

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

**Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
September 4, 2019
(Approved October 2, 2019)**

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, September 4, 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 9:33 a.m.

Present: Allan B. Taylor, Chairperson
Estela López, Vice Chairperson
Erin D. Benham
Milan Chand, Student Member
Sophia H. Chin, Student Member
Erik M. Clemons
William P. Davenport
Donald F. Harris, Jr.
Dr. Jane Gates (designee representing Mark Ojakian, Ex Officio)
Malia K. Sieve
Robert J. Trefry, Ex Officio

Absent:

Oath of Office

Commissioner Miguel A. Cardona gave an introduction of the two new student members.

Attorney Jessa Y. Mirtle, Commissioner of the Superior Court, administered the Oath of Office to the following student Board members: (i) Milan Chand, and (ii) Sophia H. Chin. Copies of the Oath of Office are enclosed in the official file of this meeting.

II. Public Participation

1. Alicia Robinson, *Director of Performing and Visual Arts at Bridgeport Public Schools* and a former Roosevelt School teacher, spoke in support of agenda item V.A., Approval of Commissioner's Network Plan: Roosevelt School.

2. Alita Rumph, a 6th Grade Teacher at Roosevelt School, Bridgeport, spoke in support of agenda item V.A., Approval of Commissioner's Network Plan: Roosevelt School.
3. Woody Exley, of West Hartford, spoke on the achievement gap, and about his wife's scholarship program the Alma Exley Scholarship. Mr. Exley stated that talented, dedicated educator recipients of the Alma Exley Scholarship such as Commissioner Miguel A. Cardona and former Interim Commissioner Desi Nesmith are making an impact.
4. Thomas Stringfellow, a resident of Manchester, addressed the Board on several matters, including reading recommendations.
5. Estela López spoke to acknowledge the retirement of fellow Board member William (Bill) Davenport from Nonnewaug High School in Woodbury (Regional School District 14), where Mr. Davenport served for 33 years teaching as an agriscience teacher. Mr. Davenport was selected as the 2004 Connecticut Teacher of the Year. Mr. Davenport's new venture is a 4H educator in Litchfield.

III. Executive Session

On a motion by Dr. López, seconded by Mrs. Benham, the Board voted unanimously to move into executive session at 11:05 a.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel matters. Present in executive session were Board members Mrs. Benham, Mr. Clemons, Mr. Davenport, Mr. Harris, Dr. López, Dr. Gates, Mrs. Sieve, Mr. Taylor, and Mr. Trefry.

The Board recessed its Executive Session at 12:47 p.m.

IV. Consideration of Minutes

A. June 13, 2019, State Board of Education Meeting

Mr. Davenport moved, Mrs. Sieve seconded, that the Board adopt the minutes of the June 13, 2019, State Board of Education Meeting.

VOTE ON

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

B. June 28, 2019, State Board of Education Special Meeting

Mr. Davenport moved, Mrs. Sieve seconded, that the Board adopt the minutes of the June 28, 2019, State Board of Education Special Meeting.

VOTE ON

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

C. July 18, 2019, State Board of Education Special Meeting

Mr. Davenport moved, Mrs. Sieve seconded, that the Board adopt the minutes of the July 18, 2019, State Board of Education Special Meeting.

VOTE ON

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

Motions carried unanimously.

V. Items Requiring Action

A. Approval of Commissioner's Network Plan: Roosevelt School

Dr. López moved, and Mrs. Benham 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 Roosevelt School in Bridgeport for the Commissioner's Network, subject to the conditions noted in the Commissioner's September, 2019 memorandum 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, Taylor
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	0
	Absent:	0

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Certification Action in the Matter of Tee (Torians) Hughes

Mrs. Benham moved, and Mrs. Sieve seconded, that pursuant to its authority under Section 10-145b (i)(2) of the Connecticut General Statutes and Section 10-145d-613 of the Regulations for Connecticut State Agencies, based upon the evidence included in the written report of the Commissioner entitled In the Matter of Tee (Torians) Hughes, the State Board of Education:

- Formally accepts this report;
- Determines by a roll-call vote that the coaching permit of the holder shall be revoked;
- Certifies that each member has read the written report of the Commissioner;
- Bases this determination upon its conclusion that the evidence supports a finding of misconduct sufficient to revoke the permit and adopts the evidence and conclusions outlined in the written report of the Commissioner; and
- Directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Section 10-4b Complaint Against the Brookfield Board of Education

In the matter of agenda item V.C., Section 10-4b Complaint against the Brookfield Board of Education, it is duly noted in the meeting minutes that the parents were notified that the recommendations would be before the Board at this meeting. In their absence, the parents submitted written remarks to the members of the State Board of Education.

