

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Hartford**

**Minutes**  
**State Board of Education Meeting**  
**June 14, 2017**  
(Approved July 19, 2017)

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, June 14, 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 9:39 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  
Maria I. Mojica\*  
Coral Ortiz, Student Member  
Malia K. Sieve  
Robert J. Trefry, Ex Officio  
Joseph J. Vrabely, Jr.

Absent: Mark Ojakian, Ex Officio  
Stephen P. Wright

(\*Maria Mojica participated electronically in the meeting for the recorded Minutes of this meeting.)

**II. Public Participation**

1. Dr. Richard Kisiel, Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPPS), in support of agenda, item, IX.E., Adoption of Resolution in Support of Mastery-based Personalized Learning. Dr. Kisiel stated that there are 29 districts implementing mastery-based personalized learning on varying school levels. Dr. Kisiel acknowledged the leadership of the Board and community to continue to work collaboratively.
2. Robert Rader, Executive Director, Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, in support of agenda item, X.A., Guidance on Civil Rights Protections and Supports for Transgender Students. Mr. Rader commended the Board for the memorandum and his appreciation for the guidance in a thoughtful, positive manner. Mr. Rader expressed that he was the proud father of a transitioned son. Mr. Rader referenced his son's TEDX

Talk (<https://youtu.be/8ciSDE7SDPI>) as an available resource on growing up transgender.

[Erik M. Clemons arrived at 9:45 a.m.]

3. Tom Stringfellow, resident of Manchester, thanked the two student members for their one-year service on the Board. Mr. Stringfellow recommended several publications and documentaries on historical events: Battle of Midway, the USS Liberty, "The Great War" American Experience documentary, and an article on Irene Morgan Kirkaldy. Mr. Stringfellow recommended the book, "Thinking Differently: An Inspiring Guide for Parents of Children with Learning Disabilities," by David Flink. A copy of Mr. Stringfellow's written statement is included in the official file of this meeting.
4. Rebecca Holcombe, Director of Community Programs, Common Ground, New Haven. Ms. Holcombe spoke on the Nature Year program. Nature Year is a partnership program where students spend one day a week throughout the school year engaged in a nature program that is based on science. Common Ground is seeking support from the State Board of Education for parents who are concerned that the district views nature day participation as an absence.
5. Members of the State Student Advisory Council on Education (SSACE) presented their end-of-year report to the State Board of Education. SSACE focused its attention on three areas in 2016-17: (a) The Experience Gap; (b) College and Career Readiness; and (c) Social-Emotional Learning. Presenting to the Board were the following SSACE members:

The Experience Gap was presented by:

1. Isha Dalal – Trumbull High School

College and Career Readiness was presented by:

2. Giancarlo Islotti – Suffield High School

Social-Emotional Learning was presented by:

3. Coral Oritz – Hillhouse High School
4. Amina Lampkin – Hall High School

A question and answer period followed. The Board was impressed with the data and thanked the students for their thorough, informative and thought-provoking presentation.

### **III. Executive Session**

The Board did not meet in executive session.

#### **IV. Consideration of Minutes**

##### **A. May 3, 2017, State Board of Education Meeting**

Dr. López moved, Mr. Davenport seconded, that the Board adopt the Minutes of the May 3, 2017, State Board of Education Meeting.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

#### **V. Items Requiring Action**

##### **A. Biennial Organizational Meeting**

###### **V.A.1., Adoption of 2017-19 State Board of Education Bylaws**

Mrs. Benham moved, Mr. Davenport seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 3 of Article III of its Bylaws, approves the 2017-19 Bylaws of the Connecticut State Board of Education.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

###### **V.A.2., Adoption of 2018 Meeting Schedule**

Mrs. Benham moved, Mr. Davenport seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 1-225 of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the 2018 schedule of regular meeting dates, as follows:

January 3, 2018  
February 14, 2018  
March 7, 2018  
April 4, 2018  
May 2, 2018







WHEREAS, Governor Dannel P. Malloy appointed Coral L. Ortiz of New Haven to the State Board of Education for a one-year term commencing July 1, 2016; and

WHEREAS, During her tenure, Ms. Ortiz has served with distinction and has contributed greatly to the Board's discussions of education policy issues;

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*, That the State Board of Education extends to Coral L. Ortiz its appreciation for her commitment to educational excellence and equity in Connecticut public schools and best wishes for success in her future endeavors.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

## IX. Consent Agenda

At the request of Mrs. Benham, agenda items IX.E., Adoption of Resolution in Support of Mastery-based Personalized Learning, was removed from the consent agenda.

