

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
July 19, 2017
(Approved September 6, 2017)

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, July 19, 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
Mark Ojakian, Ex Officio
Joseph J. Vrabely, Jr.

Absent: Maria I. Mojica
Malia K. Sieve
Robert J. Trefry, Ex Officio
Stephen P. Wright

II. Public Participation

1. Joseph Sokolovic, a resident of Bridgeport and a parent of a child entering 4th grade in Bridgeport public schools spoke in opposition to agenda item V.B., Approval of Charter School Enrollments and Waiver of Enrollment Caps, with reference to Capital Preparatory Harbor Charter School, Bridgeport.
2. Brian Deming, a teacher in Windsor Locks, represented a colleague, Carmella Lorusso, who was not able to attend the meeting. Mr. Deming read the written statement of Carmella Lorusso, an eighth grade ELA teacher at Jettie S. Tisdale School in Bridgeport, Chair of the Professional Rights and Responsibilities Committee for the Bridgeport Education Association, and has been teaching in Bridgeport for 32 years. Ms. Lorusso wrote against agenda item V.B., Approval of Charter School Enrollments and Waiver of Enrollment Caps, with reference to Capital Preparatory Harbor Charter School, Bridgeport. A copy of Ms. Lorusso's prepared statement is included in the official file of this meeting.
3. Katie Smuckler, is a fifth grade teacher in Bridgeport. Ms. Smuckler read testimony on behalf of Bridgeport Education Association President Gary Peluchette, a teacher in

Bridgeport for 32 years. Mr. Peluchette's written testimony was in opposition to the expansion of Capital Preparatory Harbor Charter School, Bridgeport (agenda item V.B.). A copy of Mr. Peluchette's written statement is included in the official file of this meeting.

4. Ana Batista, an ESL bilingual educator at the Cesar Batalla School in Bridgeport, spoke in opposition to agenda item V.B., Approval of Charter School Enrollments and Waiver of Enrollment Caps, with reference to Capital Preparatory Harbor Charter School, Bridgeport. A copy of Ms. Batista's prepared statement is included in the official file of this meeting.
5. Rob Traber, a fourth and fifth grade teacher at Blackham School in Bridgeport, former president of the Bridgeport Education Association, and a proud parent of a child who attended Bridgeport Public Schools from kindergarten through twelfth grade. Mr. Traber urged the Board not to support the Capital Prep Harbor expansion.
6. Dr. Steve Perry, founder of Capital Preparatory Harbor Charter School, Bridgeport, represented the school and the students in support of agenda item V.B., Approval of Charter School Enrollments and Waiver of Enrollment Caps.
7. Khamarr Smith, a teacher and coach at Capital Preparatory Harbor School, Bridgeport, spoke in support of the school (agenda item V.B.).
8. Jerica Luce, a teacher at Capital Preparatory Harbor School, Bridgeport, spoke in support of the school (agenda item V.B.).
9. Mike-Lee Joseph, a student at Capital Preparatory Harbor School, Bridgeport, spoke in support of his school (agenda item V.B.). Mr. Joseph asked the Board to approve the Capital Prep Harbor expansion to include lower grades so that his sister, in fourth grade, can also attend Capital Prep Harbor.
10. Navaughn Austin, a twelfth grade student athlete at Capital Preparatory Harbor School, Bridgeport, spoke in support of his school (agenda item V.B.).
11. Andre Woodson, Jr., a student at Capital Preparatory Harbor, Bridgeport, spoke in support of his school (agenda item V.B.).
12. Cashon Young, a student at Capital Preparatory Harbor, Bridgeport, spoke in support of Capital Prep Harbor's expansion for younger students (agenda item V.B.).
13. John Brown IV, a fifth and sixth grade English teacher at Capital Preparatory Harbor, Bridgeport, spoke in support of the school (agenda item V.B.).
14. Maya Lindsay, a Capital Preparatory Harbor, Bridgeport student for two years, came to share her experience in support of her school (agenda item V.B.).

