

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

**Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
October 3, 2018**

(Approved November 7, 2018)

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, October 3, 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 B. Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

Present: Allan B. Taylor, Chairperson
Estela López, Vice Chairperson
Erin D. Benham
Erik M. Clemons
Donald F. Harris, Jr.
Terry H. Jones
Tarini Krishna, Student Member
Malia K. Sieve
Robert J. Trefry, Ex Officio
Joseph J. Vrabely, Jr.

Absent: William P. Davenport
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 Makayla Dawkins.

II. Public Participation

1. Dr. Mayme Hostetter, President of Relay Graduate of Education, spoke in support of agenda item IX.A., Continuing Program Approval: Connecticut Relay Graduate School of Education Alternate Route to Certification Program. A copy of Dr. Hostetter's written statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.

2. Professor Challa Flemming, Assistant Professor of Practice, Relay Graduate School of Education, spoke in support of Relay's programs. A copy of Professor Flemming's written statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
3. P.J. Prunty, President and Chief Executive Office, Greater Danbury Chamber of Commerce, spoke in support of agenda item, V.B., Approval of Danbury Prospect Charter School, Danbury.
4. Rev. Brian Hampton, pastor at St. James Missionary Baptist Church, spoke against agenda item V.C., Approval of Norwalk Charter School for Excellence, Norwalk.
5. Stephen Tracy, Interim Superintendent of Schools in New Milford. Mr. Tracy spoke in support of agenda item V.B. Approval of Danbury Prospect Charter School, Danbury. A copy of Mr. Tracy's written statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
6. Rebecca Good, Dean and Academic Director, Relay Connecticut, provided spoke in support of agenda item IX.A., Continuing Program Approval: Connecticut Relay Graduate School of Education Alternate Route to Certification Program. A copy of Ms. Good's written statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting
7. Claudia Cox, a paraprofessional at Grove J. Tuttle School, East Haven, spoke in support of agenda item IX.A., Continuing Program Approval: Connecticut Relay Graduate School of Education Alternate Route to Certification Program. A copy of Ms. Cox's written statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
8. Chris Mercer, a Norwalk resident and parent, spoke in support of agenda item, V.C., Approval of Norwalk Charter School for Excellence, Norwalk. A copy of Mr. Mercer's written statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
9. Diana Revolus, a parent, resident of Norwalk, Board of Director member of Norwalk Acts and Can member of Cradles to Career, spoke in favor of agenda item V.C., Approval of Norwalk Charter School for Excellence, Norwalk.
10. Stephen Nocera, Director of Project Excellence, City of Danbury, spoke on behalf of Mayor Mark D. Boughton and submitted a letter from Mayor Boughton in support of agenda item V.B., Approval of Danbury Prospect Charter School, Danbury. A copy of Mayor Boughton's written testimony is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
11. Susana Alvarez, a parent of two children in Norwalk Public Schools, and resident of Norwalk, spoke in favor of V.C., Approval of Norwalk Charter School for Excellence, Norwalk. A copy of Ms. Alvarez's written statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
12. Valarie Shultz Wilson, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Urban League of Southern Connecticut, spoke in support of agenda items V.B., Approval of Danbury Prospect Charter School, Danbury, and V.C., Approval of Norwalk Charter School for

Excellence, Norwalk. A copy of Ms. Wilson's written statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.

