

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

**Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
April 4, 2018**

(Approved May 2, 2018)

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, April 4, 2018, in Plaza North Meeting 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 9:45 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
Maria I. Mojica
Saomai Nguyen, Student Member
Dr. Jane Gates (designee representing Mark Ojakian, Ex Officio)
Jaweria Shah, Student Member
Malia K. Sieve
Robert J. Trefry, Ex Officio
Joseph J. Vrabely, Jr.

Absent: Stephen P. Wright

In honoring the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and in recognition of the 50th Anniversary of his assassination on April 4, 1968, Memphis, Tennessee: Kayla Butler, student at Capital Preparatory Magnet School, Hartford, sang, *If You Are Out There*, by John Legend.

II. Public Participation

1. Paula Paolino, resident of Woodbury and parent in Regional School District 14, spoke of her concerns about Region 14. A copy of Ms. Paolino's written statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
2. Sravya Jevisetty, Farmington High School, and Tamashi Hettiarachchi, Glastonbury High School, representatives of the State Student Advisory Council on Education (SSACE), read an open letter to all high schools from SSACE on school shootings and the need for change. SSACE is encouraging districts to select a unity week in April to participate in *CT SEES*. A copy of

SSACE's written statement and its *CT SEES* brochure is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.

3. Thomas Stringfellow, a resident of Manchester. Mr. Stringfellow commended Kayla Butler and the two SSACE students. Mr. Stringfellow commented on the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King. A copy of Mr. Stringfellow's statement is included in the official file of this meeting.
4. Fran Rabinowitz, Executive Director, Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS), spoke in support of agenda item IX.A., New Educator Preparation Program Approval: Sacred Heart University-Superintendent of Schools.
5. Sophia Modica, an 8th grade student in Region 14, spoke regarding Region 14's filed report of no instances of bullying. A copy of Ms. Modica's written testimony is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
6. Theresa (and David) Mieczkowski, parent of a Region 14 student, spoke regarding the administrative treatment by Region 14 of her son. A copy of Ms. Mieczkowski's written testimony is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
7. David Mieczkowski, read the written testimony of Steve and Claire Bullock regarding Region 14. A copy of Mr. and Mrs. Bullock's written testimony is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
8. Marissa van Galen, a parent of a Region 14 student, spoke regarding the special education practices of Region 14. A copy of Ms. van Galen's written testimony is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
9. Sapphyre Musson (Jessica Kearney), a Bethlehem resident of Region 14, read testimony on behalf of Jessica Kearney, a former Region 14 parent, regarding her son. A copy of Ms. Kearney's written testimony is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
10. Michael P. Alfano, Ph.D., Dean, Isabelle Farrington College of Education, Sacred Heart University, spoke in support of agenda item IX.A., New Educator Preparation Program Approval: Sacred Heart University-Superintendent of Schools. A copy of Dr. Alfano's written testimony is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
11. Orlando Rodriguez, Research and Policy Development Specialist for the Connecticut Education Association (CEA) spoke regarding the funding of charter schools.
12. Marissa van Galen (Dawn Richter), read testimony on behalf of Dawn Richter, a parent, regarding Region 14. A copy of Ms. Richter's testimony is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
13. David Gross, a parent and resident of Woodbury spoke about the music and art programs in Region 14.

Commissioner Dianna R. Wentzell's Follow-up Response to Public Participation

Commissioner Wentzell thanked all the public participation speakers, and then specifically addressed the Region 14 participants. She requested her leadership team members meet with the families to discuss their specific concerns and determine the appropriate staff member or follow-up required.

III. Executive Session

The Board did not meet in executive session.

IV. Consideration of Minutes

A. February 14, 2018, State Board of Education Meeting

Mr. Vrabely moved, Mr. Davenport seconded, that the Board adopt the minutes of the February 14, 2018, 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. Receipt of the Condition of Education in Connecticut 2016-17

Mr. Harris moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-4(b) of the Connecticut General Statutes, receives *The Condition of Education in Connecticut* (2016-17) and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Material Change to Achievement First Hartford Academy

Mr. Harris moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-66ss of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the material change to Achievement First Hartford Academy's (AFHA) operation merging its two middle schools (Achievement First Middle School and Achievement First Summit Middle School) into one middle school, known as (Achievement First Summit Middle School) for the 2018-19 school year, subject to the Commissioner's April 4, 2018, memorandum to the Board, "Approval of Material Change to Achievement First Hartford Academy," and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Approval of Commissioner's Network Extension for Luis Munoz Marin School, Bridgeport

Dr. López moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-223h of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves continued participation of Luis Munoz Marin School, Bridgeport, in the Commissioner's Network for an additional year commencing July 1, 2018, and directs the school to report to the State Board of Education Accountability and Support Committee on its priorities and progress in the 2018-19 school year; and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action, including, but not limited to, expending such funds as may be necessary to execute and implement the foregoing.

