

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

**DRAFT
Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
December 6, 2017**

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, December 6, 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 9:42 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
Saomai Nguyen, Student Member
Dr. Jane Gates (designee representing Mark Ojakian, Ex Officio)
Malia K. Sieve
Robert J. Trefry, Ex Officio
Joseph J. Vrabely, Jr.

Absent: Maria I. Mojica
Jaweria Shah, Student Member
Stephen P. Wright

II. Public Participation

1. Millie Arciniegas, Executive Director of Hartford Parent University, resident of Hartford, and a veteran, spoke on her support for bilingual education. Ms. Arciniegas thanked Commissioner Wentzell and Dr. Estela López for the agenda report, X.E., Update on Students Displaced by Hurricanes.
2. Marisa Mascolo Halm, an attorney and Director of TeamChild Juvenile Justice Project with the Center for Children's Advocacy, shared experiences representing children who have been expelled in Connecticut and highlighted the importance of ensuring that these youth receive an appropriate education. Ms. Halm submitted her written comments to the Board. A copy of Attorney Halm's written statement is included in the official file of this meeting.

Jennifer Benevento, Professional Development and Education Issues Coordinator for the American Federation of Teachers, spoke in support of agenda item, X.D., The Components of Social, Emotional and Intellectual Habits. Ms. Benevento applauded the State Department of Education for its leadership in elevating the discussion around social, emotional learning.

3. Dr. Ann Grosjean, member of the Connecticut Advisory Council for Teacher Professional Standards, represented, Chairperson, Doreen Merrill. Dr. Grosjean indicated that the Board had received a copy of its 2017 Annual Report, which highlighted accomplishments for 2016-2017 and shared goals for 2017-2018. Dr. Grosjean stated that during Council meetings, Kim Wachtelhausen, CSDE liaison, regularly updates members with Department initiatives.
4. Gwen Samuel, President and Founder, Connecticut Parents Union, spoke on agenda item, X.B., Understanding School Expulsions in Connecticut. Ms. Samuel expressed that parents are allies to improve the outcomes for children.
5. Thomas Stringfellow, a Manchester resident, spoke on history and culture. A copy of Mr. Stringfellow's written statement is included in the official file of this meeting.

III. Executive Session

The Board did not meet in executive session.

IV. Consideration of Minutes

A. October 4, 2017, State Board of Education Meeting

Mr. Vrabely moved, Mr. Davenport seconded, that the Board adopt the minutes of the October 4, 2017, State Board of Education Meeting.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

V. Items Requiring Action

A. Adoption of 2018 Legislative Proposals

Legislative Liaison Laura Stefon presented six legislative bills to the Board. Questions and answers ensued.

Dr. López moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the State Board of Education adopts these 2018 Legislative Proposals and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action..

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Report of the Chair

Chairman Taylor reported on attendance at the 2017 CABE/CAPSS Convention that was held on November 17-18, 2017. Mr. Taylor thanked the Board members who were able to attend.

VII. Report of the Commissioner

Commissioner Wentzell referenced her written report. The Commissioner featured the following points from her report:

- Commissioner Wentzell highlighted that the State Department of Education had applied for a waiver for science assessment with the U.S. Department of Education. The waiver would change the test lag period to match the Next Generation Standards. The waiver was approved. We will have Spring 2018 off with no testing.
- The Commissioner stated that the Teacher of the Year was an inspiring event. This year's event, due to lack of funding, included the Paraeducator of the Year. Commissioner Wentzell thanked Chief Talent Officer Sarah Barzee and her team for a wonderful event. She then asked Mr. Bill Davenport to thank Mrs. Davenport.

VIII. Financial Matters

Chief Financial Officer Kathleen Demsey provided a financial summary on the budget and how it relates to the central office. Discussion ensued.

Terry H. Jones
Dr. Jane Gates (designee representing Mark Ojakian, Ex Officio)
Malia K. Sieve
Robert J. Trefry, Ex Officio
Joseph J. Vrabely, Jr.

Absent: Maria I. Mojica
Jaweria Shah, Student Member
Stephen P. Wright

X. Items for Discussion

The Board unanimously agreed to consider agenda item X.B., Understanding School Expulsions in Connecticut, at this time.

