

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

**Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
December 3, 2014
(approved January 7, 2015)**

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, December 3, 2014, in Room 1D of the Legislative Office Building, Hartford, Connecticut.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Allan Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:46 a.m.

Present: Allan Taylor, Chairperson
Theresa Hopkins-Staten, Vice Chairperson
Erin D. Benham
Michael Caminear, Student
Megan Foell, Student
Charles Jaskiewicz
Terry Jones
Patricia Keavney-Maruca
Estela López
Maria I. Mojica
Robert Trefry
Joseph Vrabely
Stephen Wright

Absent: Gregory Gray, ex officio

II. Public Participation

1. Secretary of the State Denise Merrill spoke in support of the Social Studies Framework. She stated that she is a strong advocate for civic education, and urged the Board to approve the Social Studies Framework.
2. Daniel Coughlin, retired social studies teacher and president of the Connecticut Council for the Social Studies, read prepared remarks in support of the Social Studies Framework. A copy of Mr. Coughlin's prepared statement is included in the official file of this meeting.

3. Michael Alfano, School of Education and Professional Studies, Central Connecticut State University, read prepared remarks regarding the Policy to Support Implementation of the Appropriate Subject Area Master's Degree Statutory Requirement. A copy of Mr. Alfano's prepared statement is included in the official file of this meeting.
4. Dr. Matt Warshauer, Professor of History at Central Connecticut State University and Co-Chair of the Connecticut Civil War Commemoration Commission, read prepared remarks in support of the Social Studies Framework. A copy of Dr. Warshauer's prepared statement is included in the official file of this meeting.
5. Rebecca Tabor-Conover, Head of Public Programs & History Day at Connecticut's Old State House, read prepared remarks in support of the Social Studies Framework. A copy of Ms. Tabor-Conover's prepared statement is included in the official file of this meeting.
6. Elizabeth Shapiro, Executive Director, Connecticut League of History Organizations, read prepared remarks in support of the new Social Studies Framework. A copy of Ms. Shapiro's prepared statement is included in the official file of this meeting.
7. Dr. Walter Woodward, Associate Professor, Connecticut State Historian, University of Connecticut, presented a prepared statement in support of the Social Studies Framework. A copy of Dr. Woodward's prepared statement is included in the official file of this meeting.
8. Jody Blankenship, Executive Director, Connecticut Historical Society, spoke in support of the Social Studies Framework, and urged the Board to approve same.
9. Sandra Clark, Supervisor - Social Studies, New Haven Public Schools, spoke in support of the Social Studies Framework.
10. Mary Hanna, Social Studies Coordinator, (K-8), New Canaan Public Schools, who assisted in the writing of the Social Studies Framework, spoke in support of the Framework and urged the Board to approve same.
11. Ian Polun, Tolland Public School Social Studies Curriculum Coordinator, read a prepared statement in support of the Social Studies Framework. A copy of Mr. Polun's prepared statement is included in the official file of this meeting.
12. Don Romoser, President of Connecticut PTA, representing over 44,000 members, thanked the Commissioner for the work he has done in Connecticut and for including community members and parents in the discussions about education reform.
13. Allen Cook, Dean, School of Education, University of Bridgeport and a member of AACTE, spoke about the Association understands of the importance of the State Board of Education's work, and offered AACTE's support and assistance in improving the quality of teacher education programs in Connecticut.

