

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Hartford**

**Minutes  
State Board of Education Meeting  
September 5, 2018  
(Approved October 3, 2018)**

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, September 5, 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 9:42 a.m.

Present: Estela López, Vice Chairperson  
Erin D. Benham  
Erik M. Clemons  
William P. Davenport  
Donald F. Harris, Jr.  
Malia K. Sieve  
Robert J. Trefry, Ex Officio  
Joseph J. Vrabely, Jr.

Absent: Allan B. Taylor, Chairperson  
Terry H. Jones  
Maria I. Mojica  
Mark Ojakian, Ex Officio  
Stephen P. Wright

**Oath of Office**

Attorney Peter M. Haberlandt, Commissioner of the Superior Court, administered the Oath of Office to student member Tarini Krishna.

**II. Public Participation**

1. Matthew Hough, president, Ansonia Federation of Teachers, spoke on the impact of education funding in Ansonia and agenda item, V.A., Ansonia 10-4b Proceeding.
2. Thomas Stringfellow, resident of Manchester, addressed the Board on several matters, and referenced books, newspaper articles, and movies to the Board.

### **III. Executive Session**

The Board did not meet in executive session.

### **IV. Consideration of Minutes**

#### **A. June 6, 2018, State Board of Education Meeting**

Mr. Vrabely moved, Mr. Harris seconded, that the Board adopt the minutes of the June 6, 2018, State Board of Education Meeting.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

#### **B. June 19, 2018, State Board of Education Special Meeting**

Mrs. Benham moved, Mr. Harris seconded, that the Board adopt the minutes of the June 19, 2018, State Board of Education Special Meeting.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

### **V. Items Requiring Action**

#### **A. Ansonia 10-4b Proceeding**

Mr. Vrabely moved, Mr. Davenport seconded, that the State Board of Education hereby initiates a complaint pursuant to Section 10-4b of the Connecticut General Statutes regarding the alleged inability of the Ansonia Board of Education (BOE) to implement the educational interests of the State, specifically the Minimum Budget Requirement of Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-262j, as a result of the City of Ansonia's failure to appropriate sufficient funds to the BOE to meet its MBR obligations in fiscal years 2017-18 and 2018-19; and, further that, the City of Ansonia be included as a Respondent in this

matter, the State Board of Education hereby having found that the City of Ansonia may be responsible for the failure or inability of the Ansonia Board of Education to implement the educational interests of the state; and the State Board of Education further directs the Commissioner to provide notice of this complaint to the City and BOE by providing them a copy of the Section 10-4b Complaint attached to the Commissioner's September 5, 2018 report to the State Board of Education and to take all other necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**B. Approval of Commissioner's Network Turnaround Plan for Windham High School, Windham**

Mrs. Sieve moved, Mr. Harris seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-223h of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended by Section 258 of Public Act 15-5, of the June 2015 Special Session, adopts and approves the Turnaround Plan for Windham High School in Windham for the Commissioner's Network, subject to the conditions noted in the Commissioner's September 5, 2018, Executive Summary to the State Board of Education, 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, López, Sieve, Vrabely  
                  Opposed:      0  
                  Abstained:     0  
                  Absent:        Jones, Mojica, Taylor, Wright

Motion carried unanimously.

Prior to the motion being made for agenda item, V.C., Approval of Commissioner's Network Turnaround Plan for Wexler-Grant, Community School, New Haven, Vice Chairperson López announced that a Board member was going to recuse himself. Board Member Erik Clemons recused himself and physically left the room during the discussion and vote on agenda item V.C.

**C. Approval of Commissioner’s Network Turnaround Plan for Wexler-Grant Community School, New Haven**

Mrs. Benham moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-223h of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended by Section 258 of Public Act 15-5, of the June 2015 Special Session, adopts and approves the Turnaround Plan for Wexler-Grant Community School in New Haven for the Commissioner’s Network, subject to the conditions noted in the Commissioner’s September 5, 2018, Executive Summary to the State Board of Education, 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**

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**VI. Report of the Chair**

Vice Chairperson López did not have any information to report.

