

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

**Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
January 4, 2017
(approved February 1, 2017)**

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, January 4, 2017, in Room 307 of the State Office Building, 165 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
Terry H. Jones
Amina S. Lampkin, Student Member
Estela López
Maria I. Mojica
Malia K. Sieve
Joseph J. Vrabely, Jr.
Stephen P. Wright

Absent: Theresa Hopkins-Staten, Vice Chairperson
Mark Ojakian, Ex Officio
Coral Ortiz, Student Member
Robert J. Trefry, Ex Officio

II. Public Participation

1. Sally Connolly, parent of four children, all of whom have or currently are attending McKinley School in Fairfield, spoke in support of the Board approving the Fairfield Board of Education's proposed amendment to its Plan to Correct Racial Imbalance. Ms. Connolly stated that her children did very well academically at McKinley School, and benefitted from its diversity.
2. Suzanne Graceffa, a Fairfield parent of three children with varying educational needs, stated that McKinley School has met her children's diverse needs by providing quality services and programs, and her children have made great growth. She noted that the motto "We are family" is upheld at McKinley, and urged the Board to accept the Fairfield Board of Education's proposed amendment to its Plan to Correct Racial Imbalance.

*Mr. Clemons arrived at 9:53 a.m.

3. Tom Stringfellow, resident of Manchester, spoke about several issues related to diversity, including the importance of the Martin Luther King holiday and the contributions made by other civil rights leaders; a local initiative in Manchester to promote students getting along with one another; an article in National Geographic about transgender youth; domestic abuse; and coverage by NPR and Sesame Street.
4. Robert Goodrich, a co-founder of Radical Advocates for Cross Cultural Education (RACCE), urged the Board to reconsider its legislative proposal concerning in-school suspensions and chronic absenteeism. He noted that RACCE believes that all forms of exclusionary discipline should be eliminated, as they have unintended consequences that outweigh any perceived benefits. A copy of Mr. Goodrich's prepared statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
5. Lawrence Cafero, resident of Norwalk and a member of the Board of Directors for the Side by Side Charter School, spoke in support of the resolution to approve the renewal of Side by Side's charter for a five-year period. He stated that this charter school is a "jewel" within the Norwalk community.

III. Executive Session

The Board did not meet in executive session.

IV. Consideration of Minutes

Dr. López moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the Board adopt the Minutes of the December 7, 2016, State Board of Education Meeting.

A. December 7, 2016, State Board of Education, Meeting

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

V. Items Requiring for Action

A. Approval of Charter Renewal: Side by Side Charter School, Norwalk

Mrs. Benham moved, Mrs. Sieve seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (g) of Section 10-66bb of the Connecticut General Statutes, renews the charter of Side By Side Charter School from July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2022, subject to the

Commissioner's January 4, 2017, memorandum to the State Board of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Guidance Document Pursuant to Public Act 16-41

Mr. Vrabely moved, Mrs. Mojica seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Public Act 16-41, adopts the attached guidance document to provide information on the use of the state reading, writing, and mathematics competency examination to identify the broad areas in which candidates may need additional support to be successful in their Connecticut educator preparation program; and approves the use of Praxis Core, SAT, or ACT tests to meet this state requirement, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Report of the Chair

Chairperson Taylor reported on the following events he attended during the past month:

- December 9, 2016: Hartford Transformation Governance Forum
- December 12, 2016: NASBE Board of Directors Conference Call
- December 13, 2016: NESSC 2016-17 Council Meeting
Meeting, held at CAPPs office
- December 19, 2016: Connecticut Educational Equity Lab at CCSU, which followed a visit by U.S. Secretary of Education King in New Haven earlier in the day
- December 20, 2016, Commission for Education Technology Forum

VII. Report of the Commissioner

Commissioner Wentzell referenced her written report. She highlighted the Red, White and Blue Schools Initiative, in collaboration with the office of the Secretary of the State, which recognizes Grade 6-12 schools and students for their civic engagement. She noted that she and Secretary Merrill visited several schools that participate in this initiative, and the program is expected to expand to PK-12 next year. She spoke about the Kid Governor Program and the Department's support for these initiatives.

Commissioner Wentzell informed the Board that she will provide Board members with a copy of the "Quality Counts" report, to be released today.