15. Quincie Howard, a student at Capital Preparatory Harbor, Bridgeport, spoke in support of her experience of being at her school (agenda item V.B.) and to advocate for her cousins and other children who want to attend Capital Prep Harbor.
16. Robert Martin spoke in the absence of Ryan McCabe, in support of the Board's approval of agenda item V.B., Approval of Charter School Enrollments and Waiver of Enrollment Caps, with reference to Capital Preparatory Harbor Charter School, Bridgeport.
17. Orlando Rodriguez, a research and policy development specialist with the Connecticut Education Association, spoke in opposition to the agenda item, V.B., Approval of Charter School Enrollments and Waiver of Enrollment Caps, with reference to Capital Preparatory Charter School, Bridgeport. A copy of Mr. Rodriguez's written statement is included in the official file of this meeting.
18. Mary Claire Reeves, a kindergarten teacher in Bridgeport Public Schools, spoke concerning the challenges of teaching kindergarten in public schools. Ms. Reeves has taught in Bridgeport since 1988. Ms. Reeves expressed concern of Bridgeport losing all the kindergarten paraprofessionals last year. Ms. Reeves stated that the severe cuts in school budgets mean that we do not have support staff to help students most in need.
19. Dr. Aresta L. Johnson, Superintendent of Bridgeport Public Schools, spoke in opposition to agenda item V.B., Approval of Charter School Enrollments and Waiver of Enrollment Caps, with reference to Capital Preparatory Charter School, Bridgeport. Dr. Johnson stated that the Bridgeport Board of Education had asked her to draft a letter on its behalf in response to the proposed material change to Capital Prep Harbor School's original charter application. Dr. Johnson read a letter dated July 18, 2017, into the meeting record. Dr. Johnson informed the Board that on July 17, 2017, the Bridgeport Board of Education voted unanimously to oppose Capital Prep Harbor School's request to open an additional building, as well as opposition to the expansion of grade levels.
20. Wanda Simmons, a parent who had a child at Capital Preparatory Harbor Bridgeport, the first opening year, spoke out in opposition to the expansion of Capital Prep Harbor (agenda item V.B.).
21. Joanne Kennedy, a parent in the community of the westend near Bassett High School, spoke against the Capital Preparatory Harbor, Bridgeport expansion (agenda item V.B.).
22. Melissa Spear, Executive Director, Common Ground, New Haven, spoke regarding agenda item V.B., Approval of Charter School Enrollments and Waiver of Enrollment Caps, with reference to Common Ground High School, New Haven.
23. Dr. Jule Tolis, Director of Reading and Language Development, Fairfield University, spoke in support of agenda item V.A., Approval of Educator Preparation Program: Fairfield University Advanced Reading, concerning a proposal for a remedial reading/remedial language arts program (endorsement #102) brought to the board for consideration.

24. Michele King-Vasquez, an elementary special education teacher at Thomas Hooker School in the City of Bridgeport, spoke in opposition to agenda item V.B., Approval of Charter School Enrollments and Waiver of Enrollment Caps, with reference to Capital Preparatory Harbor Charter School, Bridgeport.
25. Tom Stringfellow, a resident of Manchester, spoke on historical events. Mr. Stringfellow conveyed that July 23rd marks the fifth year anniversary death of Dr. Sally Ride, the first American woman in space. Mr. Stringfellow stated that labor history should be taught in the schools. Mr. Stringfellow recommended several movies, *Hidden Figures*, the true story portrayal of three African American women at NASA; the movie *Dunkirk*, the evacuation of troops during World War II off the beaches of France in 1940; and the movie *Detroit*, the 1967 riot. Mr. Stringfellow then expressed his opinions on educational matters.
26. Kenneth Moales, Jr., Senior Pastor of Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, and formerly, Chairman of the Bridgeport Board of Education, spoke in support of Capital Preparatory Harbor, Bridgeport (agenda item V.B.).

III. Executive Session

The Board did not meet in executive session.

IV. Consideration of Minutes

A. June 14, 2017, State Board of Education Meeting

Mr. Vrabely moved, Mr. Davenport seconded, that the Board adopt the minutes of the June 14, 2017, State Board of Education Meeting.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

The Board recessed the meeting at 11:02 a.m.

