

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

**Policy Development Committee Meeting
May 2, 2013**

Draft Minutes

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education Policy Development Committee met in Room 305, State Office Building, Hartford, Connecticut, on May 2, 2013.

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Estela López called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m. Present were committee members Dr. López, Mr. Jaskiewicz (via telephone*) and Mr. Wright.

II. Minutes of February 6, 2013, Policy Development Committee Meeting

Approval of the minutes was postponed to the next meeting.

III. Discussion of Comprehensive Plan 2013-18

Chief of Staff Adam Goldfarb began a group dialogue of the potential structure of the State Board's Comprehensive Plan. Discussion ensued.

Dr. Lopez noted that she will discuss with the Board Chair the ideal timeline for next steps engaging the full State Board.

Committee members made the following comments and suggestions:

- There was support for the first draft mission statement;
- The draft vision statement could make clear that the closure of the achievement gap will result in Connecticut's public schools being the highest achieving nationwide;
- Include demographic data, and note that the state's economic success relies on the educational success of all learners;
- Rather than inserting percentages as indicators of success, consider absolute numbers where appropriate (e.g., number of graduates; number of first-year college students requiring remedial/developmental courses, number of graduates from Technical High Schools gaining employment upon graduation, etc.)

[*Mr. Jaskiewicz phoned in at 1:40 p.m.]

- Consider categorizing cross-cutting themes by students, educators and the system;

- Instead of referencing “struggling students,” consider language that the state should address the educational needs of all students while directing resources and additional supports for students who need such assistance; consider whether the “Common Core” should or should not be categorized as an innovation; use education jargon sparingly, and ensure that the overall message is clear.
- Consider where a reference to the importance of pre-kindergarten best fits (i.e., part of a P-20 continuum) in the document;
- Where should the theme of well-rounded students be developed, and how should this concept be measured (e.g., participation in clubs, sports, student government, band)? Learning takes place inside and outside the classroom (supported by a blend of academic and wraparound services).
- Ensure that the concept of reducing red tape for districts that are performing well (and all districts) is included, perhaps under “Innovations.”
- A section labeled “Creating the Preconditions for Student Success” could include wraparound services.

Next Steps:

CSDE staff will work to incorporate committee members’ input. Next steps will be determined.

Thereafter, Dr. Lopez asked whether the core skeleton should be presented to the full Board for input. Mr. Jaskiewicz suggested that the a few key questions about the committee’s proposal be presented to the full Board in advance to assist in framing their discussion. The Advisory Committee will also be activated when appropriate.

IV. Adjourn

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 2:08 p.m.

*Prepared by Pamela V. Charland, Assistant to the
Commissioner*