torres, Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Torres presented a CTHSS strategic report and highlighted the successes of the system. Three students accompanied Superintendent Torres: Brook Bauer and Amanda Abbruzzese, Precision Manufacturing Technology, from Windham Technical High School, Willimantic, and Keri Trigo, Diesel and Heavy Duty Equipment Repair, from Howell Cheney Technical High School, Manchester. The students described their positive experiences in the CTHSS, and their career goals. A copy of Dr. Torres' presentation is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.

V. Items for Action

Mr. Vrabely moved, Dr. López seconded, to consider agenda item V.B., Approval of Educator Preparation Advisory Council (EPAC) Recommendations, at this time.

B. Approval of Educator Preparation Advisory Council (EPAC) Recommendations

Mr. Vrabely moved, Mr. Wright seconded, that the State Board of Education adopts the recommendations from the Educator Preparation Advisory Council (EPAC) to implement, effective September 1, 2017, the Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) standards as the basis for continuing program approval and adopt a pre-service performance assessment, edTPA, for implementation effective September 1, 2019, 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.

A. Adoption of 2017 Legislative Proposal

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the State Board of Education adopts an additional item to be added to the 2017 Legislative Proposals, as follows:

Whereas, the way in which education is funded across all public schools and choice programs throughout all municipalities in the State of Connecticut will be under careful consideration during the 2017 Session of the General Assembly, and

Whereas, Public Act 11-48 established a Task Force to Study State Education Funding, which focused its attention on the Education Cost Sharing formula, with special consideration for state grants to choice programs, including interdistrict magnet schools and regional agricultural science technology centers, as well as funding issues relating to the cost of special education for both the state and municipalities, and

Whereas, the Task Force issued a final report with recommendations to the Governor and the Appropriations and Education Committees in January of 2013, which were approved unanimously, and

Whereas, throughout the report specific recommendations are offered regarding updating and improving the Education Cost Sharing formula, supporting equitable funding for school choice programs, including interdistrict magnet schools and regional agricultural science technology centers and exploring fairer and more reasonable approaches to funding services for students with special needs, and

Whereas, the State Board of Education recently approved a five-year comprehensive plan to ensure equity and excellence for all Connecticut students that includes a specific action item to ensure that equitable access, equitable funding and accountability measures are achieved among all of Connecticut's school choice programs, including vocational-technical schools and programs, regional agriscience and technology programs, open choice programs, magnet schools and state and local charter schools, and

Whereas, it is now the time for policy makers to enter into careful and thoughtful consideration to determine what the future of equitable education funding will look like for every student in Connecticut regardless of the type of public school they attend, therefore

Be It Resolved, the State Board of Education recommends that throughout their deliberations, members of the General Assembly seek guidance from the substantial work already undertaken by the Task Force to Study State Education Funding when making their determinations.

Mr. Wright moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded, that the 2017 Legislative Proposal be amended by inserting in the Resolved clause: "and the State Department of Education" after the word "Funding."

VOTE ON

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

Motion to amend carried unanimously.

VOTE ON

MOTION	In favor:	Benham, Clemons, Davenport, Hopkins-Staton, Jones, López, Sieve, Taylor, Vrabely, Wright
AS		
AMENDED:	Opposed:	None
	Abstained:	None
	Absent:	Mojica

Motion as amended carried unanimously.

C. Adoption of Position Statement on Computer Science

Dr. López moved, Mrs. Hopkin-Staton seconded, that the State Board of Education adopts the Position Statement on Computer Science Education for All Students K-12, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Chairman Taylor requested that, providing there is no objection, the following friendly amendments be made to the Position Statement on Computer Science:

1. 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph: 5<sup>th</sup> sentence: remove the words "dispositions, such as"
2. 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph: last sentence: insert the word "and" between "creativity" and "innovative"
3. 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph: 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence: remove the words "teachers and administrators are" and replace with "that public education in Connecticut is"
4. Last paragraph, last sentence: insert the word "the" between "and" and "skills"

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

Motion as amended carried unanimously.