13. John Taylor, Executive Director, Booker T. Washington Academy, New Haven, spoke in support of Relay Connecticut for agenda item, IX.A., Continuing Program Approval: Connecticut Relay Graduate School of Education Alternate Route to Certification Program.
14. Irving Fox, member of the Danbury City Council, former member and chair of the Danbury Board of Education, a parent of four children of the Danbury Public Schools, and resident of Danbury, in support of agenda item, V.B., Approval of Danbury Prospect Charter School, Danbury. A copy of Mr. Fox's written statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
15. Lucena Modrigal. Claudia Phillips read aloud the translated testimony of Lucena Modrigal, in support of agenda item, V.C., Approval of Norwalk Charter School for Excellence, Norwalk.
16. Jose Pimeutel, a resident of Danbury, advocated support of agenda item, V.B., Approval of Danbury Prospect Charter School, Danbury.
17. Amanda Brown, a parent, resident and former elected official of Norwalk, spoke in support of agenda item, V.C., Approval of Norwalk Charter School for Excellence, Norwalk.
18. Representative Greg Burnett, a Norwalk resident, expressed his support of agenda item, V.C., Approval of Norwalk Charter School for Excellence, Norwalk.
19. Mark Morrison, a fourth grade teacher at Booker T. Washington Academy, New Haven, spoke in support of agenda item IX.A., Continuing Program Approval: Connecticut Relay Graduate School of Education Alternate Route to Certification Program.
20. Carl Bailey, spoke in support of agenda item V.B., Approval of Danbury Prospect Charter School, Danbury.
21. Catherine Dumas, a life-long resident of Norwalk and an employee of a public charter school, spoke in support of agenda item V.C., Approval of Norwalk Charter School for Excellence, Norwalk. A copy of Ms. Dumas' written statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
22. Brandon Davis, from Bronx, New York and a father of four, spoke in support of in support of agenda item V.B., Approval of Danbury Prospect Charter School, Danbury.
23. Melissa Asarc, advocated support of agenda item V.C., Approval of Norwalk Charter School for Excellence, Norwalk.

24. Dr. Tonya Claiborne, Assistant Professor at Relay Graduate School of Education, spoke in support of agenda item IX.A., Continuing Program Approval: Connecticut Relay Graduate School of Education Alternate Route to Certification Program. A copy of Dr. Claiborne's written statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
25. Tricia Robinson, parent of two children attending the Danbury Public Magnet School, Western Connecticut Academy for International Studies (AIS) and PTO President, spoke in support of agenda item V.B. Approval of Danbury Prospect Charter School, Danbury. A copy of Ms. Robinson's written statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
26. Liz Cox, Director of Common Ground High School, New Haven, spoke in support of agenda item IX.A., Continuing Program Approval: Connecticut Relay Graduate School of Education Alternate Route to Certification Program.
27. Jeff Leake, President, Connecticut Education Association (CEA), spoke against the proposed expansion of charter schools in Connecticut. A copy of Mr. Leake's written testimony is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
28. Robert Goodrich, Co-Founder (and on behalf of co-founder Arlene Garcia, Ed.D.), Radical Advocates for Cross-Cultural Education (RACCE), submitted testimony in support of agenda item IX.A., Continuing Program Approval: Connecticut Relay Graduate School of Education Alternate Route to Certification Program. A copy of Mr. Goodrich's written testimony is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
29. Andy Sternlieb, Chairman of Brass City Charter School in Waterbury, spoke in support of both agenda items V.B., Approval of Danbury Prospect Charter School, Danbury, and V.C., Approval of Norwalk Charter School for Excellence, Norwalk.
30. Thomas Stringfellow, resident of Manchester, addressed the Board on several matters, including the observation of Hispanic Heritage Month and Columbus Day.
31. Dr. Heather LaSelle, a social worker, shared concerns regarding programs operated by EdAdvance.
32. Attorney Andrew Feinstein, addressed the board regarding EdAdvance. A copy of Attorney Feinstein's written testimony is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
33. Attorney Christina Ghio, addressed the Board regarding EdAdvance. A copy of Attorney Ghio's written testimony is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
34. Bryan Hampton, spoke in support of agenda item V.C., Approval of Norwalk Charter School for Excellence, Norwalk.
35. Diane Willcutts, Education Advocate, addressed the Board regarding EdAdvance.