The Board reconvened the meeting at 11:07 a.m.

Present: Allan Taylor, Chairperson
Estela López, Vice Chairperson
Erin D. Benham
Erik M. Clemons
William P. Davenport
Donald F. Harris, Jr.
Terry Jones
Mark E. Ojakian, Ex Officio
Joseph J. Vrabely, Jr.

Absent: Maria I. Mojica
Malia K. Sieve
Robert Trefry, Ex Officio
Stephen Wright

X. Items for Discussion

The Board unanimously agreed to consider agenda item X.A., Presentation by FoodCorps, at this time.

Mr. Jones stated that FoodCorps was all about doing more with less in many Alliance Districts while working with kids on nutrition in gardens. He indicated that dairy farmers are in over 130 school districts working on nutrition programs. Mr. Jones then used the opportunity to introduce two real, live farmers (from an adjoining meeting) to the audience.

Mr. Jones introduced Connecticut Department of Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky and respectfully requested of Chairman Taylor that the Commissioner be invited to join the table of the Board for the FoodCorps presentation. Mr. Jones introduced Dawn Crayco of FoodCorps.

A. Presentation by FoodCorps

FoodCorps Connecticut presented a panel presentation to the Board on how FoodCorps serves to connect kids to healthy food in schools with nutrition and education. The FoodCorps panelists consisted of service members and school partners as follows:

FoodCorps Connecticut
Dawn Crayco, Program Director

East Hartford Public Schools
Molly Deegan, FoodCorps Connecticut Service Member
Shari-Lynn Staeb, School Food Service Director, East Hartford Public Schools
Anne Axton-Jones, Principal, Franklin H. Mayberry Elementary School, East Hartford Public Schools

Cebrina Torres, 5th Grade Student, Franklin H. Mayberry Elementary School

Norwalk Public Schools

Ailish Dennigan, FoodCorps Connecticut Service Member

Sandra Faioes, Principal, Brookside Elementary School, Norwalk Public Schools

Lisa Lenskold, Director of Norwalk Grows

Norwich Public Schools

Jen Rovetti, FoodCorps Connecticut Service Member

Sue Kessler, Assistant Principal, Kelly Middle School

FoodCorps is a national nonprofit and service organization that connects kids to healthy foods in schools with AmeriCorps members. FoodCorps is moving to its sixth year of serving Connecticut schools. Of 17 states and the District of Columbia, Connecticut has the largest corp, and is the first corp with a field office with the capacity to train and support high-impact strategies explicitly connecting the dots between state nutrition, health and education priorities. For Connecticut these have included school breakfast expansion, summer meals outreach and programming, and aligning school gardens with the Next Generation Science Standards. The spaces in which FoodCorps work are in the Classroom, Garden, and Cafeteria:

- **Classroom**: students learn why healthy food matters
- **Garden**: Students get their hands dirty and grow fruits & veggies
- **Cafeteria**: Students eat healthy food every day and try new things

These are places where FoodCorps sees opportunities to influence the overall school environment. This happens in three specific Areas of Service:

- (1) **Hands on Learning**: teaching kids about gardening in the classroom, outside the classroom; building a school garden; starting cooking classes through an after school program, field trips with farmers;
- (2) **Healthy School Meals**: by using the school cafeteria time and space to get kids to try new foods, get excited about them, and ultimately, eat them as they are served, and also try new recipes, so get student input on what they want to see on the menu and then eventually serve them; and
- (3) **Schoolwide Culture**: encouraging a schoolwide culture of health. Engaging the broader school community in food, so it's not just what happens in the cafeteria. It is parents, school nurses, assistant principals, and principals getting involved and embracing and creating their own goals for a healthy school food environment.

Ms. Crayco highlighted Connecticut's newer initiative called "Put Local on Your Tray.", an initiative of UConn Extension and the Connecticut State Department of Education. FoodCorps service members support the delivery of this program in the communities they serve.

