

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
April 5, 2017
(Approved May 3, 2017)

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, April 5, 2017, in Plaza North Room C and D of the State Office Building, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, Connecticut.

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Allan Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

Present: Allan B. Taylor, Chairperson
Estela López, Vice Chairperson
Erin D. Benham*
Erik M. Clemons*
William P. Davenport
Donald F. Harris, Jr.
Terry H. Jones
Amina S. Lampkin, Student Member
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

(*Erin Benham participated electronically for a portion of the meeting in the afternoon session as noted in the Minutes of this meeting.)

II. Public Participation

1. Susan Sumberg, a first grade teacher at Laurel Elementary School in Bloomfield, and president of the Bloomfield Education Association, spoke in support of the Performance Evaluation Advisory Committee's (PEAC) recommendation concerning the role of state mastery tests in teacher evaluation, and urged the Board to adopt resolution V.G. A copy of Ms. Sumberg's prepared statement is included in the official file of this meeting.

*[Erik Clemons arrived at 9:43 a.m.]

2. Dr. Shuana Tucker, Chief Talent Officer, New Britain Public Schools, and Mr. Salvador Escobales, science teacher and President of NBFT Local 871, both members of the Professional Development and Evaluation Committee for the New Britain School District, spoke about their concerns about the use of standardized tests for evaluation purposes.

They stated that standardized tests such as the SBAC could be useful for identifying areas for academic improvement for students and for identifying areas for instructional improvement for teachers. A copy of Dr. Tucker's and Mr. Escobales' prepared statements are included in the official file of this meeting.

3. Pam Murphy, Visual Arts Supervisor for West Hartford Public Schools, spoke about the importance of the arts in a comprehensive education. Ms. Murphy urged the Board to fill the state arts consultant position with a qualified candidate to facilitate implementation of the Core Arts Standards in Connecticut. A copy of Ms. Murphy's prepared statement is included in the official file of this meeting.
4. Andrew Mayo, Supervisor for the Department of Fine and Performing Arts for West Hartford Public Schools, expressed his concerns about not filling the arts consultant position, and urged the Board to reflect on the role of arts throughout academic areas, and the need to guide Connecticut's school districts through the process of revising curricula and training teachers on the Core Arts Standards. A copy of Mr. Mayo's prepared statement is included in the official file of this meeting.
5. Dr. RoseAnn O'Brien Vojtek, Principal of Ivy Drive Elementary School in Bristol, and President of the Connecticut Association of Schools and the Chair of the Administrator Professional Standards Council, expressed her support for the PEAC Committee amendment proposal concerning the use of the SBAC assessment (agenda item V.G.). A copy of Dr. O'Brien Vojtek's prepared statement is included in the official file of this meeting.
6. Dr. Jacob Easley II, Dean of the School of Education and Professional Studies at Eastern Connecticut State University and a former teacher, spoke in support of the PEAC recommendation regarding the use of state standardized tests for teachers in setting goals and professional development.
7. Dr. Rupendra Paliwal, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Sacred Heart University, expressed his appreciation for the process and outcome concerning the continuing approval of the Educator Preparation Programs at Sacred Heart University. Dr. Paliwal was pleased with the positive changes in the culture within the university's educator preparation program, and thanked the visiting team, and Dr. Sarah Barzee and Dr. Katie Toohey, for their support and guidance throughout the process.
8. Brian Frazier, Vice-President and President-elect of the Connecticut Arts Administrators' Association, stated that it is critical that an arts specialist lead the effort to implement the Core Arts Standards in Connecticut, and urged the Board to fill this vacant position. A copy of Mr. Frazier's prepared statement is included in the official file of this meeting.
9. Tom Stringfellow, resident of Manchester, recommended to the Board several articles and spoke about historical events and figures (the 100 year anniversary of U.S. military involvement in World War I, Maya Angelou, Cesar Chavez, Martin Luther King, Most Likely to Succeed: Preparing Our Kids for the Innovation Era, Navigating Achievement for Struggling Students with the Common Core State Standards, and a Time Magazine,

March 27, 2017, article on redefining gender identity of students and young adults). A copy of Mr. Stringfellow's statement is included in the official file of this meeting.