14. Dr. Karissa Niehoff, Executive Director of the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) and the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference, expressed appreciation to the Commissioner for all his efforts in reducing the achievement gap during his tenure.
15. Milly Arciniegas, a Hartford parent, thanked Commissioner Pryor for working with parents and the community. She spoke about inequities among the schools, and stated that we need innovative ways, such as providing parents with monetary equity scholarships, to ensure all children have the opportunity to attend a thriving school.
16. LaShaun Robinson, Hartford mother of five children, spoke regarding Connecticut's achievement gap and the need to support equity scholarships to enable parents to enroll their children in schools designed to meet their needs.
17. Sasha Rosa, a Hartford parent of three children, stated that her son attends Parkville school, which she referred to as a failing school. She asked that the Board support an equity scholarship program, which will ensure that parents can enroll their children in a high quality educational setting.
18. Isalina Daye, a grandmother of Milner school students, and a school volunteer, spoke in support of a scholarship to allow students to choose a school of their choice.
19. Tynima Tony, a Hartford parent, spoke about providing children with a chance for a successful future. She stated that Milner School is in need of assistance and expressed her support for equity scholarships.
20. Precious Ross-Ellis, a member of the Hartford Parent University, spoke about her support for monetary equity scholarships.
21. Nate Quesnel, Superintendent of East Hartford Public Schools, and representing the Connecticut Association of Urban Superintendents (CAUS), thanked Commissioner Pryor for his efforts, leadership, courage and inclusiveness. He noted that Connecticut's public schools are better as a result of Commissioner Pryor's leadership.
22. Dr. Salvatore Pascarella, Superintendent of Danbury Public Schools, read prepared remarks on behalf of CAUS, noting Stefan Pryor as the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award. A copy of Dr. Pascarella's prepared statement is included in the official file of this meeting.
23. Dr. Jeffrey Villar, Connecticut Council for Education Reform, spoke about the importance of school choice and thanked Commissioner Pryor for his courage on behalf of Connecticut's children.
24. Judith DeGraffenried, a mother of a special needs child, stated that she is concerned about the Common Core alignment with the draft Social Studies Framework that

parents have been left out of the process during the development of the common core. She questioned the amount spent on public education in relation to the results we have had.

By unanimous consent, the Board considered agenda item VIII., Report of the Chair, at this time.

VIII. Report of the Chair

Chairperson Taylor asked Chief Operating Officer Charlene Russell-Tucker to report on the Department's follow-up activities and findings, as requested by the Board at the November 3, 2014, State Board of Education meeting, in response to allegations raised at that meeting by a parent of Achievement First-Hartford students regarding treatment of her children.

Mrs. Russell-Tucker reported that a site visit was conducted by a State Department of Education team on November 10, 2014. She noted that while additional information is being reviewed, the site visit, review of records and discussions with staff revealed inconsistencies in four areas: restraint and seclusion; student suspensions; policies and procedures regarding discipline; and classroom management practices. She noted that staff members are in the process of preparing a final report, but added that preliminary findings have been shared with Achievement First (AF) staff to allow them to immediately begin to take corrective measures. The final report will be released to the Board and to the school upon completion. Also, additional site visits to monitor the school's progress and provide supports will take place. Mrs. Russell-Tucker noted that AF staff members have been asked to review policies, practices and procedures at the middle school as well, to ensure that they are in compliance in the four identified areas.

The Board resumed Public Participation at this time.

25. Stephen McKeever, First Vice President AFT Connecticut, AFL-CIO and a former teacher at Middletown High School, spoke regarding the master's degree certification. He noted concerns with what is considered "appropriate subject matter," and the policy's impact on their potential for teachers' growth, and districts' ability to move its teachers. He supports the initial proposal and the development a workgroup to discuss this matter further and reach to a consensus.
26. Linette Branham, CEA Policy Director, expressed concerns about the master's degree as it stands, particularly the interpretation of the statutory language "appropriate subject matter." She is supportive of further discussions and reaching a consensus.
27. Dan Blanchard, history teacher, New Britain High School, spoke in support of the Social Studies Framework.
28. Glenn Cassis, Executive Director, African-American Affairs Commission, spoke in support of the proposed Social Studies Framework. He noted the importance of a teacher development program to achieve success. A copy of Mr. Cassis' prepared statement is included in the official file of this meeting.

29. Included in the official file of this meeting is a letter dated December 3, 2014, from Dr. Janet Robinson, former Superintendent of the Newtown Public Schools, thanking Commissioner Pryor for his great support and efforts throughout the December 2012 tragedy that occurred in Newtown.

III. Consent Agenda

There were no items on the Consent Agenda.

IV. Executive Session

The Board did not meet in Executive Session.

V. Consideration of Minutes

A. November 5, 2014, State Board of Education Meeting

Ms. Hopkins-Staten moved, Dr. López seconded, that the Board postpone action on the minutes of the November 5, meeting, subject to the inclusion of language regarding follow-up to queries about the "Department's Update on Minority Teacher Recruitment and RESC Minority Teacher Recruitment Initiatives."

VOTE ON
MOTION TO

POSTPONE:	In Favor:	Benham, Hopkins-Staten, Jaskiewicz, Jones, Keavney-Maruca, López, Mojica, Taylor, Vrabely
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	Wright
	Absent:	0

Motion to postpone carried unanimously.

