

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

**Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
June 6, 2018**

(Approved September 5, 2018)

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, June 6, 2018, in Plaza North Meeting Room C and D of the State Office Building, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, Connecticut.

I. Call to Order

Vice Chairperson Estela López called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m.

Present: 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 E. Ojakian, Ex Officio)
Jaweria Shah, Student Member
Malia K. Sieve
Robert J. Trefry, Ex Officio
Joseph J. Vrabely, Jr.

Absent: Allan B. Taylor, Chairperson
Stephen P. Wright

Connecticut Teacher of the Year Recognition 2018 – Erin Berthold

Commissioner Dianna Wentzell recognized the Connecticut State Teacher of the Year 2018 - Erin Berthold. Ms. Berthold currently teaches first grade at Cook Hill School in Wallingford, under the leadership of Superintendent Dr. Salvatore F. Menzo and Principal Kristine Friend.

The Commissioner thanked the Talent Office under the direction of Chief Talent Officer Dr. Sarah Barzee, and Kim Wachtelhausen, Connecticut Teacher of the Year Program Coordinator. Dr. Barzee thanked the Commissioner and the State Board of Education for support of the Teacher of the Year Program, as well as Ms. Wachtelhausen for her demonstrated passion as coordinator and liaison. Dr. Barzee referenced that Connecticut has received recognition from the National Network of State Teachers of the Year (NNSTOY) for having a strong program.

Ms. Wachtelhausen spoke on the rigorous process, the support of the State Department of Education and the Connecticut Teacher of the Year Council, sponsorships, professional learning opportunities for finalist and semifinalists, and introduced Ms. Berthold.

Ms. Berthold spoke on intentionally wanting to teach in Connecticut, and the incredible year of learning she has been experiencing, and hopes to share the knowledge with the district.

II. Public Participation

1. Gino LoRicco, Principal of Path Academy, Windham, spoke concerning the changes that Path Academy has experienced since March 21, 2018.
2. Deborah Callahan, Special Education Teacher, Path Academy, Windham, spoke in support of Path Academy.
3. George Hernández, Board Chairperson, Windham Charter School Corporation, spoke in support of Path Academy.
4. Michael Wetherell, State President of the Connecticut FFA Association, presented Commissioner Wentzell with a FFA Leadership Award from the Connecticut FFA Association and recognized her as a true leader and role model for students across Connecticut.
5. Aram Ayalon, Professor of Education, Central Connecticut State University and former board member of New Britain Public Schools, spoke on reducing the achievement gap and promoting bilingual education.
6. Angela Lopez-Velasquez, Associate Professor, Southern Connecticut State University, spoke on the English Language Learners population, teacher shortage areas, the teacher shortage for ESL and bilingual, and the obstacle of cross endorsements.

Commissioner Wentzell followed up and thanked Ms. Lopez-Velasquez for her advocacy in this area. The Commissioner stated that Governor Malloy signed An Act Concerning Minority Recruitment, which includes a provision on cross-endorsements and shortage areas. Commissioner Wentzell requested that Ms. Lopez-Velasquez share her contact information with Dr. Sarah Barzee.

7. Dr. Elizabeth Howard, Associate Professor, Bilingual Education, University of Connecticut, Neag School of Education, University of Connecticut and the chair of Higher Education Advocates for Language Learners (HEALL), spoke on English language learners and dual language education. A copy of Dr. Howard's written statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
8. Melissa Hamel, a parent, shared her concerns regarding her daughter who attends Thomaston Center School, Thomaston.
9. Jalysa Smith, a student at Thomaston Center School, Thomaston, spoke about her experiences at school.

Commissioner Wentzell followed up and requested that Melissa Hamel and Jalysa Smith immediately meet with a member of her senior staff to discuss their specific concerns.

10. Brooke Miron, a parent of the Stratford public school student, expressed concerns regarding Stratford board of education's vote to de-magnetize Stratford Academy. A copy of Ms. Miron's written statement and petition are enclosed in the official file of this meeting.

Commissioner Wentzell followed up with Ms. Miron. The Commissioner explained that the State Department of Education did not have direct authority over local magnet schools and requested that a senior staff member of Regional School Choice Office meet with Ms. Miron to provide her with information.

11. Michelle Back, Assistant Professor, Neag School of Education, University of Connecticut, spoke in support of agenda item IX.G., Approval of New Educator Preparation Program: University of Connecticut, Mandarin Chinese Program.
12. Dr. Salvatore Pascarella, Superintendent, Danbury Public Schools, spoke in support of agenda item V.E., 180-Day School Year Waiver Request – Danbury Public Schools.
13. Thomas Stringfellow, resident of Manchester, addressed the Board on several matters.
14. Orlando Rodriguez, Research and Policy Development Specialist and Chief Economist, Connecticut Education Association (CEA), spoke in opposition to agenda item V.B., Approval of Charter Management Organization Contract, Stamford Academy. A copy of Mr. Rodriguez's written statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
15. Gwen Samuel, Founder and President of CT Parent's Union, spoke about an incident that occurred at her daughter's school, and the need to have proper directives in place to guide school roles and responsibilities.
16. State Student Advisory Council on Education End-of-Year Presentation

Commissioner Wentzell introduced the partnership in public education of David Maloney, Assistant Executive Director, Connecticut Association of Schools and his leadership of the State Student Advisory Council on Education (SSACE). Mr. Maloney provided a brief history of SSACE and introduced the students who would be presenting SSACE's end-of-year report to the State Board of Education. For 2017-18, SSACE focused its attention on: (i) Summer Slide Committee; (ii) Connecticut Breakfast Program; Summer Slide Committee; (iii) Careers in Education; and (iv) SSACE Projects.

