

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

**Legislation and Policy Development Committee Meeting
February 14, 2018**

**Minutes
(Approved 4/4/2018)**

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Board of Education Legislation and Policy Development Committee met in the North Plaza, Meeting Room J, State Office Building, Hartford, Connecticut, on February 14, 2018.

I. Call to Order

Committee Chair Joseph Vrabely called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m. Also present were Committee members: Erin Benham, William Davenport, Donald Harris and Malia Sieve.

Terry Jones was absent.

Also present for all or part of the meeting were the following Department of Education Staff members: Chief of Staff Laura Stefon, Chief Talent Officer Sarah Barzee, Education Consultant Katie Moirs, Communications Director Peter Yazbak, Legal Director Peter Haberlandt, Staff Attorney Matthew Venhorst and Recorder Mildred Pagán.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

On a motion made by Committee Chair Vrabely and seconded by William Davenport, the Committee unanimously approved the minutes of the January 3, 2018, Legislation and Policy Development Committee meeting.

III. New Educator Preparation Program Approval: Sacred Heart University – Superintendent of Schools

Committee Chair Vrabely commenced the meeting by expressing his appreciation to Ms. Mildred Pagan, the Committee's support staff. He noted that the meetings run smoothly because of her hard work ensuring all of the logistics are in place for the meetings. Committee member expressed their appreciation as well and Ms. Pagan thanked everyone.

Committee Chair Vrabely introduced Chief Talent Officer, Dr. Sarah Barzee, who talked about evaluation findings for the Sacred Heart University (SHU) proposal for a Superintendent of Schools program. She explained that in November 2017, SHU submitted to the SDE a proposal for a Superintendent of Schools program. The SDE conducted an initial review and provided SHU with feedback. SHU submitted a revised proposal and in December 2017, a SDE-trained evaluation team reviewed the proposal specifically in the following areas:

- design, scope and sequence, including coursework and fieldwork/clinical experiences;
- candidate assessments, including data collection, analysis, and reporting methods;
- faculty and instructor qualifications; and
- program resources.

The team identified a minor area of improvement for the SHU proposal and was unanimous in its decision that the proposal move forward to the SDE Review Committee for consideration. In January 29, 2018, the Review Committee recommended full approval for this proposal.

Dr. Barzee also explained that if approved by the SBE, the SHU Superintendent of School program will begin implementation during fall 2018 and be reviewed during the SHU 2025 Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation site visit. In the interim, the Connecticut Educator Preparation Provider Data Dashboard will provide program evaluation data on an annual basis beginning fall 2018 for all SHU educator preparation programs, including the Superintendent of Schools program.

A discussion ensued.

IV. Overview of Opportunities for Regional Collaboration

Staff Attorney Matthew Venhorst gave an overview and background on the statutory procedures regarding regional school district formation and dissolution. Mr. Venhorst used the regionalization efforts of Norfolk and Colebrook as an example, noting that these towns studied the issue of regionalization several years ago but the matter failed in referendum. As a result, a regional district never was formed in those districts.

Mr. Venhorst also reviewed procedures regarding the dissolution of a regional school district, noting that the statutes require a committee to study this issue and, if the committee deems dissolution to be advisable, a referendum of all interested towns. The Region 11 School District, which consists of the towns of Chaplin, Hampton, and Scotland, recently formed a committee to study the issue of dissolution. After the committee studied the issue for one year, the committee determined that dissolution was not advisable.

Mr. Venhorst noted that regionalization is a long-term arrangement between school districts. However, school districts can cooperate and collaborate in myriad other ways that do not require formal regionalization.

A brief discussion ensued. Committee members agreed that a future meeting focused on the topic of school district regionalization issues should be scheduled. It was determined that such a meeting could be scheduled for April. Discussion ensued concerning various subjects that Committee members identified as potentially useful to explore and address at the meeting in April, including an overview of what is permitted and required under existing regionalization laws; information regarding concrete challenges and successes that districts are having in pursuing regional solutions, with input, if possible, from representatives of a district currently involved in regional work; and exploring the possibility of identifying a model for regional collaboration based on existing collaboration occurring in our State.

Committee Chair Vrabely thanked the SDE staff for their presentations and everyone for attending the meeting.

V. Other Matters

VI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mildred Pagán, Recorder