

VI.A.

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION Hartford

TO BE PROPOSED:

June 3, 2020

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-357a (b) (1) (B) of the Connecticut General Statutes, appoint Erin D. Benham to the State Education Resource Center Board of Directors for a term coterminous with that of the Governor or until a successor has been appointed and qualified, whichever is longer, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Approved by a vote of _____ this third day of June, Two Thousand Twenty.

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

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Miguel A. Cardona, Commissioner of Education

DATE: June 3, 2020

SUBJECT: Appointment to the State Education Resource Center Board of Directors

Executive Summary

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to recommend that the State Board of Education appoint a member to the State Education Resource Center Board of Directors.

History/Background

Section 10-357a of the Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.), established and created a “body politic and corporate, constituting a public instrumentality and political subdivision of the state of Connecticut established and created to be a public educational authority acting on behalf of the state of Connecticut, to be known as the State Education Resource Center [SERC].” The center is not to be construed as a department, institution or agency of the state. Rather, it serves as a quasi-public agency.

C.G.S. Section 10-357a (b) describes the composition of the Board of Directors that will oversee SERC:

The powers of the center shall be vested in and exercised by a board of directors, which shall consist of the following members: (A) Four appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of both houses of the General Assembly; (B) two appointed by the State Board of Education, with the advice and consent of both houses of the General Assembly; (C) one appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate; (D) one appointed by the majority leader of the Senate; (F) one appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives; (G) one appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives; (H) one appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives; and (I) the Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner’s designee.

Each member appointed by the Governor or State Board of Education shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor, but not longer than the term of office of the Governor or until the member’s successor is appointed and has qualified, whichever term is longer.

The purposes of SERC shall be to assist the State Board of Education in the provision of programs and activities that will promote educational equity and excellence. These are detailed in Section 10-137b.

Recommendation

I recommend for your consideration that the Board appoint Erin D. Benham to the SERC Board of Directors.

Follow Up

Upon consideration and approval of the appointment of the recommended individual, I will submit the name of the Board's appointment to the Governor's Office and will notify the appointee of the Board's action. The member will attend a confirmation hearing when the General Assembly reconvenes.

ERIN DUNLEAVY BENHAM

Professional Experience

Meriden Public Schools 1980 – 2016

- Teacher
- Department Chairperson

Professional Committees and Memberships

Ongoing

- Meriden Federation of Teachers, President
 - Work collaboratively and cooperatively with Central Office staff for the betterment of Meriden's schools
- Connecticut American Federation of Teachers, Vice President
- State of Connecticut Board of Education Board Member
- The Sisters' Project, Board Member
- Project Excel, Board of Directors Member
- Fund for Teachers, Advisory Board Member
- Teacher Evaluation Committee
 - District-wide committee charged with revising Teacher Evaluation Plan

Presentations and Briefings

- "Freedom to TEACH", National Press Club, Washington DC, 2019
- "Supporting Powerful Learning and Developing Teacher and Staff Capacity", AFT TEACH Plenary, Washington, DC, 2017
- "Meeting with the State Board of Education", CABE/CAPSS Convention, Mystic, CT, 2017
- "We Women", 2015 Yale Women in Leadership Conference, Yale University, New Haven, CT
- "More + Better Learning Time", 2014 Grant Makers for Education Conference, Miami, FL, 2014
- "Time for Teachers: Leveraging Expanded Time To Strengthen Instruction and Empower Teachers", National Center On Time & Learning, Washington, DC, 2014
- "On The Same Page: Effective Implementation of College-and Career-Ready Standards Through Labor-Management Collaboration", American Federation of Teachers, St. Louis, MO, 2014
- "Transition from School House to Community School", 2014 Community Schools National Forum, Cincinnati, OH, 2014
- "More Collaboration + More Time = More Learning", Teaching and Learning 2014 Conference, Washington, DC, 2014
- "Teacher-Driven Expanded Learning Time", AFT TEACH, Washington, DC, 2013
- "Leadership Panel and Extended Time Breakout Session", Connecticut Council for Education Reform, New Haven, CT, 2013

Publications and Media Contributions

- "Meriden Educators Embrace the Whole Child" (Co-author: Barbara Dalio), *Record Journal*, January 15, 2019
- "When Our Teachers Learn, Our Students Learn" (Co-author: Mark Benigni), *Albert Shanker Institute*, November 1, 2016

Education

- Middle School Endorsement, Southern Connecticut State University 1997
- Sixth Year in Educational Leadership, Southern Connecticut State University 1987
- M.S., Community Health, Southern Connecticut State University 1986
- B.S., Home Economics, Minor: Psychology, Saint Joseph's College 1980