

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

**Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
March 6, 2019
(Approved May 1, 2019)**

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, March 6, 2019, 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 9:43 a.m.

Present: Allan B. Taylor, Chairperson
Estela López, Vice Chairperson
Erin D. Benham
Erik M. Clemons
William P. Davenport
Makayla R. Dawkins, Student Member
Donald F. Harris, Jr.
Terry H. Jones
Maria I. Mojica
Malia K. Sieve
Robert J. Trefry, Ex Officio
Joseph J. Vrabely, Jr.

Absent: Tarini Krishna, Student Member
Mark Ojakian, Ex Officio
Stephen P. Wright

II. Public Participation

1. Bernadette Teele, a parent of an 11th-grader at Stamford Academy, spoke in support of agenda item V.C., Renewal of State Charter – Stamford Academy, Stamford. A copy of Ms. Teele's written statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
2. Sharon Voroschak-Papcin, a resident of the City of Ansonia, spoke in support of the progress being made to settle the issues of agenda item V.A., Ansonia 10-4b Inquiry.

3. Meredith Kennedy, an art teacher at Stamford Academy, and Secretary and Teacher Representative of the Stamford Academy School Board, spoke in support of agenda item V.C., Renewal of State Charter – Stamford Academy, Stamford. A copy of Ms. Kennedy's written statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
4. Dean Perkins, Behavior Support, Stamford Academy, spoke in support of agenda item V.C., Renewal of State Charter – Stamford Academy, Stamford.
5. Lorraine Nichirco, a resident of Stamford, spoke in support of agenda item V.C., Renewal of State Charter – Stamford Academy, Stamford. A copy of Ms. Nichirco's written statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
6. Kimberly Morales De Jesus, a student at Stamford Academy, spoke in support of agenda item V.C., Renewal of State Charter – Stamford Academy, Stamford.
7. Nina Rokas, 9th grade English teacher at Great Oaks Charter School, Bridgeport, spoke in support of agenda item V.B., Renewal of State Charter – Great Oaks Charter School, Bridgeport.
8. Brea Mangrum, 6th grade Math teacher at Great Oaks Charter School, Bridgeport, spoke in support of agenda item V.B., Renewal of State Charter – Great Oaks Charter School, Bridgeport.
9. Nashon Thompson, the parent of a student who attended Great Oaks Charter School, Bridgeport, spoke in support of agenda item V.B., Renewal of State Charter – Great Oaks Charter School, Bridgeport.
10. Claudia Phillips, a resident of Bridgeport, spoke in support of agenda item V.B., Renewal of State Charter – Great Oaks Charter School, Bridgeport.
11. Thomas Stringfellow, a resident of Manchester, addressed the Board on several matters, including reading recommendations.

Dr. Estela López thanked Mr. Stringfellow for his diligent attendance at the Board meetings.

Presentation by Shelton Intermediate School: SIS Students Going Green

Accompanied by Principal Kenneth D. Saranich, and teachers Robert Swercewski and Eric Wolf, ten students presented the following three PowerPoint presentations to the Board:

1. **Lunch Survey:** "The Lunch Survey Proposal" was presented by (i) Noah Jackson, (ii) Jason Hutchinson, (iii) Nicholas Gergely, and (iv) Patrick Carroll.
2. **Protocycler:** "The Plastic Problem" was presented by (i) Ava Kavasansky, (ii) Aiden Welch, and (iii) Paul Zint.

3. **Styrogenie:** "Styrofoam" was presented by (i) Jack Kieley, (ii) Dylan Bauer, and (iii) Sean Roden.

Following the presentations, the Board members engaged the students in discussion about their presentations. A copy of the full presentation is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.

III. Executive Session

The Board did not meet in executive session.

IV. Consideration of Minutes

A. February 6, 2019, State Board of Education Meeting

Dr. López and Mrs. Benham requested an edit on page seven of the minutes to reflect their intention for the removal of agenda items IX.D., Commissioner's Network Extension for East Hartford Middle School in East Hartford; and IX.E., Commissioner's Network Extension for Clinton Avenue School in New Haven from the consent agenda. Dr. López and Mrs. Benham wanted the opportunity to highlight the progress made by the two schools.

Mr. Vrabely moved, Dr. López seconded, that the Board adopt the minutes of the February 6, 2019, 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. Ansonia 10-4b Inquiry

A Court Reporter was present at the meeting to record the proceedings for agenda item, V.A., Ansonia 10-4b Inquiry. Assistant Attorney General Ralph Urban joined the Board members as the legal representative of the State Board of Education.

Also present were (i) Division of Legal and Governmental Affairs Attorneys Louis Todisco and Laura Anastasio representing the Connecticut Department of Education; (ii) Attorney Frederick Dorsey of Kainen, Escalera & McHale representing the Ansonia Board of Education, and (iii) Attorney John P. Marini of Cohen & Wolf, P.C. representing the City of Ansonia.

B. Renewal of State Charter - Great Oaks Charter School, Bridgeport

A panel consisting of Chief Turnaround Officer Desi Nesmith, Bureau Chief Lisa Lamenzo, Susan Briggs, Great Oaks Board Chairperson, and John Scalice, Director, Great Oaks Charter School presented to the Board. Discussion ensued.