Mrs. Benham moved, and Mr. Harris seconded, that, with respect to the Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) Section 10-4b Complaint filed on or around February 23, 2019, by a Parent against the Brookfield Board of Education, the State Board of Education adopts the recommendation of the Commissioner, and (a) finds that there is no reasonable cause to believe that the Brookfield Board of Education has failed, or is unable, to implement the educational interests of the State of Connecticut as defined in C.G.S. Section 10-4a, (b) dismisses the Complaint, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Report of the Chair

Chairperson Taylor did not provide a report.

VII. Report of the Commissioner

Commissioner Cardona thanked Desi Nesmith, Chief Turnaround Officer for stepping in as Interim Commissioner. He also thanked the State Department of Education team for a smooth transition.

Commissioner Cardona highlighted (i) the Department staff meetings held on August 19th, (ii) the 2019 Back-to-School meeting with the superintendents on August 21st, at A.I. Prince Technical High School in Hartford and (iii) the Education Roundtable held with Governor Ned Lamont on August 27th at the H.C. Wilcox Technical High School in Meriden. The Commissioner thanked Superintendent Wihbey for his hospitality at both technical schools.

VIII. Financial Matters

A. Mid-term Budget Technical Adjustments

Dr. López moved, and Mrs. Benham seconded, that the State Board of Education approves the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Mid-Term Budget Technical Adjustments and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

IX. Consent Agenda

Mrs. Benham moved, Mr. Davenport seconded, that the Board approve the following Consent agenda items: IX.A., Continuing Approval of Educator Preparation Provider, Capital Region Education Council, Advanced Alternate Route to Certification Program for Cross Endorsement in Comprehensive Special Education; IX.B., Request for Finance Advisory Committee (FAC) Action; and IX.C., Trailblazers Academy Surrender of Charter and Acceptance of Closeout Procedures.

A. Continuing Approval of Educator Preparation Provider, Capital Region Education Council, Advanced Alternate Route to Certification Program for Cross Endorsement in Comprehensive Special Education

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 continuing approval to the Capitol Region Education Council (CREC), Advanced Alternate Route to Certification (AARC) program leading to a cross endorsement in comprehensive special education, for the period October 1, 2019, through September 30, 2026, with annual progress monitoring conducted using program key assessment performance data, for the purpose of certifying graduates from the CREC AARC program, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

B. Request for Finance Advisory Committee (FAC) Action

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education approves the request for Finance Advisory Committee (FAC) action to transfer \$1,200,000 between accounts, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

C. Trailblazers Academy Surrender of Charter and Acceptance of Closeout Procedures

RESOLVED, That, with respect to the Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) Section 10-4b Complaint filed on or around February 23, 2019, by a Parent against the Brookfield Board of Education, the State Board of Education adopts the recommendation of the Commissioner, and (a) finds that there is no reasonable cause to believe that the Brookfield Board of Education has failed, or is unable, to implement the educational interests of the State of Connecticut as defined in C.G.S. Section 10-4a, (b) dismisses the Complaint, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motions carried unanimously.

XI. Committee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessment

No report was presented.

B. Accountability and Support

Dr. López reported that the committee would meet in October.

C. Finance, Audit, and Budget

No report was presented.

D. Legislation and Policy Development

Chairperson Taylor announced that he has appointed Erin Benham to chair the committee.

E. Connecticut Technical Education and Career System Board

CTECS Chairman Trefry introduced Superintendent Jeffrey Wihbey. Mr. Wihbey reported that the CTECS Board would have a meeting on September 16, 2019. He announced that with the assistance of Kathy Demsey, Chief Financial Officer and the Office of Policy and Management (OPM), 27 transfers were conducted over the summer resulting in more certified teachers at the start of the school year.

F. NASBE

No report was presented.

Chairperson Taylor adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m. as the agenda was completed.

Prepared by: _____
Dr. Miguel A. Cardona, Secretary
State Board of Education