Mr. Vrabely moved, Mrs. Benham seconded, that the Board approve the following consent agenda items, IX.A., Recognition of Career & Technical Education Student Organizations, IX.B., Recognition of the Connecticut Association for Adult and Continuing Education, IX.C., Recognition of GED Scholar, and IX.D., Adoption of Annual Audit Plan.

### A. Recognition of Career & Technical Education Student Organizations

Whereas, Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) are a co-curricular, integral part of the local, state and national career and technical education programs;

Whereas, the development of individual student leadership skills is the keystone of these organizations; and

Whereas, all CTSO chapters were asked to identify an outstanding service project; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Connecticut State Board of Education recognizes the following CTSO Outstanding Service Award Recipients:

- Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA), Naugatuck High School, Naugatuck;
- Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Masuk High School, Monroe;
- Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), Fairfield Ludlowe High School, Fairfield;
- FFA organization (formerly known as Future Farmers of America), E.O. Smith High School, Storrs;
- Future Health Professionals (HOSA), East Haven High School, East Haven;
- SkillsUSA, W. F. Kaynor Technical High School, Waterbury;

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

**B. Recognition of the Connecticut Association for Adult and Continuing Education**

**WHEREAS,** Adult education exemplifies the concept of lifelong learning with nearly ten thousand Connecticut residents in adult basic education/secondary school completion programs and nearly twelve thousand Connecticut residents in English as a Second Language (ESL) and U.S. citizenship preparation programs; and

**WHEREAS,** The Connecticut Association for Adult and Continuing Education (CAACE), through its CAACE Student Award, recognized five individuals who have overcome numerous obstacles and hardships to persist and succeed in adult education; and

**WHEREAS,** These individuals exemplify the spirit and determination necessary to achieve a goal and serve as role models to all adult and young learners in our communities; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That the Connecticut State Board of Education recognizes the following individuals for their accomplishments in this major adult education endeavor:

Andrea Gamble	Windsor Adult Education
Saul Hernandez	East Shore Region Adult and Continuing Education
Juan Lopez	Stamford Adult Education
Michael Reid	Manchester Adult Education
Bizhong Zhang	Vernon Regional Adult Based Education

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.



WHEREAS, During her tenure, Ms. Lampkin has served with distinction and has contributed greatly to the Board's discussions of education policy issues;

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*, That the State Board of Education extends to Amina S. Lampkin its appreciation for her commitment to educational excellence and equity in Connecticut public schools and best wishes for success in her future endeavors.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**X. Items for Discussion**

**A. Guidance on Civil Rights Protections and Supports for Transgender Students**

Legal Director Peter Haberlandt presented to the Board the Connecticut State Department of Education's *Guidance on Civil Rights Protections and Supports for Transgender Students* for Connecticut school districts on the rights of gender minority students. Connecticut schools have a legal obligation to provide an equal educational opportunity for all students, including gender minority students. The guidance document was designed to assist schools and districts in implementing civil rights protections for transgender students under state and federal laws. The guidance will be disseminated to Connecticut school districts on the legal obligations, rights, responsibilities and best educational practices for ensuring equal treatment of transgender students.

**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 indicated that Legislative Liaison Laura Stefon will do a summary of the legislative session. Commissioner Wentzell stated that there will be two circular letters this year.

## **VIII. Financial Matters**

No report was given.

## **XI. Committee Reports**

### **A. Academic Standards and Assessment**

No report was given.

### **B. Accountability and Support**

Dr. López reported that the committee met on June 12, 2017. Dr. Toni Jones, Superintendent of Fairfield Public Schools and her team gave an overview of the revised amendment of Fairfield's Racial Imbalance Plan.

### **C. Finance, Audit, and Budget**

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

### **D. Legislation and Policy Development**

Mr. Vrabely reported that the committee met this morning. Chief Talent Officer Sarah Barzee provided a presentation on Fairfield University's New Educator Preparation Program for Remedial Reading and Remedial Language Arts, as well as the Connecticut State Department of Education's Review Committee's recommendation for approval.

### **E. Connecticut Technical High School System Board**

Mr. Trefry stated that this was a busy week for CTHSS graduations and appreciates the Board members who are attending. Mr. Trefry indicated that Mr. Jeffrey Wihbey was in place as Interim Superintendent. Discussion ensued concerning the legislative bill proposing that the Technical High School System become a separate budgeted agency.

### **F. NASBE**

No report was given.

Chairperson Taylor adjourned the meeting at 1:03 p.m.

Prepared by:

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