- (1) Summer Slide Committee was presented by: **Isabella Secchiaroli** – Academy of Our Lady of Mercy-Lauralton Hall:

Goal: To prevent the summer slide by continuing learning over the summer through hands-on experiences and eliminating the negative connotation of summer school.

- (2) Connecticut Breakfast Program was presented by: **Abigail Leander** – Plainville High School:

Goal: To help make breakfast more obtainable for students across Connecticut.

- (3) Careers in Education was presented by: **Tamashi Hettiarachchi** – Glastonbury High School:

Goal: To increase student interest in pursuing a career in education by changing the public perception of teaching.

A video was presented of an elementary school teacher who had a unique individualized handshake greeting for each of his students.

- (4) SSACE Projects were presented by: (i) **Ananya Kachru** – Amity Regional High School, and (ii) **Zaviana Desarmes** – Windsor High School:

Goals:

- Challenge of Educational Citizenship Recognition
- Connecticut Sees Initiative
- Open Letter to All Connecticut Schools
- Statewide Town Hall on School Safety

A discussion period followed. The Board was impressed with the information and thanked the students for their thorough, informative and thought-provoking presentation.

17. Saomai Nguyen, State Board of Education Student Member of Hall High School, discussed ways to amplify student leadership of high school students by gaining more access to the application opportunities to serve on the State Board of Education and on the State Student Advisory Council on Education (SSACE).

III. Executive Session

The Board did not meet in executive session.

IV. Consideration of Minutes

A. May 2, 2018, State Board of Education Meeting

Mrs. Sieve moved, Mrs. Benham seconded, that the Board adopt the minutes of the May 2, 2018, State Board of Education Meeting.

VOTE ON

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

Abstained: 0
Absent: Taylor, Wright

B. May 23, 2018, State Board of Education Special Meeting

Mr. Vrabely moved, Mr. Davenport seconded, that the Board adopt the minutes of the May 23, 2018, State Board of Education Special Meeting.

VOTE ON

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

Motions carried unanimously.

V. Items Requiring Action

A. Adoption of 2019 Meeting Schedule

Mr. Harris moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 1-225 of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the 2019 schedule of regular meeting dates, as follows:

January 3, 2019 (Thursday)
February 6, 2019
March 6, 2019
April 3, 2019
May 1, 2019
June 5, 2019
July 3, 2019 (Tentative)
August 7, 2019 (Retreat)
September 4, 2019
October 2, 2019
November 6, 2019
December 4, 2019

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Abstained: 0
Absent: Taylor, Wright

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Charter Management Organization Contract, Stamford Academy

Mrs. Benham moved, Mrs. Sieve seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-66tt of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the contract for whole school management services between Stamford Academy, Inc. and Domus Kids, Inc. and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Adoption of the Computer Science Teacher Association (CSTA) K-12 Standards and the International Society for Technology Education (ISTE) Standards for Students

Mrs. Benham moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the State Board of Education adopts the Computer Science Teacher Association (CSTA) K-12 Standards and the International Society for Technology Education (ISTE) Standards for Students.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

D. 180-Day School Year Waiver Request – Ridgefield High School

Ms. Sieve moved, Mrs. Mojica seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-15 of the Connecticut General Statutes, authorizes the Ridgefield Board of Education, given the unusual circumstances presented, to shorten the 2017-18 school year for Ridgefield High School to 179 days, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action. Such authorization is contingent upon Ridgefield High School having at least 181 school days for the 2018-19 school year.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

E. 180-Day School Year Waiver Request – Danbury Public Schools

Mr. Vrabely moved, Mrs. Benham seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-15 of the Connecticut General Statutes, authorizes the Danbury Board of Education, given the unusual circumstances presented, to shorten the 2017-18 school year for Hayestown Elementary, Pembroke Elementary, and Broadview Middle Schools to 178 days and to shorten the 2017-18 school year to 179 days for the remaining schools. Such authorization is contingent upon Hayestown Elementary, Pembroke Elementary, and Broadview Middle having at least 182 school days for the 2018-19 school year and the remaining schools 181 days. The State Board of Education hereby directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

F. Resolution in Honor of Jaweria Shah

Dr. López moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the Board approve the following Resolution in Honor of Jaweria Shah as read into the record by Commissioner Dianna Wentzell:

