

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Estela López, Chair
Charles Jaskiewicz
Patricia B. Luke
Stephen Wright

**Telephone Conference Call Meeting of
September 15, 2011
MINUTES OF MEETING**

Call to Order

Chairwoman Estela López called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of State and posted on the Department's web site, the meeting was conducted via conference call; a speaker phone was placed in room 305 of the State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT. Participating in the meeting were committee members Estela López, Charles Jaskiewicz*, Patricia B. Luke, and Stephen Wright.

Also participating for all or part of the meeting were the following staff members: Associate Commissioner Charlene Russell-Tucker, Associate Commissioner Marion Martinez, Associate Commissioner Barbara Beaudin, Assistant to the Commissioner Pamela V. Charland, Bureau Chief Anne Louise Thompson, Education Consultant Jack Hasegawa, and Associate Education Consultant Claudine Premak.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Mrs. Luke, seconded by Mr. Wright, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2011, Policy Development Committee Meeting. (Mr. Jaskewicz was absent).

Discussion of Draft Position Statement on Educating Students with Exceptionalities

Committee members and staff members discussed whether the statement should address those students who do not fall into one of the two ends of the spectrum, as well as those who are "protected classes." Discussion ensued regarding how best to address the needs of all students while complying with laws that specifically speak to "protected classes."

*(Mr. Jaskiewicz called in at 8:42 a.m.)

The following language was agreed upon.

1st paragraph: The Connecticut State Board of Education believes that all students are unique and influenced by cultural, linguistic, intellectual, psychological, health and economic factors. The Board defines students with exceptionalities in Connecticut as those students who have extraordinary learning ability or outstanding talent in the creative arts, and those students who have extraordinary learning challenges, as defined by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). All students,....for entry into higher education and the workplace.”

- 4th paragraph. 1st sentence: All professionals and paraprofessionals in the education community are responsible for assisting all students in achieving academic and social goals.
- 4th paragraph, last sentence: Each partnership strengthens the Board’s vision of assuring that Connecticut’s students, including those with exceptional needs, are provided with a high quality, comprehensive and equitable education.

Committee members requested that the statement be revised to incorporate the recommended changes, and sent to them via e-mail. Pamela Charland will forward the statement and coordinate a conference call meeting prior to the Board’s regular meeting for the Committee to review and reach consensus on the revised statement. Thereafter, the statement will be placed on the October 5, 2011, agenda for discussion by the full Board.

Position Statement on Time in Relation to Student Achievement

Associate Commissioner Martinez introduced the position statement, originally adopted by the State Board of Education in 2003. She noted that the statement should cover not only additional time, but a more efficient use of time, and should incorporate 21st Century skills, learning outside the classroom, greater use of technology as an instructional tool, and authentic learning within the community.

Mrs. Luke suggested that the statement have a “laser focus” on time on task, especially for those students who are below grade level.

(Mrs. Luke excused herself from the conference call at 9:08 a.m.)

Mr. Hasegawa noted that current research points toward a focusing on the time you have available rather than a longer school day/year, maximizing time for teachers to work together, and homework assignments that enhance learning. Ms. Premak

concurrent, noting that more meaningful time must be dedicated to the core academic subjects and the quality of enrichment programs.

Discussion ensued regarding the value in providing districts with current research pertaining to the use of instructional and academic time, but not being prescriptive.

Dr. López requested that staff members prepare for Committee review an outline of recommended changes and policy considerations, with related research. This will be provided to the committee members in the October 5th packet of materials, to be mailed the week prior to the meeting.

Adjourn

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 9:26 a.m.

Prepared by: Pamela V. Charland
Approved on 10/24/11
September 15, 2011, Policy Development Committee Minutes