

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

**Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
May 3, 2017**

(Approved June 14, 2017)

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, May 3, 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 9:45 a.m.

Present: Allan B. Taylor, Chairperson
Estela López, Vice Chairperson
Erin D. Benham
William P. Davenport
Donald F. Harris, Jr.
Terry H. Jones
Amina S. Lampkin, Student Member
Maria I. Mojica*
Robert J. Trefry, Ex Officio
Joseph J. Vrabely, Jr.

Absent: Erik M. Clemons
Mark Ojakian, Ex Officio
Coral Ortiz, Student Member
Malia K. Sieve
Stephen P. Wright

(*Maria Mojica participated electronically for a portion of the meeting into the afternoon session as noted in the Minutes of this meeting.)

II. Public Participation

1. Theresa Mieczkowski, parent of children in Regional School District No. 14, requested the Board's support in ensuring that her son receives the necessary educational services and supports. She explained that her son, who has a medical condition and qualifies under Section 504, was bullied at school and, consequently, requires home instruction. Her son did not receive an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), and did not receive instruction for an extended period of time. Ms. Mieczkowski expressed her concerns and frustration about not being successful in her attempts to ensure that her son receives the requisite services at the local school district, state and federal levels. She noted that the Office of Civil Rights and the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities have

not been of assistance, and the State Department of Education informed her that they are unable to assist her since her son does not have an IEP. As a result, her son, who was an honor student, must now repeat the ninth grade and the parents will need to pay for tuition next year.

Commissioner Wentzell stated she was sorry to hear of their experience, and would ensure that Dr. Adrian Wood, Education Consultant, would provide the appropriate guidance to Mrs. Mieczkowski.

2. Bernard Thomas, Executive Director, Hartford Knights Youth Organization, stated his concerns about students in the Hartford area not receiving proper services and support while suspended from school. Mr. Thomas emphasized that students need additional services to help keep them on the right track. He also stated that many students who are released from detention facilities are not enrolled in school in a timely manner, due to delays in transferring school records.
3. Gwen Samuel, CT Parents Union, stated that the State Board of Education is the ultimate body to ensure the safety and well-being of all children; it has the legal authority to hold accountable those districts that are not complying with the law regarding suspensions and expulsions. She highlighted the disproportionate impact this has on black and brown children. Ms. Samuel noted the Johns Hopkins University Study regarding the positive impact of having one black teacher on a student's success. She stated that the Board's goal of reaching a 10% threshold for minority teachers over the next five years was not rigorous. Ms. Samuel then reminded the Board not to lose sight of the recent report released by the Office of the Child Advocate.
4. Tom Stringfellow, resident of Manchester, recommended several publications and documentaries on historical and events and role models. A copy of Mr. Stringfellow's statement is included in the official file of this meeting.
5. Donald Black, parent of a former student and a current student attending Jumoke Academy, expressed his support for the recommendation to renew the school's charter. He described the positive impact the school has had on his children and commended the committed teachers at Jumoke.

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., Report on Student Discipline, at this time.

A. Report on Student Discipline

A panel consisting of Chief Operating Officer Charlene Russell-Tucker, Bureau Chief John Frassinelli, Meriden School Superintendent Mark Benigni, and Emily Morgan, Council of State Government Justice Center, presented a PowerPoint presentation on school suspensions and expulsions data in Connecticut and on the national level. Discussion ensued.

IV. Consideration of Minutes

A. April 5, 2017, State Board of Education Meeting

Mr. Vrabely moved, Mr. Harris seconded, that the Board adopt the Minutes of the April 5, 2017, State Board of Education Meeting.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

IX. Consent Agenda

At the request of Mr. Vrabely, agenda items IX.C., Receipt of Report on Racial Imbalance, was removed from the consent agenda.

Dr. López moved, Mr. Davenport seconded, that the Board approve the following Consent agenda items, IX.A., Appointment to Connecticut Advisory Council for Teacher Professional Standards, and IX.B., Appointment to Connecticut Advisory Council for Administrator Professional Standards.

A. Appointment to Connecticut Advisory Council for Teacher Professional Standards

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education (SBE), pursuant to subsection (b) of Section 10-144d of the Connecticut General Statutes, appoints the following individuals to serve on the Connecticut Advisory Council for Teacher Professional Standards for a three-year term effective immediately and ending September 30, 2020:

Name	Affiliation	Representation	Term Ending
Marianne Downie, J.D.	The Hartford	Business and Industry	Sept. 30, 2020
James Carl, Ph.D.	Sacred Heart University	Teacher Preparation Program	Sept. 30, 2020

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

B. Appointment to Connecticut Advisory Council for Administrator Professional Standards

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education (SBE), pursuant to subsection (b) of Section 10-144e of the Connecticut General Statutes, appoints the following individuals to serve on the Connecticut Advisory Council for Administrator Professional Standards for a four-year term effective immediately and ending September 30, 2021:

Name	Affiliation	Representation	Term Ending
Sean Johnston, J.D.	The Hartford	Business and Industry	Sept. 30, 2021
Gladis Kersaint, Ph.D.	University of Connecticut	Administrator Preparation Program	Sept. 30, 2021

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motions carried unanimously.

The Board recessed the meeting for lunch at 12:10 p.m.

The Board reconvened the meeting at 1:10 p.m.

