

V.B.

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Hartford

TO BE PROPOSED:  
March 2, 2016

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (j) of Section 10-145b of the Connecticut General Statutes, (1) accepts and adopts the Findings and Proposed Decision in the Matter of Carmen Perez-Dickson v. State Department of Education, Case No. CRT 15-1, prepared by Impartial Hearing Officer Donal C. Collimore; (2) affirms the decision of the State Department of Education to deny continuation of Ms. Perez-Dickson's professional educator certificate with endorsements for secondary Spanish and intermediate administration and supervision; and (3) directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Roll Call Vote

Board Member	In Favor	Opposed	Abstained	Absent
Erin Benham				
Erik M. Clemons				
William P. Daveport				
Theresa Hopkins-Staten				
Terry H. Jones				
Estela Lopez				
Maria Mojica				
Malia K. Sieve				
Joseph J. Vrabely, Jr.				
Stephen P. Wright				
Allan B. Taylor				

Approved by a vote of \_\_\_\_\_ this second day of March, Two Thousand Sixteen.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dianna R. Wentzell, Secretary

TO: State Board of Education  
FROM: Ralph Urban, Assistant Attorney General  
DATE: February 23, 2016  
SUBJECT: Proposed Final Decision In the Matter of Carmen Perez-Dickson v. State Department of Education, State Board of Education, Case No. CRT 15-1

Enclosed please find Hearing Officer Donal C. Collimore's proposed final decision for Case No. CRT 15-1, which was filed on January 13, 2016. Section 10-145d-611 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies directs the State Board of Education to render a decision within thirty days of the filing of a proposed final decision.

On January 28, 2016, Chairman Allan B. Taylor received from Attorney Josephine Smalls Miller, Ms. Perez Dickson's attorney, a letter in which Attorney Miller stated her desire to postpone the Board's consideration of the proposed final decision, as well as the time for submission of briefs and exceptions. Mr. Taylor also received a letter dated January 28, 2016, from Carmen Perez Dickson stating that, "This letter will constitute my waiver of the thirty day period within which the board must issue its written decision in this matter in order that my attorney, Josephine Miller, may file exceptions and or brief." Chairman Taylor granted the request for an extension, and notified the parties that this matter will be scheduled for consideration by the State Board of Education at its March 2, 2016, regular meeting.

Chairman Taylor also notified Attorney Miller that should she decide to file exceptions and/or present a brief to the State Board of Education with respect to the hearing officer's proposed decision, she should deliver the materials to the Office of the State Board of Education no later than Thursday, February 18, 2016. On February 18, 2016, Attorney Miller filed, on behalf of her client, "Petitioner's Exceptions to Findings and Proposed Decision" (copy enclosed). On February 19, 2016, Attorney Matthew Venhorst, representing the Commissioner, requested that Chairman Taylor allow him to file a response to the Petitioner's Exceptions by February 25, 2016. A copy of Attorney Venhorst's response will be provided to the State Board of Education members upon receipt.

At the March 2, 2016, State Board of Education meeting, the Board will hear oral arguments and voting members will vote on the proposed final decision. Attorney Josephine Smalls Miller, representing Carmen Perez-Dickson, and Attorney Matthew Venhorst, representing the Commissioner, will be allowed fifteen minutes each to present oral arguments in response to the above-captioned matter.

Prior to voting on this matter, each voting Board member will be required to sign a statement certifying that he or she has read the Proposed Final Decision.

Board members were notified January 22, 2016, that the exhibits of the hearing in this matter were available for review in advance of the Board's consideration of this matter in the Office of Board Matters, Room 301, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford.

The State Board of Education has the authority to:

1. accept the recommendation of the hearing officer;
2. accept only the factual findings of the hearing officer and make an independent decision as to whether the certificate should be continued;
3. make its own findings of fact and an independent decision as to whether the certificate should be continued; or
4. remand the matter back to the hearing officer for further consideration, further articulation, and/or further recommendations.

A draft proposal to accept the recommendation of the hearing officer (option 1, above) is enclosed for your consideration. If, however, the Board wishes to consider options 2, 3, or 4, I will be available to advise you further.

In accordance with subsection (i) of Section 10-145d-612 of the Regulations, a roll call vote will be taken at your meeting.