

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

**Legislation and Policy Development Committee Meeting
May 2, 2018**

**Minutes
(Approved 6/6/2018)**

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 May 2, 2018.

I. Call to Order

Committee Chair Joseph Vrabely called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. Also present were Committee members: Erin Benham, William Davenport, Donald Harris, Terry Jones and Malia Sieve.

Presenters: Mr. Joseph Onofrio, Superintendent of Salem Public Schools and Mr. Jeffrey Newton, Superintendent of East Lyme Public Schools.

Also present for all or part of the meeting were the following Department of Education Staff members: Communications Director Peter Yazbak, Legal Director Peter Haberlandt, Staff Attorney Matt Venhorst, and Recorder Mildred Pagán.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

On a motion made by Committee Chair Vrabely and seconded by Erin Benham, the Committee unanimously approved the minutes of the April 4, 2018, Legislation and Policy Development Committee meeting.

III. Discussion of Regional Collaboration Opportunities

Committee Chair Vrabely began the meeting by giving a brief introduction to the topic of the meeting. He then introduced Mr. Joseph Onofrio, Superintendent of Salem Public Schools, Mr. Jeffrey Newton, Superintendent of East Lyme Public Schools, Legal Director Peter Haberlandt, Staff Attorney Matt Venhorst, and the two gentlemen that were among the visitors, one from the Litchfield Board of Education and the other from the Litchfield Board of Finance. Committee Chair Vrabely then turned it over to Mr. Venhorst who shared with the Committee a diagram entitled *Regional Collaboration Flow Chart* (Chart). Mr. Venhorst explained that the chart represents a decision tree to guide districts that are considering regional collaboration. Mr. Venhorst then further described the process for forming a regional school district pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-39 et seq.

Superintendents Onofrio and Newton shared their experiences with the cooperative agreement in place between the Salem and East Lyme Boards of Education. These two districts share the East Lyme high school. The Superintendents distributed copies of and discussed the cooperative agreement in place between the Salem and East Lyme Boards of Education.

A discussion ensued with committee members asking a variety of questions and Mr. Haberlandt, Mr. Venhorst and the Superintendents responded accordingly.

Committee Chair Vrabely thanked Mr. Venhorst and the Superintendents for their presentations and everyone for attending the meeting.

V. Other Matters

VI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mildred Pagán, Recorder