VI. Items Requiring Action

A. CTHSS Trade Reauthorization: Manufacturing and Transportation Cluster; and Presentation by Students

Ms. Hopkins-Staten moved, Mr. Jaskiewicz seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-95i (b) of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the following trades for the period January 2015 to January 2020:

Manufacturing Career Cluster

Automated Manufacturing Technology

Mechatronics (formerly Electro-Mechanical Technology)

Precision Machining Technology (formerly Manufacturing Technology)

Mechanical Design and Engineering Technology (formerly Computer Aided

Drafting & Design)

Statutes, establishes a Personnel Search Committee and appoints thereto the voting members of the State Board of Education and the Chairman of the Board of the Connecticut Technical High School System; and

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education charges said Personnel Search Committee with responsibility for submitting to the State Board of Education for its consideration not later than January 7, 2015, a candidate to be named as Interim Commissioner of Education, and directs the Chairperson to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

MOTION: In favor: Benham, Hopkins-Staten, Jaskiewicz, Jones, Keavney-Maruca, López, Mojica, Taylor, Vrabely, Wright
 Opposed: 0
 Abstained: 0
 Absent: 0

Motion carried unanimously.

D. Adoption of New Assessments for Educator Certification:

- Early Childhood Test
- Reading Specialist Test
- Praxis II Elementary Education Multiple Subjects Subtests:
 Reading, Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies
 and Science

Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Mrs. Keavney-Maruca seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (b) of Section 10-145f of the Connecticut General Statutes, adopts the following subject area assessments for the certification in the areas listed, effective September 1, 2015*:

Test Name	Required for the following Certification Endorsement(s)	Minimum Scale Score
Early Childhood Test <i>(*Test will be piloted between January 1, 2015, and August 31, 2015)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated Early Childhood/Special Ed., Nursery - Kindergarten; and Elementary Grades 1-3 (#113) 	240
Reading Specialist Test <i>(*Test will be piloted between January 1, 2015, and August 31, 2015)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remedial Reading & Remedial Language Arts, Grades 1 – 12 (#102); and 	240

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading and Language Arts Consultant, PK - Grade 12 (#097) 	
Praxis II Elementary Education Multiple Subjects Subtests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Language Arts Subtest (5002) • Mathematics Subtest (5003) • Social Studies Subtest (5004) • Science Subtest (5005) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elementary Grades K-6 (#013) or Elementary Grades 1-6 (#305) 	165 171 166 170

unless such person meets requirements for an exemption from such testing requirements as provided in subsection (f) of Section 10-145f of the Connecticut General Statutes, and discontinues the following test effective January 1, 2015:

Praxis II Principles of Learning and Teaching Grades K-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elementary Grades K-6 (#013) or Elementary Grades 1-6 (#305)
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and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action:

The Board recessed its meeting at 12:20 p.m.

The Board reconvened its meeting at 1:25 p.m.

D. Adoption of New Assessments for Educator Certification (continued)

Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded, to table this resolution to January 7, 2015.

VOTE

TO

TABLE: In Favor: Benham, Hopkins-Staten, Jaskiewicz, Jones, Keavney-Maruca, López, Mojica, Taylor, Vrabely, Wright
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: 0

Motion to table carried unanimously.

E. Policy to Support Implementation of the Appropriate Subject Area Master's Degree Statutory Requirement

Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Ms. Hopkins-Staten seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (g) of Section 10-145b of the Connecticut General Statutes, grants initial approval for the recommended policy identifying appropriate subject matter area master's degrees for any person who is issued a Connecticut educator certificate for the first time on or after July 1, 2016, and who is then applying to advance a certificate from the provisional to the professional level on or after July 1, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education requests that the Department convene a small stakeholder meeting in early January 2015 and report back to the Board the results of that meeting as well as any recommended changes to the initially approved policy, for the Board's consideration of final approval at its February 2015 meeting; and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Dr. López moved, Mr. Wright seconded, that policy be amended by changing the requirement for a minimum number of semester hours of graduate credit or the equivalent from 12 to 15 hours in content or content-pedagogy coursework, either as part of or in addition to a master's degree.

VOTE

TO

AMEND:	In favor:	Hopkins-Staten, Jones, Keavney-Maruca, López, Mojica, Wright
	Opposed:	Benham, Jaskiewicz, Taylor, Vrabely
	Abstained:	0
	Absent:	0

Motion to amend carried.

