

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Hartford**

**Legislation and Bylaws Committee Meeting**  
**November 6, 2013**

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education Legislation and Bylaws Committee met in Room 2600, State Office Building, Hartford, Connecticut, on November 6, 2013.

**I. Call to Order**

Chairperson Theresa Hopkins-Staten called the meeting to order at 8:51 a.m. Present were committee members Robert Trefry and Terry H. Jones.

**II. Minutes of January 9, 2013 Legislation and Bylaws Committee Meeting**

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the January 9, 2013, meeting minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

**III. Discussion of 2014 Department of Education Legislative Proposals**

Ms. Hopkins-Staten began the discussion noting the committee's recent name change. She gave a brief overview of why this occurred and how it will affect the committee's approach to the 5 year plan, periodic review of by-laws and the committee's other responsibilities. She expressed her desire that the committee be proactive rather than reactive in its approach to proposed legislation.

Sarah Hemingway, Legislative Liaison for the State Department of Education began a review of the initial package of the 2014 Department of Education Legislative Proposals, covering the entire report.

The report consisted of five sections:

- I. AAC Minor Revision
- II. AA Making Local and Charter Schools More Accountable and Transparent
- III. AAC the Connecticut Technical High School System
- IV. AAC the Sale of Beverages
- V. AAC Magnet Schools

Committee members made the following comments and suggestions responsive to each section of the report:

#### Section I.

- Mr. Jones asked Ms. Hemingway about "AAC." Ms. Hemingway identified it as "an act concerning" (first item) and continued re: report card and transcript coding, planned coordination, etc.
  - Ms. Hopkins-Staten asked about direct effect of proposed legislation on children in response to the report, possible DCF involvement.
  - Mr. Trefry followed up, asked who's using this data DCF? DSS?
  - Ms. Hemingway replied that the schools are using it.
  - Mr. Trefry suggested that there might be legal issues to consider with that, Ms. Hopkins-Staten agreed with this point.
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- Ms. Hopkins-Staten stressed the need to have this proposal lead to positive practical results for the children.
  - Ms. Hemingway continued to the next item (second item): no comments were made.
  - Ms. Hemingway continued to the third item. Mr. Jones asked for an explanation of "racial isolation" in the context of Ms. Hemingway's description of third item.
  - Ms. Hopkins-Staten suggested that a better working definition be developed at the full board meeting.
  - Ms. Hemingway reads current available "racial isolation" definition; moved on.
  - Mr. Trefry suggested "elimination of redundant (collection)."
  - Ms. Hemingway continued to fourth item re: liability of mentors, etc.
  - Ms. Hemingway continued to fifth item re: term lengths.
  - Ms. Hemingway continued to sixth item re: longitudinal data collection, discusses background and objectives to improve focus, minimize confusion, change name where appropriate.

- Ms. Hopkins-Staten asked whether this had already been dealt with in the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) language.
  - Ms. Hemingway continued to seventh item, re: transportation.
  - Ms. Hopkins-Staten pointed out great expense in this area. Ms. Hemingway continued. Ms. Hopkins-Staten expounding, pointed out that current expenses are high, and suggested exploring ways to control same.
  - Ms. Hemingway continued on to eight item: re: tuition.
  - Mr. Jones impressed by how this eighth section has evolved, asked who was responsible. Ms. Hemingway noted Lynn Nauss of the fiscal department.
  - Ms. Hemingway continued on to ninth item: re: fiscal grants, payouts to districts, process becoming more streamlined, efficient.
  - Ms. Hemingway continued to tenth item. ECS. Ms. Hemingway continued, illustrated changes, improvements, "median household districts" "median median" over use, language redundancy noted by committee members.
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- Ms. Hemingway continued to eleventh item. Academic Advancement Programs, national examinations, national recognition may more effectively evaluate Conn. Students.
  - Ms. Hemingway continued to twelfth item. Talent Office, Pilot District, Assessment Date, suggested making this date September 18<sup>th</sup> to encourage uniformity. Ms. Hopkins-Staten questioned this.

## Section II.

- Local jurisdictions to follow state on posting procedures.
- Ms. Hemingway continued. Funding language clarified.
- Mr. Trefry requested clarification, Ms. Hemingway replied re: current expenditures
- Mr. Trefry wondered: town or state, who gets the money back? Ms. Hemingway agreed to look into this.
- Mr. Trefry suggested that this should be undertaken in a way to promote harmony between local and statewide efforts so that they are in competition with one another as little as possible.

- Ms. Hopkins-Staten wondered who this will affect Pre-K programs? Full day programs? Ms. Hemingway agreed to investigate this.
- Payment dated to be revised to April 1 instead of April 15.

### Section III.

- Ms. Hemingway continued to review material pertaining to this issue, resumed at page 18.
- Mr. Treyfry on "healthy meals" proposal suggested revision, "the board" as "the committee" may change purview, interpretation, etc.

### Section IV.

- Ms. Hemingway continued indicating that the language on this issue is likely to move closer to the federal standard.

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### Section V.

No comments or suggestions offered regarding this section.

## **IV. Adjournment**

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 9:24 a.m.