

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

**Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
October 2, 2019
(Approved November 6, 2019)**

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, October 2, 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
Milan Chand, Student Member
Sophia H. Chin, Student Member
Erik M. Clemons
Donald F. Harris, Jr.
Malia K. Sieve
Robert J. Trefry, Ex Officio

Absent: William P. Davenport
Mark Ojakian, Ex Officio

II. Public Participation

1. J. Stan McCauley, Hartford, spoke on the need for transparency as laws are passed and become policy at all levels in order that the public is well informed.
2. Thomas Stringfellow, a resident of Manchester, addressed the Board on several matters, including reading recommendations.
3. Gwen Samuel, President and Founder, Connecticut Parents Union, spoke on the education gift from the Dalio Foundation and the relationship with the State Department of Education.
4. Ann Manusky, Easton, spoke on the need to improve education and in opposition to Common Core.

III. Executive Session

The Board did not meet in executive session.

IV. Consideration of Minutes

A. September 4, 2019, State Board of Education Meeting

Mr. Harris requested the correction of the spelling of Nonnewaug on page two of the draft minutes.

Mrs. Sieve moved, Mrs. Benham seconded, that the Board adopt the minutes of the September 4, 2019, State Board of Education Meeting.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

V. Items Requiring Action

There were no Items Requiring Action for consideration.

VIII. Financial Matters

The Board unanimously agreed to move the agenda out of order to consider agenda VIII. Financial Matters.

A. Budget Reduction and Reallocation Options

Dr. López moved, and Mr. Harris seconded, that the State Board of Education approves the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Midterm Budget Reallocation and Reduction Options, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously

VII. Report of the Commissioner

The Commissioner announced that the Report of the Commissioner would be presented in three parts to include highlights of activities, student guest presentations, and the sharing of information.

SDE Highlights

- Commissioner Cardona highlighted his visits to classrooms from Grades 1 through 12, as well as meetings with various state agencies, educational partners and legislators as opportunities to collaborate and work together on behalf of students of Connecticut.
- Commissioner Cardona applauded that the SDE promoted great resources to the districts to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month.
- The Commissioner celebrated that the Department's Affirmative Action Plan had been approved by the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities.

Connecticut History Day Presentation

Commissioner Cardona introduced Reading/Literacy Director Melissa Hickey for the presentation of Connecticut History Day. He thanked Melissa Hickey, Stephen Armstrong, Education Consultant, for organizing the presentation. He thanked Rebecca Taber-Conover, Lindsay Moynihan, Iniya Raja, and Marlena Pegolo for the Connecticut History Day presentation to the Board.

Dr. Hickey introduced Rebecca Taber-Conover, the Head of Public Programs and Connecticut History Day at the Connecticut Democracy Center at Connecticut's Old State House.

Ms. Taber-Conover thanked the Board and Commissioner Cardona for the privilege and opportunity to highlight the achievements of the Connecticut students. Ms. Taber-Conover provided an introduction of the National History Day program and shared that Connecticut has approximately 4,000 students participating in History Day. Of the 4,000, 68 made it to the national contest where 3,000 students competed. Of the 68 Connecticut students, 14 students won a national award or received a national recognition.

CHD Student Presenters

- **Lindsay Moynihan**, Conard High School in West Hartford, won a scholarship to the University of Maryland for her project *Turning a Tragedy into a Triumph: Dolley Madison, the War of 1818, and the Creation of a National Identity*.
- **Iniya Raja**, Timothy Edwards Middle School in South Windsor, won 6th place for *The Eugenic Roles: Dead Souls and Birth Control*.

- **Marlena Pegolo**, at the time a student at Sedgwick Middle School in West Hartford, won Outstanding Entry in World War I History for her project *The Tragic and Triumphant "Tail" of Stubby, the Military Dog*.

The Other Students with National Placements

- ***Margo Pedersen**, Wilbur Cross High School in New Haven, won First Place in the Senior Paper division for her paper *Malaga Island: How the State of Maine Devastated a Resilient Island Community in the Name of the Greater Good*.
- **Ishan Prasad**, Staples High School, Westport, won Second Place in the Senior Paper division for his paper *Shah Bano and India's Postcolonial Predicament: Gender vs. Religion*.
- ***Mia Porcello**, while a student at Northwest Catholic High School in West Hartford (attends Conard High School in West Hartford), won First Place in the Senior Individual Exhibit division for her project *Out of the Closet and into the Medicine Cabinet: ACT UP New York's Healthcare Triumphs*.
- **Josh Picoult**, Simsbury High School in Simsbury, won the U.S. Constitution Award for his project *Where Do We Draw the Line? How the Triumph of District-Based Representative Government Devolved into a Tragic Distortion of American Democratic Ideals*. Josh Picoult also placed 9th in the nation for his project.
- **Eileen Peng**, Irving A. Robbins Middle School in Farmington, won Outstanding Connecticut Entry: Junior Division for her project *The Treason of Benedict Arnold: A Tale of Triumph and Tragedy*.
- **Katelyn Meyers**, Nonnewaug High School, Region 14 in Woodbury, won Outstanding Connecticut Entry: Senior Division for her project *The Nuremberg Doctors Trials*.
- **Lucia Wang, Sharmila Green, Emma Losonczy, Mallika Subramanian, Rhea Choudhury**, Bedford Middle School in Westport, placed 8th for *Lise Meitner: A Woman's Determination and Scientific Triumph Through Personal and Societal Tragedy*.

*For winning prizes at the individual senior level, **Margo Pedersen** and **Mia Porcello** were also granted scholarships to the 2020 National History Academy, a residential program for high school students with a passion for learning about the foundations of Democracy.