Mrs. Sieve moved, and Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (g) of Section 10-66bb of the Connecticut General Statutes, renews the charter of Great Oaks Charter School from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2021, subject to the Commissioner's March 6, 2019, memorandum to the State Board of Education, 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. Renewal of State Charter - Stamford Academy, Stamford

A panel consisting of Chief Turnaround Officer Desi Nesmith, Bureau Chief Lisa Lamenzo, Rick D'Avino, Stamford Academy Board Chair, and Andrea Weller, Stamford Academy Director presented to the Board. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Vrabely moved, and Mr. Davenport seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (g) of Section 10-66bb of the Connecticut General Statutes, renews the charter of Stamford Academy from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2021, subject to the Commissioner's March 6, 2019, memorandum to the State Board of Education, 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.

IX. Consent Agenda

Mr. Vrabely moved, Dr. López seconded, that the Board approve the following Consent agenda items, IX.A., Town of Winchester's Application for Waiver of Repayment Pursuant to Section 304 of Public Act 15-5 of the June Special Session; and IX.B., Appointments to Educator Preparation Program Review Committee.

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

WHEREAS, the Town of Winchester, pursuant to Section 304(b) of Public Act 15-5 of the June Special Session, has applied for a waiver of the fourth of five repayments of \$144,173 required to be made annually by April 30 under the repayment agreement required under Section 304(a) of Public Act 15-5 of the June Special Session for reimbursement of overpayments made by the State pursuant to Section 10-76g of the General Statutes during the fiscal years ending June 30, 2013, to June 30, 2014, inclusive; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Winchester has demonstrated significant improvement in the fiscal and financial practices of its school district, has demonstrated that structural changes have been implemented to ensure the school district is properly handling taxpayer funds, and has satisfied other criteria required by the Commissioner; now therefore be it,

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education approves the waiver application submitted by the Town of Winchester pursuant to Section 304(b) of Public Act 15-5 of the June Special Session for the payment to be made by April 30, 2019, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

B. Appointments to Educator Preparation Program Review Committee

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-145d-9(f)(1) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, appoints the following individuals to serve on the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) Review Committee for the Approval of Connecticut Educator Preparation Programs from March 6, 2019, through March 2, 2022:

Name	Affiliation	Representation	Term Ending
Megan Mackey	Central Connecticut State University	Higher Education	3/02/2022
Stephanie Storms	Fairfield University	Higher Education	3/02/2022
Michael Livingston	Capitol Region Education Council	Community	3/02/2022
Shannon Marimón	Connecticut Council for Education Reform	Community	3/02/2022

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

Motions carried unanimously.

The Board recessed for lunch at 12:36 p.m.

The Board reconvened from lunch at 1:26 p.m.

Present: Allan B. Taylor, Chairperson
 Estela López, Vice Chairperson
 Erin D. Benham
 Erik M. Clemons
 William P. Davenport
 Makayla R. Dawkins, Student Member
 Donald F. Harris, Jr.
 Terry H. Jones
 Maria I. Mojica
 Malia K. Sieve
 Robert J. Trefry, Ex Officio
 Joseph J. Vrabely, Jr.

Absent: Tarini Krishna, Student Member
 Mark Ojakian, Ex Officio
 Stephen P. Wright

VI. Report of the Chair

Chairperson Taylor did not provide a report.

VII. Report of the Commissioner

In Commissioner Wentzell's absence, Chairperson Taylor referenced the Commissioner's written report.

VIII. Financial Matters

No financial report was presented.

X. Items for Discussion

A. Connecticut's Definition and Framework for Family Engagement

[Makayla Dawkins left the meeting at approximately 1:53 p.m.]

Chief Operating Officer Charlene Russell-Tucker presented to the Board and introduced a new definition and framework for family engagement in Connecticut. Mrs. Russell-Tucker summarized the Department's collaboration to co-create a common definition for advancing family engagement efforts as well as a framework to guide high-impact practices across the state.

B. Update on Child Nutrition Programs

[Maria Mojica left the meeting at approximately 2:13 p.m.]

Chief Operating Officer Charlene Russell-Tucker and Bureau Chief, Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education John Frassinelli presented an update on the Child Nutrition Programs administered by the Department, including a PowerPoint. They provided an overview of the federal and state programs, initiatives and special provisions being implemented by the Department in schools, residential child care institutions, child day care centers and homes, and various locations throughout the summer.

At the direction of Chairperson Taylor, the Board unanimously agreed to consider agenda item XI., Committee Reports, before agenda item, X.C., Recognition of State Board of Education Members.

XI. Committee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessment

Mr. Clemons reported that the committee met on February 25, 2019.

B. Accountability and Support

Dr. López reported that the committee did not meet on February 27, 2019.

C. Finance, Audit, and Budget

No report was presented.

D. Legislation and Policy Development

Mr. Vrabely reported that the committee did not meet that morning.

E. Connecticut Technical Education and Career System Board

CTECS Chairman Trefry provided an update concerning the timing of CTECS' establishment as an independent agency.

F. NASBE

No report was presented.

X. Items for Discussion (continued)

C. Recognition of State Board of Education Members

Chairperson Taylor acknowledged the five Board members whose terms were ending with Certificates of Recognition. Mr. Taylor thanked them for their commitment and dedication to serving on the Board.

Chairperson Taylor adjourned the meeting at 3:05 p.m.

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