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

Mrs. Benham moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the Board approve the following Consent agenda items, IX.A., New Educator Preparation Program Approval: Sacred Heart University–Superintendent of Schools; IX.B., Approval of the 2018-19 Concussion and Head Injury Annual Review for Coaches; IX.C., Town of Winchester's Application for Waiver of Repayment

Pursuant to § 304 of Public Act 15-5 of the June Special Session; IX.D. Approval of Commissioner's Network Extension for Lincoln-Bassett Community School, New Haven; and IX.E., Approval of Commissioner's Network Extension for Uncas Network School, Norwich.

A. New Educator Preparation Program Approval: Sacred Heart University—Superintendent of School)

RESOLVED, 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 April 4, 2018, through November 30, 2025, to Sacred Heart University (SHU), with annual progress monitoring conducted using program data from the Connecticut Educator Preparation Provider (EPP) Data Dashboard until SHU's Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) 2025 site visit, for the purpose of certifying graduates from SHU in the following new certification area:

<u>Program</u>	<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>Program Level</u>	<u>Program Type</u>
Superintendent of Schools	PK-12	Advanced	Graduate

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

B. Approval of the 2018-19 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 2018-19 Concussion and Head Injury Annual Review for Coaches, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

C. Town of Winchester's Application for Waiver of Repayment Pursuant to § 304 of Public Act 15-5 of the June Special Session

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-223h of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves continued participation of Luis Munoz Marin School, Bridgeport, in the Commissioner's Network for an additional year commencing July 1, 2018, and directs the school to report to the State Board of Education Accountability and Support Committee on its priorities and progress in the 2018-19 school year; and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action, including, but not limited to, expending such funds as may be necessary to execute and implement the foregoing.

D. Approval of Commissioner's Network Extension for Lincoln-Bassett Community School, New Haven

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-223h of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves continued participation of Lincoln-Bassett Community School, New Haven, in the Commissioner's Network for an additional and final year commencing July 1, 2018, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action,

VI. Report of the Chair

Chairperson Taylor reported on the letter dated March 14, 2018, from the legislative leadership regarding the processing of the Minimum Budget Requirement (MBR). Mr. Taylor stated that the request is being examined.

VII. Report of the Commissioner

Commissioner Wentzell referenced her written report. The Commissioner highlighted her attendance representing Connecticut at a House Democrats Congressional Forum on School Safety in Washington, DC.

VIII. Financial Matters

Chief Financial Officer Kathleen Demsey indicated that she is anticipating the General Assembly coming out with proposed adjustments to the fiscal 2019 budget. Ms. Demsey also reported that this summer they will launch their new education finance system called EdFi.

X. Items for Discussion

A. State Board of Education Comprehensive Plan – Goal 3 Update

A panel consisting of Chief Talent Officer Dr. Sarah Barzee and Education Consultant Kim Wachtelhausen, Strategy Lead, provided an update on Goal 3 of the Connecticut State Board of Education's Five-year Comprehensive Plan, *Ensuring Equity and Excellence for All Connecticut Students*. Goal #3 of the State Board Comprehensive Plan is "giving all students access to great teachers and school leaders." The strategy is to expand the educator pipeline with specific focus on diversifying the workforce and filling vacancies in priority shortage areas with high-quality educators. Dr. Barzee acknowledged Associate Education Consultant Dr. Kimberly Audet in her absence.

XI. Committee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessment

The committee met this morning.

B. Accountability and Support

Dr. López reported that the committee met on March 14, 2018.

C. Finance, Audit, and Budget

No additional financial report was provided.

D. Legislation and Policy Development

Mr. Vrabely reported that the committee met this morning. Bureau Chief John Frassinelli Office of Student Supports and Organizational Effectiveness, Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education, presented and reported on district activities regarding sexual assault and abuse prevention awareness programs. Mr. Vrabely stated that this is a very sensitive topic and wanted to raise awareness.

E. Connecticut Technical High School System Board

Mr. Trefry reported that as a method of keeping the State Board of Education up-to-date, the meeting minutes of the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System Board will be part of their monthly packets. Mr. Trefry then requested that Superintendent Jeffrey Wihbey highlight the CTECS financial matters. Mr. Wihbey also highlighted security and district-wide safety policy.

F. NASBE

Dr. López congratulated the two student members for their college acceptances and scholarships. Dr. López stated that she attended NASBE Legislative Conference held in March. Dr. López presented a motion for Malia Sieve to be the representative on the NASBE Government Affairs Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairperson Taylor adjourned the meeting at 2:06 p.m.

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