**VII. Report of the Commissioner**

Commissioner Wentzell referenced her written report. The Commissioner reflected on all the exciting end of summer activities in preparation for being ready for our students. She reminisced on her classroom days and shared that the opening of school is like our “Happy New Year” when we welcome our students back to the classroom.

The Commissioner highlighted the formal Back-to-School event that was held at A.I. Prince Technical High School for superintendents and partners. She thanked Superintendent Jeffrey Wihbey for hosting the event. Commissioner Wentzell remarked on the format change of shortening the formal comments to enable time for a guest speaker, Marc Brackett, Ph.D., Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence.

The Commissioner emphasized that September is Attendance Awareness Month and it is used to enhance efforts to make sure that students start the school year strong.

## VIII. Financial Matters

### A. Current Services Budget Request

Mr. Vrabely moved, Mrs. Sieve seconded, that the State Board of Education approves the Current Services Budget Request for Fiscal Years 2019-20 and 2020-21, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

#### VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

### B. Capital Budget Request

Mr. Davenport moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the State Board of Education approves the Capital Budget Request for Fiscal Years 2019-20 and 2020-21, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

#### VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

## IX. Consent Agenda

Mr. Davenport moved, Mr. Clemons seconded, that the Board approve the following Consent agenda items, IX.A., Continuing Program Approval, Alternate Route to Certification for Library Media Specialist (ARCLMS) Program; and IX.B., Request for Finance Advisory Committee Action.

### A. Continuing Program Approval, Alternate Route to Certification for Library Media Specialist (ARCLMS) Program

**RESOLVED**, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-145d-9(g)(1)(A) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, grants full approval to the Alternate Route to Certification for Library Media Specialist (ARCLMS) program, administered by the Area Cooperative Educational Services (ACES), for the period October 1, 2018, through September 30, 2025, with annual progress monitoring conducted using program key assessment

performance data, for the purpose of certifying graduates from the ARCLMS program, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

## **B. Request for Finance Advisory Committee Action**

**RESOLVED**, That the State Board of Education approves the request for Finance Advisory Committee (FAC) action to transfer \$400,000 between two accounts, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

### VOTE ON

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

Motions carried unanimously.

## **X. Items for Discussion**

### **A. Update: Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (JJPOC)**

Chief Operating Officer Charlene Russell-Tucker and Bureau Chief John Frassinelli provided an update on the progress made by the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (JJPOC) to reform the Connecticut juvenile justice system and provide supports for youth diverted from or involved with the juvenile justice system. The work of the JJPOC has been largely conducted through its four work groups: Diversion, Incarceration, Recidivism, and Cross Agency Data Sharing.

### **B. Update on Students Displaced by Disasters**

Chief Operating Officer Charlene Russell-Tucker and Education Consultant Louis Tallarita (McKinney-Vento State Coordinator) provided an update on the Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) efforts and outcomes related to students displaced by the storm-related events in Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Florida, Texas and other affected areas. The CSDE collaborated with local education agencies (LEAs) to ensure immediate school access, school stability and academic success for all students displaced by disasters, including all students experiencing homelessness as defined under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

## **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**

It was reported that a meeting will be held on September 12, 2018.

**D. Legislation and Policy Development**

Mr. Vrabely reported that Chief Talent Officer Sarah Barzee and Dr. Katie Moirs provided two presentations: (i) ACES Alternate Route to Certification for Library Media Specialist (AARCLMS) Program (State Continuing Approval), which was on the consent agenda, and (ii) Relay Alternate Route to Certification (ARC) (State Continuing Approval), which will be sent to the Board in October. The Committee commenced an ongoing discussion regarding Public School Choice.

**E. Connecticut Technical Education and Career System Board**

CTECS Chairman Trefry requested that Jeffrey S. Wihbey, Superintendent of the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System (CTECS) provide an update. Mr. Wihbey stated that the CTECS Board would be meeting on September 11, 2018, to develop strategic goals.

**F. NASBE**

No report was presented.

Vice Chairperson López adjourned the meeting at 12:01 p.m.

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