Present: Allan Taylor, Chairperson
Estela López, Vice Chairperson
Erin D. Benham

William P. Davenport
Donald F. Harris
Terry H. Jones
Amina S. Lampkin, Student Member
Maria I. Mojica*
Robert Trefry, Ex Officio
Joseph Vrabely

Absent: Erik M. Clemons
Mark Ojakian, Ex Officio
Coral Ortiz, Student Member
Malia K. Sieve
Stephen P. Wright

(*Maria Mojica participated electronically for a portion of the meeting into the afternoon session as noted in the Minutes of this meeting.)

The Board unanimously agreed to consider agenda item X.B., Design Principles for a New School Funding Formula in Connecticut, at this time.

X. Items for Discussion

B. Design Principles for a New School Funding Formula in Connecticut

Robert Rader and Patrice McCarthy, Connecticut Association of Board of Education (CABE); John Tindall-Gibson, Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS); Karissa Niehoff, Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS); Jen Alexander, Connecticut Coalition for Achievement Now (ConnCAN); and Jeffrey Villar, Connecticut Council for Education Reform (CCER), jointly presented to the Board a set of proposed guiding principles to be used to redesign Connecticut's school funding formula.

[Amina Lampkin left the meeting at 1:21 p.m.]

On a motion by Mr. Davenport, seconded by Dr. López, the Board voted unanimously to add to the agenda items V.G., a resolution concerning the "Design Principles for a New School Funding Formula in Connecticut."

V. Items Requiring for Action

G. Resolution Concerning Design Principles for a New School Funding Formula in Connecticut

Mr. Davenport moved, Dr. López seconded, that the State Board of Education adopts and supports the "Design Principles for a New School Funding Formula in Connecticut," proposed by CABE, CAPSS, CAS, ConnCAN, and CCER, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

By unanimous consent, the Board added to the agenda and approved the following Certificate of Recognition, which reads as follows:

Certificate of Recognition
in honor of
Dr. Joseph J. Cirusuolo

upon his retirement as Executive Director of the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents, and with appreciation for his significant and lasting contributions to the improvement of educational leadership and student success at the local, state, and national levels over the past 53 years.

[*Maria Mojica electronically left the meeting at approximately 2:00 p.m.]

V. Items Requiring for Action

B. Approval of Walsh Elementary School, Waterbury in 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 Walsh Elementary School, Waterbury in the Commissioner's Network for an additional and final year commencing July 1, 2017, 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: Benham, Davenport, Harris, Jones, López,
Taylor, Vrabely
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: Clemons, Mojica, Sieve, Wright

Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Crosby High School, Waterbury in Commissioner's Network

Mr. Vrabely moved, Mrs. Benham seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-223h of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves continued participation of Crosby High School, Waterbury, 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: Benham, Davenport, Harris, Jones, López,
 Taylor, Vrabely
 Opposed: 0
 Abstained: 0
 Absent: Clemons, Mojica, Sieve, Wright

Motion carried unanimously.

[Erin Benham left the meeting at approximately 2:40 p.m.]

C. Approval of Windham Middle School, Windham, in 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 Windham Middle School, Windham in the Commissioner's Network for an additional and final year commencing July 1, 2017, 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: Davenport, Harris, Jones, López, Taylor, Vrabely
 Opposed: 0
 Abstained: 0
 Absent: Benham, Clemons, Mojica, Sieve, Wright

Motion carried unanimously.

D. Approval of Paul Laurence Dunbar School, Bridgeport, in Commissioner's Network

Dr. López moved, Davenport seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-223h of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves continued participation of Paul Laurence Dunbar School, Bridgeport, in the Commissioner's

Network for an additional and final 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: Davenport, Harris, Jones, López, Taylor, Vrabely
 Opposed: 0
 Abstained: 0
 Absent: Benham, Clemons, Mojica, Sieve, Wright

Motion carried unanimously.

E. Approval of Charter Renewal: Jumoke Academy Hartford

Mr. Vrabely moved, Dr. López seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (g) of Section 10-66bb of the Connecticut General Statutes, renews the charter of Jumoke Academy Charter School from July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2020, subject to the conditions noted in the Commissioner's May 3, 2017, memorandum to the State Board of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

F. Approval of Charter Renewal: Trailblazers Academy, Stamford

Mr. Vrabely moved, Mr. Davenport seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (g) of Section 10-66bb of the Connecticut General Statutes, renews the charter of Trailblazers Academy from July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2021, subject to the conditions noted in the Commissioner's May 3, 2017, memorandum to the State Board of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

IX. Consent Agenda (continued)

C. Receipt of Report on Racial Imbalance

Dr. López moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Sections 10-226a and 10-226b of the Connecticut General Statutes, accepts the Racial Imbalance Report for the 2016-17 school year, dated April 10, 2017, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

MOTION:	In favor:	Davenport, Harris, Jones, López, Taylor, Vrabely
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	0
	Absent:	Benham, Clemons, Mojica, Sieve, 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 thanked the Board for attending recent meetings and conventions. She spoke about the Department's partnership with Electric Board, the CTHSS, and the Department of Labor.

VIII. Financial Matters

Chief Financial Officer Kathy Demsey was not present at this time.

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

Mr. Taylor reported that the committee will meet on May 31, 2017.

D. Legislation and Policy Development

Mr. Vrabely reported that the committee met this morning, and heard a presentation on the Implementation of School Based Diversion Initiatives.

E. Connecticut Technical High School System Board

Mr. Trefry stated that the CTHSS Board will need to start a search for a superintendent. Mr. Trefry referenced the legislative bill that would classify licensed aviation maintenance programs as postsecondary education programs and another proposing that the Technical High School System become a separate budgeted agency.

F. NASBE

No report was given.

Chairperson Taylor adjourned the meeting at 4:23 p.m.

Prepared by:

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