

THE COMMISSIONER'S ROUNDTABLE FOR FAMILY AND
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN EDUCATION
Hartford

Draft Minutes of Meeting
(Subject to Revision)
January 24, 2018

I. Call to Order

Ms. Ingrid Canady, Executive Director of the State Education Resource Center (SERC), called the meeting to order at 9:17 a.m. The meeting was held at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, 10 Columbus Boulevard, 7th Floor, Hartford, Connecticut.

Members present:

Paige Bray, Associate Dean for Research and Community Education, Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education, University of Hartford (Representing Deans of Schools of Education)
Jeana Bracey, Director of School and Community Initiatives, Child Health and Development Institute
Mary Lou DiPaola, ESL Teacher, New Haven Board of Education (Representing Connecticut Federation of Educational and Professional Employees (AFT-CT))
Jennifer Falotico, Vice President for Membership, Connecticut Parent Teacher Association
Jennifer Lussier, Parent Consultant, Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center
Nikitoula Menounos, Principal, Norwich Technical High School (Representing Connecticut Technical High School System)
David Scata, Director of Education, Mohegan Tribe
Sara Sneed, Director, Education Investments, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
John Taylor, Executive Director, Booker T. Washington Academy (Representing Northeast Charter Schools Network)
Donna Thompson-Bennett, National Coordinator, National Parent Leadership Institute
Mirellise Vazquez, Executive Director, Tauck Family Foundation (Representing Connecticut Council on Philanthropy)
Athena Wagner, Outreach Coordinator, State of Black Connecticut Alliance/Connecticut Parents' Union
Dianna R. Wentzell, Commissioner, Connecticut State Department of Education
Beresford Wilson, Assistant Director, FAVOR

Members absent:

Abie Benitez, President, Connecticut Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (Representing Connecticut Association of Schools)
Jeffrey Bianco, Co-Chair, Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN) Connecticut
Audrey Brown, Parent (Representing African Caribbean American Parents of Children with Disabilities (AFCAMP))
Elizabeth Brown, President, Waterbury Board of Education (Representing Connecticut Association of Boards Education)

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Clifford Dudley, Principal, Orchard Hills School, Milford Public Schools (Representing Connecticut Federation of School Administrators)
Derby Egyin, Student, Windsor Locks High School (Representing State Student Advisory Council on Education)
Lisa Fair, Parent, Achievement First
Mario Florez, Director of School Climate and Culture, Hartford Public Schools (Representing Commission on Women, Children and Seniors)
Matthew Geary, Superintendent of Schools, Manchester Public Schools (Representing Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents)
Paula Gilberto, CEO, United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut (Representing United Way of Connecticut)
Tamara Lanier, Chief Probation Officer, Connecticut Judicial Branch, Court Support Services Division (Representing Connecticut State Conference of NAACP)
Natasha Harris, Director of Workforce Quality Assurance, Urban League of Greater Hartford
Giancarlo Isotti, Student, Suffield High School (Representing State Student Advisory Council on Education)
Chemay Morales-James, Educational Equity Coach, My Reflection Matters and Bridge to Success (Representing Commission on Equity and Opportunity)
Aggie Kurzyna, Parent, CT Parent Power (Representing Connecticut Parent Power)
Bryan Randall, Personnel Officer, U.S. Naval Submarine Base (Representing State Council for Educational Opportunities for Military Children)
Robert Smoler, President, Fairfield Education Association (Representing Connecticut Education Association)
Tynima Toney, Parent Coach, Hartford Parent University

Guests:

Ingrid Canady, State Education Resource Center
George Coleman, Partnership for Early Education
Jackie Coleman, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
Lillian Fontan, Connecticut Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (Representing Abie Benitez)
Melvette Hill, Commission on Women, Children and Seniors
Jessica Lavorgna, EDC
Carol O'Donnell, Connecticut Council for Philanthropy
Orlando Rodriguez, CEA
Russell Sills, Windsor Public Schools
Paula Smith, Mohegan Tribe

State Agency Staff:

Judy Carson, Connecticut State Department of Education
Ajit Gopalakrishnan, Connecticut State Department of Education
Glen Peterson, Connecticut State Department of Education
Charlene Russell-Tucker, Connecticut State Department of Education
Deborah Watson, Office of Early Childhood

II. Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Charlene Russell-Tucker, Chief Operating Officer, Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE)

III. Important Emergent Issues in Education

Ms. Russell-Tucker provided an overview on students and families who have been displaced by hurricanes and are now residing in Connecticut. The [presentation](#) identified the total number of displaced students who have enrolled in Connecticut schools by district and grade level. Ms. Russell-Tucker also discussed statewide efforts to support new arrivals, challenges and resources for schools and districts.

Mr. Glen Peterson, Division Director, Connecticut State Department of Education, presented on standards for alternative educational opportunities for students who have been expelled. The [presentation](#) discussed Connecticut laws concerning students who have been expelled, the number of students receiving expulsions by race and ethnicity, standards for alternative educational opportunities and guidelines for alternative educational settings. The presentation concluded with information on student placement and transition planning.

IV. Understanding Performance and Accountability

Ajit Gopalakrishnan, Chief Performance Officer, Connecticut State Department of Education, presented on [Connecticut's Next Generation Accountability System](#), the [Profile and Performance Report](#) and the [EdSight](#) data portal. His [presentation](#) discussed federal legislation related to accountability and the CSDE's underlying principles of accountability. He engaged the group in a discussion of the 12 weighted indicators in the state's accountability system and demonstrated how the data are organized into the Profile and Performance Reports for districts.

V. Update Regarding Definition and Framework for Family Engagement

Dr. Judy Carson, Program Manager for School-Family-Community Partnerships, Connecticut State Department of Education, provided an update on the framework for family engagement that has been developed in partnership with the Roundtable. The framework was the subject of a symposium on December 13, 2017, where over 100 people provided feedback. A revised document is being prepared and will be submitted to the Commissioners of Education and Early Childhood.

VI. Meeting Dates for 2017-18

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 9, 2018, 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. 450 Columbus Boulevard, Plaza North Meeting Rooms C and D.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.