VIII. Financial Matters

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

V. Items Requiring Action (continued)

Mrs. Benham moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, the following resolution:

C. Consideration of Fairfield Public School System's Plan to Correct Racial Imbalance

WHEREAS, The State Board of Education has "general supervision and control of the educational interests of the state," pursuant to section 10-4 of the Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.), and has jurisdiction to enforce implementation of the educational interests of the state, as set forth in section 10-4b of the C.G.S.; and

WHEREAS, The educational interests of the state include the statutory obligations of Connecticut school districts in regard to reducing racial isolation and correcting racial imbalance in public schools, as set forth in C.G.S. §§ 10-4a and 10-226a et seq.; and

WHEREAS, McKinley Elementary School ("McKinley") in Fairfield was identified pursuant to Section 10-226a et seq. of the C.G.S. as having racial imbalance in April 2007, and the Fairfield Board of Education implemented a plan to address such imbalance in the fall of 2008; and

WHEREAS, The Fairfield Board of Education has implemented numerous amendments to its plan since 2008, and such amended plans have not had a substantial impact on the racial imbalance at McKinley; and

WHEREAS, The Fairfield Board of Education was directed in May 2015 to amend its plan and received an extension of time in July 2015 to engage the community in a discussion regarding a more effective solution for the racial imbalance at McKinley; and

WHEREAS, The Fairfield Board of Education provided an update concerning its progress in regard to amending its plan at the State Board of Education meeting on May 4, 2016 and submitted the current proposed amendment to its plan on or about November 22, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Section 10-226c of the C.G.S. requires any board of education with a racially imbalanced school to "forthwith prepare a plan to correct such imbalance" for submission to the State Board of Education and Section 10-226e-5(c)(4) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies requires that any plan to correct racial imbalance must include, among other items, "The proposed methods for eliminating racial imbalance and for preventing its recurrence in the school district;" and

WHEREAS, the current proposed amendment submitted by the Fairfield Board of Education includes steps that may have some positive impact toward correcting racial imbalance at McKinley in the short term but do not appear likely to have a sufficient impact for fully correcting the racial imbalance and preventing its recurrence in the long term.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-226d of the C.G.S. and Section 10-226e-6 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, conditionally approves the Fairfield Board of Education's proposed amendment to its plan to correct racial imbalance at McKinley, as follows:

The proposed amendment is approved on the condition that, within 120 days of this resolution, the Fairfield Board of Education shall submit to the State Board of Education a revised amendment to its plan, which shall include additional measures for correcting racial imbalance at McKinley and preventing its recurrence.

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

The Board recessed the meeting at 12:11 p.m.

The Board reconvened the meeting at 12:42 p.m.

Present: Allan Taylor, Chairperson
Erin D. Benham
Erik M. Clemons
William P. Davenport
Terry Jones
Amina S. Lampkin, Student Member
Estela López
Maria I. Mojica
Malia K. Sieve
Robert Trefry, Ex Officio
Joseph Vrabely
Stephen Wright

Absent: Theresa Hopkins-Staten, Vice Chairperson
Mark E. Ojakian, Ex Officio
Coral L. Ortiz, Student Member

Mr. Vrabely moved, Mrs. Benham seconded, that the Board strike the original language in the "RESOLVED" clause that reads:

The proposed amendment is approved on the condition that, within 120 days of this resolution, the Fairfield Board of Education shall submit to the State Board of Education a revised amendment to its plan, which shall include additional measures for correcting racial imbalance at McKinley and preventing its recurrence.

and replace it with the following:

The proposed amendment is approved on the condition that, within 120 days of this resolution, the Fairfield Board of Education shall submit to the State Board of Education a revised amendment, approved by the Fairfield Board of Education, which shall include: (1) additional measures, beyond the prekindergarten and open choice measures described in section IV of its proposed amendment submission attached as Exhibit A to the Commissioner's Report, that are reasonably calculated to correct the racial imbalance at McKinley and prevent its recurrence; (2) an action plan with a detailed timetable for meeting interim progress benchmarks toward full implementation of its plan, including such additional measures; and (3) interim reporting to the State Board of Education on a periodic basis to be determined by the Commissioner.

VOTE ON

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

Motion to amend carried unanimously.