36. Mary Yorden, President, Norwalk Federation of Teachers, spoke regarding agenda item IX.A., the Connecticut Relay Graduate School of Education Alternate Route to Certification Program. Ms. Yorden also spoke in opposition to agenda item V.C., Approval of Norwalk Charter School for Excellence, Norwalk.
37. Attorney Kyle McClain, spoke on behalf of the Thomaston Board of Education with reference to agenda item X.A., Petition for a Declaratory Ruling, Thomaston Board of Education.
38. Jahana Hayes, 2016 National Teacher of the Year Award Recipient, and Candidate for District 5, United States House of Representatives, in support of agenda item IX.A., Continuing Program Approval: Connecticut Relay Graduate School of Education Alternate Route to Certification Program.
39. Sarah Harvey, Director of Operations, Relay Connecticut, submitted written testimony in support of agenda item IX.A., Continuing Program Approval: Connecticut Relay Graduate School of Education Alternate Route to Certification Program. A copy of Ms. Harvey's written statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
40. Susana Franco, a senior at the Center for Global Studies in Norwalk, CT, submitted written testimony in support of agenda item V.C., Approval of Norwalk Charter School for Excellence, Norwalk. A copy of Ms. Franco's written statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
41. Maura Juan, a parent, resident of Danbury, and board member of Danbury Prospect Charter School, submitted written testimony in support of agenda item V.B., Approval of Danbury Prospect Charter School, Danbury. A copy of Ms. Juan's written testimony is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
42. Jennifer Ellis, Deputy Director for ConnCAN, submitted written testimony in support of agenda items V.B., Approval of Danbury Prospect Charter School, Danbury, and V.C., Approval of Norwalk Charter School for Excellence, Norwalk. A copy of Ms. Ellis' written testimony is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
43. Yamuna (Yam) Menon, Connecticut State Director for the Northeast Charter Schools Network submitted written testimony in support of agenda items V.B., Approval of Danbury Prospect Charter School, Danbury, and V.C., Approval of Norwalk Charter School for Excellence, Norwalk. A copy of Yamuna Menon's written testimony is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
44. Aracely Feighery, a first grade bilingual teacher at Silvermine Dual Language Magnet School in Norwalk, submitted written testimony in support of agenda item IX.A., Continuing Program Approval: Connecticut Relay Graduate School of Education Alternate Route to Certification Program. A copy of Aracely Feighery's written testimony is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.

45. Antoinette Williams, a New Haven resident, former Norwalk resident and graduate of Norwalk Public Schools, expressed support for agenda item V.C., Approval of Norwalk Charter School for Excellence, Norwalk. A copy of Ms. Williams' written testimony is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.

The Board unanimously agreed to take a break at 11:46 a.m.

The Board meeting reconvened at 12:03 p.m.

III. Executive Session

The Board will go into executive session during this meeting

IV. Consideration of Minutes

A. September 5, 2018, State Board of Education Meeting

Mr. Vrabely moved, Mrs. Sieve seconded, that the Board adopt the minutes of the September 5, 2018, State Board of Education Meeting.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

V. Items Requiring Action

A. Adoption of the Position Statement on Comprehensive STEM Education for All Students K-12

Mrs. Sieve moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the State Board of Education adopts the Position Statement on Comprehensive STEM Education for All Students K-12.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

IX. Consent Agenda

Mr. Vrabely moved, Dr. López seconded, that the Board approve the following Consent agenda item, IX.A., Continuing Program Approval: Connecticut Relay Graduate School of Education Alternate Route to Certification Program.

A. Continuing Program Approval: Connecticut Relay Graduate School of Education Alternate Route to Certification Program

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-145d-9(g)(1)(B) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, grants provisional approval for the period November 1, 2018, through October 31, 2021, with an annual progress report required and an on-site, focused visit required no later than October 2020, to the Connecticut Relay Graduate School of Education, Alternate Route to Certification program, for the purpose of recommending candidates for the Connecticut temporary 90-day teaching certificate in the following endorsement areas:

Program	Grade Level	Program Level	Program Type
Elementary Education Certification	1-6	Initial	Alternate Route to
Secondary Education: English Certification	7-12	Initial	Alternate Route to
Mathematics Certification	7-12	Initial	Alternate Route to
General Science Certification	7-12	Initial	Alternate Route to
Biology Certification	7-12	Initial	Alternate Route to
Chemistry Certification	7-12	Initial	Alternate Route to
Physics Certification	7-12	Initial	Alternate Route to

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

III. Executive Session

On a motion by Mr. Vrabely, seconded by Dr. López, the Board voted unanimously to move into executive session at 12:07 p.m. to consider pending claim/litigation

(Thomaston Board of Education Petition for Declaratory Ruling) and privileged and confidential legal advice memorandum concerning same.

Present in executive session were Board members Mrs. Benham, Mr. Clemons, Ms. Dawkins, Mr. Harris, Mr. Jones, Ms. Krishna, Dr. López, Mrs. Sieve, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Trefry, and Mr. Vrabely. Also present for all or part of the executive session were Commissioner Wentzell, Director of Legal and Governmental Affairs Peter Haberlandt, Staff Attorney Louis Todisco, and Staff Assistant Aldith Dewar.

