

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Legislation and Bylaws Committee

February 9, 2011
8:30 a.m.
State Office Building
Hartford, CT

MINUTES

Members Present

Theresa Hopkins-Staten, Janet Finneran, Jay Voss, Neha Mehta and Patrick Campbell.

Staff Present

George Coleman, Daniel Murphy, Jessica Andrews and Janice Dinnall.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:33 a.m.

Approval of January 5, 2011, Meeting Minutes

The January 5, 2011, meeting minutes were approved unanimously on a motion by Janet Finneran, seconded by Theresa Hopkins-Staten.

Revisions of State Board of Education Bylaws

Attorney Murphy updated the Committee on the status of the revisions of the bylaws. He reviewed the changes with the Committee highlighting statutory changes. There was discussion as to whether the State Board of Education ("**Board**") should consider a legislative proposal that would result in the Commissioner of Higher Education being a voting member of the Board. Additional bylaw proposals were discussed including: alternate committee membership and time and location of meetings.

Legislative Update

Jessica Andrews was introduced to the Committee as the new Legislative Liaison. Ms. Andrews **updated the Committee of the status of the State Department Education's legislative proposals.** She stated that all but three of **the Department's proposals were approved by the Governor's Office and the Office of Policy and Management ("OPM")**

and submitted to the Co-Chairs of the Education Committee. She explained that the **Governor's Office and OPM** were still reviewing two of the proposals not approved. The first proposal concerned changing the adult education statutes so that they would become consistent with the new law which raises the age to drop-out from 16 to 17. This proposal would only allow 17 year olds to be eligible to enroll in adult education and the change of the school drop-out age from 16 to 17 years old. Ms. Andrews then discussed the second proposal which seeks to clarify and formalize the responsibility for the provision of educational services to students in detention centers.

Finally Ms. Andrews stated that the third proposal seeking flexibility to allow students to attend any Vo-Ag School in the state, based on the desired program of study, was not supported by **Governor's Office and OPM** because of the fiscal impact to municipalities.

Other Matters

Acting Commissioner George Coleman spoke about the 180 day school requirement and school districts concerns with the amount of snow days. He explained that he sent out a circular letter to all superintendents encouraging them to use holidays and vacation days to make up the time. He alerted the Committee that action might be required by the Board regarding this situation.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:26 a.m.