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 highlighted her attendance at the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents Student Recognition Awards Ceremony, noting that, at the end of the event, Superintendent Dr. Matthew Conway had the students make a pledge to consider a career in education. Dr. Wentzell reiterated the need to work together to raise the profile and restore the esteem of the profession. The Commissioner stated that this week is Computer Science Education Week and all over the world every child should do an "Hour

of Code.” Dr. Wentzell shared a video of her recent visit to Hartford Magnet Trinity College Academy, showing students with their coding projects. Commissioner Wentzell announced that on December 8, 2016, growth information, which corresponds to the SDE’s accountability system will be released. She confirmed that the Board will have access to the information. Commissioner Wentzell reported that she met with the General Assembly’s Education Committee regarding work on ESSA and thanked Board members for their attendance. The stakeholder work engagement on ESSA continues. The RESC Alliance and SERC will start writing the report for presentation early in the new year. Once we have a Draft Plan, we will again seek stakeholder engagement.

The Board recessed the meeting at 12:40 p.m.

The Board reconvened the meeting at 1:36 p.m.

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

Absent: Maria I. Mojica  
Mark E. Ojakian, Ex Officio

#### VIII. Financial Matters

Chief Financial Officer Kathy Demsey provided a financial update to the Board. Discussion ensued.

#### IX. Consent Agenda

At the request of Mrs. Benham, agenda items IX.A., Receipt of Report from Connecticut Advisory Council for Teacher Professional Standards, and IX.B., Receipt of Report from Connecticut Advisory Council for Administrator Professional Standards, were removed from the consent agenda.

##### A. Receipt of Report from Connecticut Advisory Council for Teacher Professional Standards

Mr. Vrabely moved, Mrs. Benham seconded, that the State Board of Education receives the 2016 Annual Report of the Connecticut Advisory Council for Teacher Professional Standards,



XI. Committee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessment

No report was given.

B. Accountability and Support

Dr. López reported that the committee met on November 7, 2016, with Crosby High School, Waterbury, and Paul Laurence Dunbar School, Bridgeport, to review their progress in the Commissioner's Network. Dr. López noted that the meeting allowed for a conversation about ways to improve student achievement. The committee's next meeting is scheduled for December 12, 2016, with Walsh Elementary School, Waterbury, and Windham Middle School, Windham.

C. Finance, Audit, and Budget

Mr. Taylor reported that the committee met on December 1, 2016, to review current audit work and financial matters.

D. Legislation and Policy Development

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten reported that the committee met this morning. Steven Hernández, Esq., executive director for the Commission on Women, Children and Seniors presented to the committee. Mr. Hernández provided a background on the current efforts in supporting school climate and how it relates to social emotional learning (SEL). Mr. Hernández also discussed the work of the Collaborating States Initiative Community of Practice and the state's commitment to ensure that all students are fully prepared for the future, academically, socially and emotionally. Literacy/English Language Arts Education Consultant Joanne White gave a brief overview of the Kindergarten through Grade 3 Social, Emotional and Intellectual Habits Framework.

E. Connecticut Technical High School System (CTHSS) Board

Mr. Trefry reported that his report was covered by agenda item X.B. Annual Report: 2015-16 Connecticut Technical High School System Strategic Plan.

F. NASBE

Mr. Taylor reported that this week will be his last phone meeting as a current NASBE board member. He reported that Connecticut's press release dated December 1, 2016, "Governor Malloy and Commissioner Wentzell Applaud College Board Decision to Increase Equity by Expanding Testing Accommodations" was sent to Kristen Amundson, President/CEO at NASBE, which will be shared nationally.

Mr. Wright reported on his attendance at NASBE's Regional Convenings on Stakeholder Engagement Under ESSA which was held on December 6, 2016, in Washington, DC. He

reported that Connecticut is doing well with ESSA requirements. The next Stakeholder Engagement Regional meeting will be held on January 17, 2017, in Atlanta, Georgia.

Chairperson Taylor adjourned the meeting at 2:56 p.m.

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