V. Items Requiring Action

A. Approval of Educator Preparation Program: Fairfield University Advanced Reading

Mr. Vrabely moved, Mrs. Benham seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-145d-9(g)(2)(A) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, grants full approval for the period July 19, 2017, through November 30, 2021, to Fairfield University, with annual progress reporting required until Fairfield University's Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) site visit, for the purpose of certifying graduates from Fairfield University in the following new certification area:

<u>Program</u>	<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>Program Level</u>	<u>Program Type</u>
Remedial Reading/ Remedial Language Arts	1-12	Advanced	Graduate

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Charter School Enrollments and Waiver of Enrollment Caps

Mr. Vrabely moved, Dr. López seconded, that the State Board of Education approves the distribution of 9,913 seats in state charter schools and 160 seats at a local charter school for the 2017-18 school year and, pursuant to Section 10-66bb(c) of the Connecticut General Statutes, grants enrollment waivers for six state charter schools, as delineated in the July 19, 2017, memorandum to the Board, "Approval of Charter School Enrollments," and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried.

The Board recessed the meeting at 12:46 p.m.

The Board reconvened the meeting at 1:47 p.m.

Present: Allan Taylor, Chairperson
Estela López, Vice Chairperson
Erik M. Clemons
William P. Davenport
Donald F. Harris, Jr.
Terry Jones
Mark E. Ojakian, Ex Officio
Joseph J. Vrabely, Jr.

Absent: Erin D. Benham
Maria I. Mojica
Malia K. Sieve
Robert Trefry, Ex Officio
Stephen Wright

IX. Consent Agenda

Mr. Vrabely moved, Mr. Clemons seconded, that the Board approve the following consent agenda item IX.A., Approval of Concussion and Head Injury Annual Review for Coaches.

A. Approval of Concussion and Head Injury Annual Review for Coaches

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Subsection (b)(2) of Section 10-149b of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the coaches' Concussion and Head Injury Annual Review, 2017-18, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

X. Items for Discussion (continued)

B. ESSA Feedback Update

Deputy Commissioner Ellen Cohn and Chief Performance Officer Ajit Gopalakrishnan presented an ESSA feedback update to the Board. On April 3, 2017, the CSDE submitted its ESSA Plan and received feedback from the U.S. Department of

Education ("USED") that it was incomplete. The CSDE edited the tables and resubmitted on April 21, 2017. The CSDE received feedback on Connecticut's ESSA plan from USED on June 30, 2017. This feedback indicated that perhaps USED was adopting a more restrictive and prescriptive approach under ESSA than it did under ESEA flexibility. The CSDE had multiple collaborative discussions with USED. As a result, the CSDE made adjustments to its plan in some areas. In other areas, the CSDE preserved its original approach but provided substantive clarification and rationale to illustrate how its policies fostered equity and excellence for all under the following Titles:

- Title I (Accountability System)
- Title II (Excellent Educators)
- Title IV (Student Supports)
- Title VII (Homeless Students)

VI. Report of the Chair

No written report was provided.

VII. Report of the Commissioner

Commissioner Wentzell referenced her written report, a copy of which is enclosed in the Supplemental Materials folder. Commissioner Wentzell highlighted the press release of the statewide preliminary results of the state test score data. She indicated that in August, the detailed information will be available on EdSight. Commissioner Wentzell promoted the Commissioner's Back-to-School meeting with school superintendents on August 15, 2017. The Commissioner thanked the Meriden Public Schools for its hosting accommodations of the event at Maloney High School. The Commissioner stated that Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPPS) will be the host of this event, and noted that it will be the first back-to-school meeting for Executive Director Fran Rabinowitz.

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 has set the meeting dates for next year.

C. Finance, Audit, and Budget

Mr. Taylor reported that the committee will be meeting on August 30, 2017.

D. Legislation and Policy Development

Mr. Vrabely reported that the committee did not meet this morning.

E. Connecticut Technical High School System Board

Commissioner Wentzell confirmed that the board will be meeting on August 22, 2017.

F. NASBE

No report was given.

Chairperson Taylor adjourned the meeting at 2:08 p.m.

Prepared by:

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