Resolution, as amended, reads as follows:

WHEREAS, The State Board of Education has "general supervision and control of the educational interests of the state," pursuant to section 10-4 of the Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.), and has jurisdiction to enforce implementation of the educational interests of the state, as set forth in section 10-4b of the C.G.S.; and

WHEREAS, The educational interests of the state include the statutory obligations of Connecticut school districts in regard to reducing racial isolation and correcting racial imbalance in public schools, as set forth in C.G.S. §§ 10-4a and 10-226a et seq.; and

WHEREAS, McKinley Elementary School ("McKinley") in Fairfield was identified pursuant to Section 10-226a et seq. of the C.G.S. as having racial imbalance in April 2007, and the Fairfield Board of Education implemented a plan to address such imbalance in the fall of 2008; and

WHEREAS, The Fairfield Board of Education has implemented numerous amendments to its plan since 2008, and such amended plans have not had a substantial impact on the racial imbalance at McKinley; and

WHEREAS, The Fairfield Board of Education was directed in May 2015 to amend its plan and received an extension of time in July 2015 to engage the community in a discussion regarding a more effective solution for the racial imbalance at McKinley; and

WHEREAS, The Fairfield Board of Education provided an update concerning its progress in regard to amending its plan at the State Board of Education meeting on May 4, 2016 and submitted the current proposed amendment to its plan on or about November 22, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Section 10-226c of the C.G.S. requires any board of education with a racially imbalanced school to "forthwith prepare a plan to correct such imbalance" for submission to the State Board of Education and Section 10-226e-5(c)(4) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies requires that any plan to correct racial imbalance must include, among other items, "The proposed methods for eliminating racial imbalance and for preventing its recurrence in the school district;" and

WHEREAS, the current proposed amendment submitted by the Fairfield Board of Education includes steps that may have some positive impact toward correcting racial imbalance at McKinley in the short term but do not appear likely to have a sufficient impact for fully correcting the racial imbalance and preventing its recurrence in the long term.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-226d of the C.G.S. and Section 10-226e-6 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, conditionally approves the Fairfield Board of Education's proposed amendment to its plan to correct racial imbalance at McKinley, as follows:

The proposed amendment is approved on the condition that, within 120 days of this resolution, the Fairfield Board of Education shall submit to the State Board of Education a revised amendment, approved by the Fairfield Board of Education, which shall include: (1) additional measures, beyond the prekindergarten and open choice measures described in section IV of its proposed amendment submission attached as Exhibit A to the Commissioner's Report, that are reasonably calculated to correct the racial imbalance at McKinley and prevent its recurrence; (2) an action plan with a detailed timetable for meeting interim progress benchmarks toward full implementation of its plan, including such additional measures; and (3) interim reporting to the State Board of Education on a periodic basis to be determined by the Commissioner.

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion as amended carried unanimously.

IX. Consent Agenda

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

Dr. López moved, Mrs. Benham seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-145d-9(f)(1) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, appoints the following individuals to serve on the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) Review Committee for new and continuing approval of Connecticut educator preparation programs effective January 4, 2017:

| Name | Affiliation | Representation | Term Ending |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Hari Koirala | Eastern Connecticut State University | Higher Education | Jan. 3, 2019 |
| Tamika La Salle | University of Connecticut | Higher Education | Jan. 3, 2020 |
| Catherine O'Callaghan | Western Connecticut State University | Higher Education | Jan. 3, 2020 |
| Julie Sochacki | University of Hartford | Higher Education | Jan. 3, 2020 |
| Joseph Bonillo | Waterford Public Schools | K-12 | Jan. 3, 2019 |
| Thomas Danehy | Area Cooperative Educational Services | K-12 | Jan. 3, 2020 |
| David Erwin | Berlin Public Schools | K-12 | Jan. 3, 2019 |
| Ana Ortiz | Oxford Public Schools | K-12 | Jan. 3, 2020 |
| Shuana Tucker | New Britain Public Schools | K-12 | Jan. 3, 2020 |
| Evette Avila | Connecticut Center for School Change | Community | Jan. 3, 2020 |
| Stanley Battle | University of Saint Joseph | Community | Jan. 3, 2020 |
| A. Bates Lyons | A. Bates Lyons Associates | Community | Jan. 3, 2019 |

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