WHEREAS, Section 10-1 of the Connecticut General Statutes provides for the appointment of two student members to the Connecticut State Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, Governor Dannel P. Malloy appointed Jaweria Shah of Hamden to the State Board of Education for a one-year term commencing July 20, 2017; and

WHEREAS, During her tenure, Ms. Shah has served with distinction and has contributed greatly to the Board's discussions of education policy issues;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education extends to Jaweria Shah its appreciation for her commitment to educational excellence and equity in Connecticut public schools and best wishes for success in her future endeavors.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

G. Resolution in Honor of Saomai Nguyen

Dr. López moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the Board approve the following Resolution in Honor of Saomai Nguyen as read into the record by Board Member Malia Sieve:

WHEREAS, Section 10-1 of the Connecticut General Statutes provides for the appointment of two student members to the Connecticut State Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, Governor Dannel P. Malloy appointed Saomai Nguyen of West Hartford to the State Board of Education for a one-year term commencing July 20, 2017; and

WHEREAS, During her tenure, Ms. Nguyen has served with distinction and has contributed greatly to the Board's discussions of education policy issues;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education extends to Saomai Nguyen its appreciation for her commitment to educational excellence and equity in Connecticut public schools and best wishes for success in her future endeavors.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

The Board recessed the meeting for lunch at 12:32 p.m.

The Board reconvened the meeting at 1:21 p.m.

Present: 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
Jaweria Shah, Student Member
Malia K. Sieve
Robert J. Trefry, Ex Officio
Joseph J. Vrabely, Jr.

Absent: Mark E. Ojakian, Ex Officio
Allan B. Taylor, Chairperson
Stephen P. Wright

VI. Report of the Chair

Dr. López reported on Mr. Davenport's invitation to Terry Jones and her to attend the Woodbury FFA Chapter Banquet that was held on Thursday, May 24, 2018. She also attended the State FFA

Conference held on Saturday, June 2, 2018. Dr. López stated that the events were a wonderful experience and that it was rewarding to see the organization and leadership of the students.

VII. Report of the Commissioner

Commissioner Wentzell referenced her written report. The Commissioner highlighted the following:

- Legislative Session. The Legislative Session has ended and we wait to see what bills get signed into law and then work on an implementation plan.
- Talent Office. Applause to Chief Talent Officer Dr. Sarah Barzee and her team for being awarded a 1.1 million dollar grant from the Department of Defense's National Troops to Teachers program. This is a program to engage and encourage veterans to choose a career in education and help facilitate the preparation and placement of veterans in priority certification shortage areas.
- Charlene Russell-Tucker. Kudos to Chief Operating Officer Charlene Russell-Tucker on being honored as a *Champion* by the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading's at its GLR Week 2018 conference, as well as an award for *Partners for Health Change* at the New Haven Public Schools Fourth Annual Health and Wellness Summit.
- Ellen Cohn, Deputy Commissioner. Congratulations to Deputy Commissioner Ellen Cohn for being honored at the Second Annual Connecticut Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (CALAS) Gala with the *Policy Change Award*. Deputy Cohn advocated for accommodations for English Learners for College Board assessments.
- Meriden Project Excel Top Scholar's Banquet. The Commissioner Wentzell attended the Meriden Project Excel Top Scholar's Banquet with Board Member Erin Benham. The Commissioner appreciated that the students honored were able to invite a person who was influential to them from elementary, middle and high school.

VIII. Financial Matters

Commissioner Wentzell provided a brief budget summary on behalf of Chief Financial Officer, Kathy Demsey. The Commissioner stated that there was budget and that we were working on the second year of a biennial budget. She indicated that there were some difficult cuts and some areas of restoration of funding.

XI. Committee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessment

No report was presented.

B. Accountability and Support

No report was presented.

C. Finance, Audit, and Budget

No report was presented.

D. Legislation and Policy Development

Mr. Vrabely reported that Chief Talent Officer Sarah Barzee gave an introduction regarding the proposal for a new educator preparation program in Mandarin Chinese at the University of Connecticut. Chief of Staff Laura Stefon provided a two key legislative updates on Department bills and minority teacher recruitment. The Committee discussed agenda topics prudent for discussion at upcoming meetings, such as safety, athletics, guidance counselors, school governance councils, technical education and choice programs.

E. Connecticut Technical Education and Career System Board

Mr. Trefry reported that the legislature delayed the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System separation from the State Department of Education for a year. Mr. Trefry addressed the issues of funding and vacancies.

F. NASBE

Ms. Sieve provided a meeting summary of the GAC meeting of May 14, 2018, as follows:

- Fiscal Year 2019 Appropriations Process/President's Proposed Rescission's Package
- FCC Developments
- ESSA Plan Approvals
- Senate Opioid Bill
- ED Financial Literacy Meeting
- State Updates & Discussion

Vice Chairperson López adjourned the meeting at 1:47 p.m.

Prepared by: _____

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