B. Understanding School Expulsions in Connecticut

A panel consisting of Chief Operating Officer Charlene Russell-Tucker, Chief Performance Officer Ajit Gopalakrishnan, and Director of Legal and Governmental Affairs, Peter Haberlandt presented a summary on expulsions in Connecticut, which included a PowerPoint presentation. Guests panelists (i) Kermit Carolina, Supervisor of Youth Development and Engagement, New Haven, and (ii) Kenneth DiPietro, Superintendent of Plainfield Public Schools, presented trends, reasons, lengths, and education provided during expulsions.

The Board recessed the meeting for lunch at 1:43 p.m.

The Board reconvened the meeting at 2:34 p.m.

Present: Allan B. Taylor, Chairperson
Estela López, Vice Chairperson
Erin D. Benham
William P. Davenport
Donald F. Harris, Jr.
Terry H. Jones
Malia K. Sieve
Robert J. Trefry, Ex Officio
Joseph J. Vrabely, Jr.

Absent: Erik M. Clemons
Maria I. Mojica
Dr. Jane Gates (designee representing Mark Ojakian, Ex Officio)
Jaweria Shah, Student Member
Stephen P. Wright

Chairman Taylor announced that due to time constraints, agenda item, X.D., The Components of Social, Emotional and Intellectual Habits: Kindergarten through Grade 3, was being moved to the January 3, 2018, State Board of Education meeting agenda.

X. Items for Discussion (continued)

A. State Board of Education Comprehensive Plan – Goal 1 Update

A panel consisting of Chief Operating Officer Charlene Russell-Tucker, Bureau Chief John Frassinelli, Education Division Director Glen Peterson, and Education Consultant of School-Family-Community Partnerships, Dr. Judy Carson provided an update on Goal 1 of the Connecticut State Board of Education's Five-year Comprehensive Plan, *Ensuring Equity and Excellence for All Connecticut Students*.

A PowerPoint was presented that highlighted the Primary Activities, and Goals and Targets of each Strategy.

C. Follow up to Beyond Monolingualism

Dr. López presented to the Board a follow-up to Beyond Monolingualism, A Conference for Educators and Parent Leaders, held on Saturday, October 14, 2017, at Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, Connecticut. Commissioner Dianna Wentzell and Dr. Estela López were panel participants for the Policy Panel: Implementation and policy barriers, implications, and opportunities. Dr. López shared a video that had been presented at the conference: Lessons from Oregon on Bilingual Education: A Conversation with Michael Bacon, Portland's director of dual-language programs. Saomai Nguyen, Student Member, State Board of Education also attended the conference. Ms. Nguyen spoke on her experience as a former English Learner and attributed her attendance at the conference with providing a focus topic to her research project. Discussion ensued.

E. Update on Students Displaced by Hurricanes

Chief Operating Officer Charlene Russell-Tucker, together with guest panelist, Attorney Brenda M. Bergeron, Connecticut Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, provided an update on students displaced by hurricanes, which included a PowerPoint presentation. They presented on the statewide efforts, current status, emerging news, and continued CSDE supports.

XI. Committee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessment

The committee will be meeting on December 11, 2017.

Accountability and Support

Dr. López reported that the committee met on November 8, 2017. Wilbur Cross High School, New Haven, and Uncas Network School, Norwich attended and presented to the committee. The next meeting will be on December 13, 2017.

B. Finance, Audit, and Budget

Mr. Taylor reported that the committee met on November 29, 2017.

C. Legislation and Policy Development

Mr. Vrabely reported that the committee met this morning and had two major presentations. Legislative Liaison Laura Stefon presented an Update on Legislative Proposals. Dr. Sarah Barzee presented (i) New Educator Preparation Program Approval: Western Connecticut State University—New Master of Arts Content Areas (English language arts, history/social studies, science), and (ii) New Educator Preparation Program Approval: Western Connecticut State University—Remedial Reading/Language Arts Program and Reading/Language Arts Consultant Program. Mr. Vrabely stated that these programs are cross-endorsed bilingually and that Dr. Barzee will present these programs to the full Board at the next meeting.

D. Connecticut Technical High School System Board

Mr. Trefry provided a status on the Superintendent search interviews.

E. NASBE

No report was given.

Chairperson Taylor adjourned the meeting at 3:53 p.m.

Prepared by: _____
Dr. Dianna R. Wentzell, Secretary
State Board of Education