The Board recessed its Executive Session at 1:34 p.m.

The Board reconvened its meeting at 1:34 p.m.

On motion by Dr. López, seconded by Mr. Vrabely, the Board voted unanimously to move out of executive session and reconvene in public session at 1:34 p.m. Present were Board members Mrs. Benham, Mr. Clemons, Ms. Dawkins, Mr. Harris, Mr. Jones, Ms. Krishna, Dr. López, Mrs. Sieve, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Trefry, and Mr. Vrabely.

V. Items Requiring Action (continued)

The Board unanimously agreed to continue with agenda item V.B. Approval of Danbury Prospect Charter School, Danbury. The panel presenting to the Board consisted of Chief Turnaround Officer Desi Nesmith, Chief Executive Officer Daniel K. Rubenstein, Prospect Schools, Deputy Chief Executive Officer Penny Marzulli, Prospect Schools, Charter School Programs Manager Robert Kelly, and Charter School Liaison Felicia Canty.

B. Approval of Danbury Prospect Charter School, Danbury

Dr. López moved, Mr. Harris seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-66bb of the Connecticut General Statutes, accepts the Commissioner's advisory and grants initial certificate of approval for a state charter to Danbury Prospect Charter School, subject to the conditions noted in the Commissioner's October 3, 2018, memorandum to the State Board of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

The Board unanimously agreed to continue with agenda item V.C. Approval of Norwalk Charter School for Excellence, Norwalk. The panel presenting to the Board consisted of Chief Turnaround Officer Desi Nesmith, Director of Advocacy and Policy Quentin Phipps, Stamford Charter School for Excellence, Executive Director, Dr. Charlene Reid, Stamford

Charter School for Excellence, Charter School Programs Manager Robert Kelly, and Charter School Liaison Felicia Canty.

C. Approval of Norwalk Charter School for Excellence, Norwalk

Mr. Vrabely moved, Mr. Harris seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-66bb of the Connecticut General Statutes, accepts the Commissioner's advisory and grants initial certificate of approval for a state charter to Norwalk Charter School for Excellence, subject to the conditions noted in the Commissioner's October 3, 2018, memorandum to the State Board of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

VI. Report of the Chair

Chairperson Taylor did not provide a report.

VII. Report of the Commissioner

Commissioner Wentzell referenced her written report. The Commissioner highlighted that the Department's Affirmative Action Plan had been approved by the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities this month. The Commissioner thanked Affirmative Action Director Levy Gillespie and his team for their continued support of the Department.

VIII. Financial Matters

The Commissioner stated the Department continues to work with the Office of Policy and Management on the transition budget. We will continue to keep the Board updated.

X. Items for Discussion

A. Petition for a Declaratory Ruling, Thomaston Board of Education

Director of Legal and Governmental Affairs Peter Haberlandt, Staff Attorney Louis Todisco presented that the Thomaston Board of Education (TBOE) has filed a Petition for Declaratory Ruling ("Petition") seeking several declaratory rulings as to the application of Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) Sections 10-64, 10-65, and

10-97 to the circumstances stated in the Petition. These statutes provide for the provision of agricultural science and technology education to high school students by local and regional boards of education. An agency is authorized to issue declaratory rulings as to the applicability of the general statutes to specified circumstances by the Connecticut General Statutes and the Board's regulations. *See C.G.S. § 4-176; R.C.S.A. §§ 10-4-20 through 10-4-22.*

XI. Committee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessment

No report was presented.

B. Accountability and Support

Dr. López reported that the committee will be meeting on October 22, 2018.

C. Finance, Audit, and Budget

No report was presented.

D. Legislation and Policy Development

Mr. Vrabely reported that the committee met this morning. The Committee is tackling discussions on federal choice and a Position Statement on 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 reported that Maura M. Dunn, Vice President of Human Resources and Administration at Electric Board has been appointed to the CTECS Board. Mr. Wihbey stated that the CTECS Board is partway through the Strategic Plan.

F. NASBE

No report was presented.

Chairperson Taylor adjourned the meeting at 3:02 p.m.

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