10. Gwen Samuel, President of the Connecticut Parents Union, stated that the Board has had five years to determine how best to measure the effectiveness of educators, and must fulfill its responsibility for holding educators accountable and ensuring that the educational interests of the state are met. She stated that being poor does not equate to students' inability to learn, and educators must be held accountable for all students. She urged the Board, at the very least, to table agenda item V.G. pending additional parental and student input.
11. Jennifer Alexander, Chief Executive Officer, ConnCAN, shared ConnCAN's concerns regarding the March 2017 Performance Evaluation Advisory Council's recommendations to not use student growth on the Smarter Balanced Assessment in calculating an educator's summative performance evaluations. Ms. Alexander noted that Connecticut needs an evaluation model that connects teacher performance evaluations with assessments of student growth toward college and career readiness standards. A copy of Ms. Alexander's prepared statement is included in the official file of this meeting.
12. John Prins, member of the Branford Board of Education, and President of the Connecticut Alliance for Arts Education, spoke about the importance of arts education, and offered support to make the state arts consultant position a requirement under the laws. A copy of Mr. Prins' prepared statement is included in the official file of this meeting.
13. Dr. Jeffrey Spector, Executive Director of the Connecticut Alliance for Arts Education, discussed the need for a knowledgeable arts professional to provide leadership to the arts education teachers across the state, and asked the Board to fill the vacant position. A copy of Dr. Spector's prepared statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
14. Andrea Haas, arts educator, spoke about the value of arts education and the role of the arts in student engagement. Ms. Haas described the effect of prior arts education consultants on her professional practice, and urged the Board to fill the arts education consultant position. A copy of Ms. Haas' prepared statement is included in the official file of this meeting.
15. Tracy L. Abbate, Director of Arts and Wellness, Hartford Public Schools, stated that the state arts consultant and physical education consultant are integral to the success of students in Connecticut, and asked the Board to consider filling these two positions to continue to advocate in these areas and communicate grant opportunities, professional development opportunities, and current information to the field. A copy of Ms. Abbate's prepared statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
16. Brian Cyr, Fine Arts Coordinator, Meriden Public Schools, encouraged the Board to fill the arts education consultant position with a well-qualified individual.
17. Dave Cicarella, President of the New Haven Federation of Teachers and a member of PEAC, spoke in support of agenda item V.G., concerning the appropriate use of state

mastery test data (i.e., professional development and goal setting) in the state educator evaluation and support system.

18. Steve McKeever, Advanced Placement science teacher, Middletown Public Schools, and First Vice President of AFT-CT, spoke in support of agenda item V.G., regarding the appropriate use of state mastery test data. He noted that performance on a single test on a particular day is not an accurate way to assess performance. He added that SBAC is a computer based test, and we must consider the impact of students' varying technology skills on their test performance.
19. Jahana Hayes, classroom teacher, Waterbury Public Schools, and 2016 National Teacher of the Year, urged the Board to support the PEAC recommendation regarding the appropriate use of state mastery test results, noting that it has value in professional growth and development. Ms. Hayes expressed her concerns about the potential for prospective and new teachers thinking that their success is based on the results of a single test.
20. Dr. Joseph Cirusuolo, Executive Director of the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS), expressed his support for the PEAC recommendations, noting that use of state mastery test data to inform educator goal-setting for professional development purposes will result in improved student outcomes. Dr. Cirusuolo urged the Board to adopt the PEAC recommendations.
21. Jeffrey Villar, Executive Director, Connecticut Council for Education Reform, stated his concern with removing state mastery test results as a measure of accountability in teacher evaluation. Mr. Villar stated that these tests serve as a powerful tool to provide an accurate assessment of student performance in English Language Arts and mathematics, and could be used to drive necessary change.

III. Executive Session

The Board did not meet in executive session.

X. Items for Discussion

The Board unanimously agreed to consider agenda item X.A., High School Reimagined Project, at this time.

A. High School Reimagined Project

Dr. Joseph J. Cirusuolo, Executive Director, and Janet Garagliano, Staff Associate, Leadership Development, of Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS), introduced to the Board the students who worked on the CAPSS High School Reimagined Project. The following students presented to the Board:

- Cynthia Dias, Wolcott High School, presented a brief history of the project and spoke about consolidated resolution #1:

1. Be it resolved that all Districts will offer a variety of options, in addition to traditionally structured classes, for students to earn high school credit including but not limited to:

- Lily Sendroff, Hamden High School, presented and spoke about consolidated resolution #2:

2. Be it resolved that the state legislature take certain actions to promote equity among high school education and post-secondary opportunities and allow to the district's discretion the capacity to showcase mastery of skills beyond current learning pathways.

- Seung I. Yu, Amity Regional High School, presented and spoke about consolidated resolution #3:

3. Be it resolved that districts are provided flexibility when designing the school day, week, year and structure of the classroom to meet the learning needs of each student on his or her path to mastering standards.

*[Stephen Wright arrived at 11:12 a.m.]

- Drew Siebert, Orville H. Platt High School, presented and spoke about consolidated resolution #4:

4. Be it resolved that high school teachers can demonstrate their qualifications based on their specific certifications and that they further prepare by showcasing mastery of teaching competencies.

Discussion ensued.

IV. Consideration of Minutes

A. March 1, 2017, State Board of Education, Meeting

Mr. Vrabely moved, Dr. López seconded, that the Board adopt the Minutes of the March 1, 2017, State Board of Education Meeting.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

V. Items Requiring for Action

A. Approval of Wilbur Cross High School, New Haven, in Cohort II of the Commissioner's Network

Mr. Vrabely moved, Dr. López seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-223h of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves continued participation of Wilbur Cross High School, New Haven, in the Commissioner's Network for an additional year commencing July 1, 2017, and directs the school to report to the State Board of Education Accountability and Support Committee on its priorities and progress in the 2017-18 school year; 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: Clemons, Davenport, Harris, Jones, López,
Sieve, Taylor, Vrabely, Wright
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: Benham, Mojica

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Uncas School, Norwich, in Cohort III of the Commissioner's Network

Mr. Vrabely moved, Mr. Davenport seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-223h of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves continued participation of Uncas Network School, Norwich, in the Commissioner's Network for an additional year commencing July 1, 2017, and directs the school to report to the State Board of Education Accountability and Support Committee on its priorities and progress in the 2017-18 school year; 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.

