

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

**Legislation and Policy Development Committee Meeting
April 5, 2017**

**Minutes
(Approved 5/03/2017)**

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Board of Education Legislation and Policy Development Committee met in Plaza North Room B, State Office Building, Hartford, Connecticut, on April 5, 2017.

I. Call to Order

Committee Chair Joseph Vrabely called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m. Also present were Committee members: Terry Jones* (arrived at 8:44 a.m.) and Robert Trefry; and other SBE Board members: Estela López, William Davenport, Malia Sieve and Donald Harris.

Ms. Erin Benham and Ms. Maria Mojica were absent.

Also present for all or part of the meeting were the following Department of Education Staff members: Assistant to the Commissioner for Board Matters Pamela Charland, Chief of Fiscal Operations Kathy Demsey, Chief Performance Officer Ajit Gopalakrishnan, Legal Director Peter Haberlandt, Attorney Robin Cecere, State Title IX Coordinator Adrian Wood, Legislative Liaison Laura Stefon, and Recorder Mildred Pagán.

Also in attendance were:

Joseph Cirusuolo, Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS);
Robert Rader, Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE);
Patrice McCarthy, CABE;
Karissa Niehoff, Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS);
Jennifer Alexander, Connecticut Coalition for Achievement Now (ConnCAN);
Frances Rabinowitz, Retired Superintendent; and
Jeffrey Villar, Connecticut Council for Education Reform (CCER).

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Due to a lack of quorum, the minutes of the February 1, 2017, Legislation and Policy Development Committee meeting were not considered.

III. Proposals for a New School Funding Formula

Committee Chair Vrabely commenced the meeting by announcing that he is the new Chairperson for the Legislation and Policy Development Committee. He indicated that he would like to keep the current 8:30 a.m. schedule. Chair Vrabely then introduced Dr. Joseph Cirusuolo, Executive Director of CAPSS. Dr. Cirusuolo referred everyone to a handout titled *Design Principles for a*

New School Funding Formula in Connecticut. He explained that his organization, CAPSS, along with CABA, CAS, ConnCAN and CCER came together to develop a proposal for the SBE around a new education funding formula. He said the basis of this proposal exists in six core values:

- Core Instructional Cost: A fundamental Right for All Students
- Additional Weights to Support Student Learning Needs
- Schools of Choice: A Student-Centered Approach
- Shared State and Local Responsibility for Funding Education
- Education Funding Policies Must Incentivize Innovation
- An Increased Focus on Accountability and Transparency

Discussion ensued, with members asking questions around teacher salaries and school programming. Dr. Cirusuolo explained that they have not yet looked into the “formula” itself, but rather the principal of the formula.

Committee members expressed their appreciation to CAPSS and the other organizations for taking the time to analyze educational funding in Connecticut, and developing this proposal, and thanked them for their presentation. Dr. Cirusuolo expressed the group’s interest in presenting the proposal to the Board.

IV. Update on Development of Guidance Regarding Rights of Transgender Students and Enrollment Policies

Legal Director Peter Haberlandt gave a very brief update on the development of the Guidance Regarding the Rights of Transgender Students and an additional guidance that will be issued concerning Enrollment Policies. He explained that the Transgender guidance will address various issues, including ways of establishing a student’s gender identity, implications of student records, access to restroom, locker room, etc. At this time, the meeting adjourned and time did not permit further discussion of this topic.

V. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mildred Pagán, Recorder