Sharing Successes

Commissioner Cardona introduced Director of Communications Peter Yazbak to Share Successes.

Mr. Yazbak shared that the SDE's primary social media platform are Facebook and Twitter. He promoted that the SDE had made efforts to step up its social media presence and grow our Followers.

Campaign 52:52. Mr. Yazbak explained that this campaign is an effort that the SDE will be engaging with several social media campaigns. The goal is to gain 5,200 Followers on both Facebook and Twitter pages over the course of 52 weeks.

Learn Together, Grow Together CT Mr. Yazbak provided an overview of **Learn Together, Grow Together CT** initiative as a new resource that highlights and provides promising practices of proven models by districts for districts.

Upcoming Campaigns:

#MyFaveTeacher. Mr. Yazbak indicated that people will create a short video with favorite or most influential teacher, and we will push that out over our social media accounts.

#The Commissioner's Corner: Commissioner's Comments. Commissioner Cardona's opportunity to highlight visits, including articles, ideas, and resources.

Commissioner Cardona congratulated four Connecticut public schools recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as 2019 National Blue Ribbon Schools:

- North Mianus Elementary School in Greenwich;
- Guilford High School in Guilford;
- John Barry Elementary School in Meriden; and
- Tracey Magnet School in Norwalk.

IX. Consent Agenda

Dr. López moved, Mrs. Benham seconded, that the Board approve the following Consent agenda items: IX.A., Continuing Approval of Educator Preparation Provider, University of Saint Joseph; IX.B., In the Matter of Kevin Muhammad, Certification Action; and IX.C., State Board of Education Impartial Hearing Officers.

A. Continuing Approval of Educator Preparation Provider, University of Saint Joseph

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 University of Saint Joseph (USJ) for the period October 2, 2019, through December 31, 2024, with a progress report documenting continuous improvement work related to the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) Standard 5 due annually until USJ's spring 2024 CAEP accreditation visit, and annual progress monitoring conducted using program data

from the Connecticut Educator Preparation Provider (EPP) Data Dashboard, for the purpose of certifying graduates from USJ in the following areas:

<u>Program</u>	<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>Program Level</u>	<u>Program Type</u>
Elementary Education	K-6	Initial	Undergraduate/graduate
Secondary Areas:			
English	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/graduate
History/Social Studies	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/graduate
Mathematics	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/graduate
Biology	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/graduate
Chemistry	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/graduate
General Science	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/graduate
French	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/graduate
Italian	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/graduate
Latin	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/graduate
Spanish	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/graduate
Special Education	K-12	Initial	Undergraduate/graduate
Early Childhood	N-3	Initial	Graduate
Family/Consumer Science	PK-12	Initial	Graduate
School Counselor	PK-12	Advanced	Graduate

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

B. In the Matter of Kevin Muhammad, Certification Action

RESOLVED, That pursuant to its authority under subsection (e) of Section 10-145d-612 of the Regulations for Connecticut State Agencies, the State Board of Education orders the Commissioner to file with it, within the regulatory time period, a written report In the Matter of Kevin Muhammad’s Certification Action.

C. State Board of Education Impartial Hearing Officers

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Sections 10-186(b)(2) and 10-233d(b) and 10-15d of the Connecticut General Statutes, and Sections 10-145d-611(h), 612(h), 613(f), 10-4-12(f), and 10-4-22(c)(3) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, hereby appoints the following individuals to conduct hearings and render decisions as an impartial hearing board, or otherwise, on matters where they may be appointed to serve in accordance with law, for the period of October 3, 2019 through October 2, 2022:

Linda Anne Bulkovitch
 Patrick L. Kennedy
 Brendan Patrick McKeever
 Joane Merlain Olawale

Melinda A. Powell
Jane Ford Shaw

VOTE ON

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

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 on October 10, 2019. She also highlighted an article about Clinton Avenue School in New Haven on its impressive growth in English Language Arts. Clinton Avenue School was once a struggling school visited by Dr. López and Mrs. Benham as members of the committee. Mrs. Benham was impressed that the leadership knew and taught the curriculum. She stated that Clinton Avenue School is a model for the state. Dr. López also highlighted that social studies teacher Lauren Sepulveda of Clinton Avenue School was the recent recipient of the Connecticut Milken Award of 2019-2020 and \$25,000. A discussion on the role of principals ensued.

C. Finance, Audit, and Budget

No report was presented.

D. Legislation and Policy Development

Mrs. Benham reported that the committee met that morning, but did not have a quorum for an official meeting. She stated that the committee (i) received an update on the Relay ARC program; and (ii) had a discussion as to what other matters the committee would like to see come before it. Mrs. Benham reported that the resolution on funding for all the different schools will be reviewed and will come before the Board in the future.

E. Connecticut Technical Education and Career System Board

CTECS Chairman Trefry introduced Superintendent Jeffrey Wihbey. Mr. Wihbey reported that Commissioner Cardona visited four technical high schools in September and that the visits sent a positive message that has been great for morale of

students and staff. Mr. Wihbey summarized the CTECS Board meeting by stating that enrollment CTECS incoming freshman class has increased. Mr. Wihbey provided a report on the unofficial graduation rate for the last school year.

Mr. Wihbey reported on a ribbon cutting ceremony with Governor Lamont, Senator Richard Blumenthal, and Commissioner Cardona at the brand new Ella Grasso Technical High School in Groton. He highlighted the Partnership Shop with Three Rivers Community College and Electric Boat.

F. NASBE

No report was presented.

Chairperson Taylor adjourned the meeting at 11:17 a.m.

Prepared by: _____

Dr. Miguel A. Cardona, Secretary
State Board of Education