A. Continuing Approval of Educator Preparation Program, Charter Oak State College

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-145d-9(g)(1)(A) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies grants full approval to the Charter Oak State College (COSC), Early Childhood Education, Alternate Route to Certification (ECE ARC) Program, through November 30, 2023, with an interim report required within 12-18 months regarding the program's on-going assessment and evaluation efforts, for the purpose of certifying graduates from COSC ECE ARC, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

B. Continuing Approval of Educator Preparation Program, Sacred Heart University

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-145d-9(g)(1)(A) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, grants full approval to Sacred Heart University (SHU) educator preparation programs through September 30, 2018, with an interim report required within 12-18 months regarding SHU's on-going assessment and evaluation efforts, for the purpose of certifying graduates from SHU in the following areas:

Program	Grade Level	Program Level	Program Type
Elementary Education	K – 6*	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Secondary Grades			
English	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
History/Social Studies	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Mathematics	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
General Science	7 -12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Biology	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Chemistry	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Spanish	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Intermediate Administration and Supervision	PK-12	Advanced	Graduate
Remedial Reading/ Language Arts	1-12	Advanced	Graduate
Speech/Language Pathology	K-12	Advanced	Graduate

*Pursuant to Public Act 12-63, amended by Public Act 13-122 (Section 11), on or after July 1, 2017, an endorsement for elementary education will be issued for Grades 1-6 only to in-state graduates.

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

V. Items Requiring for Action (continued)

G. Winchester Waiver of Repayment of Special Education Excess Cost Grant Pursuant to Connecticut General Statute Section 10-76g

Dr. López moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Town of Winchester, pursuant to Section 304(b) of Public Act 15-5 of the June Special Session, has applied for a waiver of the second of five repayments of \$144,173 required to be made annually by April 30th under the repayment agreement required under Section 304(a) of Public Act 15-5 of the June Special Session for reimbursement of overpayments made by the State pursuant to Section 10-76g of the General Statutes during the fiscal years ending June 30, 2013, to June 30, 2014, inclusive; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Winchester has demonstrated significant improvement in the fiscal and financial practices of its school district, has demonstrated that structural changes have been implemented to ensure the school district is properly handling taxpayer funds, and has satisfied other criteria required by the Commissioner; now therefore be it,

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education approves the waiver application submitted by the Town pursuant to Section 304(b) of Public Act 15-5 of the June Special Session for the payment to be made by April 30, 2017, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Approval of O'Brien School, East Hartford, in Cohort III of the Commissioner's Network

Dr. López moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-223h of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves continued participation of O'Brien STEM Academy, East Hartford, in the Commissioner's Network for an additional year commencing July 1, 2017, and directs the school to report to the State Board of Education Accountability and Support Committee on its priorities and progress in the 2017-18 school year; 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: Harris, Jones, López, Sieve, Taylor, Vrabely
 Opposed: 0
 Abstained: 0
 Absent: Benham, Clemons, Davenport, Mojica, Wright

Motion carried unanimously.

D. Renewal of Charter: Integrated Day Charter School, Norwich

Mr. Vrabely 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 Integrated Day Charter School from July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2021, subject to the conditions noted in the Commissioner's April 5, 2017, memorandum to the State Board of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

E. Renewal of Charter: Bridge Academy, Bridgeport

Mr. Vrabely 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 The Bridge Academy from July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2020, subject to the conditions noted in the Commissioner's April 5, 2017, memorandum to the State Board of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion 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, a copy of which is enclosed in the Supplemental Materials folder. The Commissioner highlighted the following:

- The 2016 graduation rate will be announced soon.
- Today was the Grade 11 2017 SAT School Day and Connecticut piloted the on-line science assessment.

VIII. Financial Matters

Chief Financial Officer Kathy Demsey confirmed that there are 63 vacancies in the State Department of Education Central Office.

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

Mr. Vrabely report that the committee met this morning. Connecticut Association of Board of Education (CABE), Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS), Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS), Connecticut Coalition for Achievement Now (ConnCAN), and Connecticut Council for Education Reform (CCER), presented to the committee for ECS funding. The organizations were encouraged to make a similar presentation to the full Board.

E. Connecticut Technical High School System Board

Mr. Trefry referenced two bills in the legislature. One bill would classify licensed aviation maintenance programs as postsecondary education programs. Under the other bill, the Technical High School System would become a separate budgeted agency.

F. NASBE

No report was given.

Chairperson Taylor adjourned the meeting at 5:29 p.m.

Prepared by:

Dr. Dianna R. Wentzell, Secretary
State Board of Education