VOTE

ON

MOTION AS

AMENDED:	In Favor:	Benham, Hopkins-Staten, Jaskiewicz, Jones, Keavney-Maruca, López, Mojica, Taylor, Vrabely, Wright
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	0
	Absent:	0

Motion as amended carried unanimously.

VI. F. Initial Adoption of Social Studies Framework

Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded that, the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education has publicly reviewed the proposed Connecticut Elementary and Secondary Social Studies Framework (Framework), at various stages of its development; and

WHEREAS, the Writing Team for the Framework has consisted of 35 people, 33 of whom are affiliated with Connecticut public schools, school districts, or Connecticut institutions of higher education, and one of whom is the social studies consultant at the State Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, the State Department of Education and the Writing Team have made diligent efforts to share the principles, goals, and work product of the effort to develop the Framework with interested members of the public and the profession; and

WHEREAS, the reviews of the draft Framework have been enthusiastically favorable; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education recognizes that despite the outreach efforts made to date, more remains to be done to inform and obtain feedback from the public—especially members of local boards of education and members of the Connecticut General Assembly; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the State Board of Education hereby grants initial approval of the Connecticut Elementary and Secondary Social Studies Framework; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the State Board of Education requests that the Writing Team, with the assistance of the Department, continue its outreach to the public and gathering of responses to the Framework for two more months, with special attention to members of local boards of education and members of the General Assembly; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a report of the results of those outreach efforts, along with any recommended changes to the Framework based on consideration of additional comments received during those efforts, be presented to the Board and that the Framework, with any recommended changes, be placed on the agenda of the February 2015 meeting for consideration of final approval by the State Board of Education.

VOTE ON

MOTION:	In Favor:	Benham, Hopkins-Staten, Jaskiewicz, Jones, Keavney-Maruca, López, Mojica, Taylor, Vrabely, Wright
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	0
	Absent:	0

Motion carried unanimously.

By unanimous consent, the Board added to the agenda and moved the following resolution.

VI.G. Resolution in Recognition of Stefan Pryor

Whereas, Stefan Pryor served as Connecticut's Commissioner of Education from September 2011 through December 2014; and

Whereas, under Commissioner Pryor's leadership, Connecticut has raised its standards for educators and students; provided additional supports to districts; implemented a system of accountability for results and continuous improvement; developed and implemented a model cooperative structure, involving school districts, educator representatives, and institutions of higher education, to improve teacher preparation and readiness; supported schools and districts interested in implementing a competency-based, personalized learning model of education; and made notable progress toward closing achievement gaps; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Connecticut State Board of Education accepts with deep regret the pending departure of Stefan Pryor, and extends to him appreciation for his service to the State of Connecticut and best wishes for continued success in his professional endeavors.

VOTE ON

MOTION:	In Favor:	Benham, Hopkins-Staten, Jaskiewicz, Jones, Keavney-Maruca, López, Mojica, Taylor, Vrabely, Wright
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	0
	Absent:	0

Motion carried unanimously.

Each Board member expressed his/her thoughts, admiration, respect and gratitude for Commissioner Pryor's dedication to and successful work on behalf of Connecticut's public schools and wished him success in his future endeavors.

VII. Items for Discussion

A. Computer Science/Coding Standards Programming

Commissioner Stefan Pryor stated that there is incredible growth in computer science-related jobs. At the Board's direction, a committee was formed and held its first meeting and is now prepared to present an overview of work planned in this area. Commissioner Pryor introduced Chief Academic Officer Dianna Roberge-Wentzell, who in turn introduced Jennifer Michalek, an Education Consultant in the Academic Office, who gave a presentation on "Education and Careers in the U.S. The Future of Computer Science," a copy of which is in the official file of this meeting. Discussion followed.

VIII. Report of the Chair

Chairman Allan Taylor referenced his written report, as follows:

Teacher of the Year Ceremony

The Teacher of the Year Ceremony held last evening was, once again, a remarkable event in honor of each district teacher of the year, as well as the state Teacher of the Year and finalists. Joining me at the ceremony were Erin Benham, Bob Trefry, Steve Wright and Maria Mojica.

Achievement First-Hartford

Reported on earlier in the meeting.

Educator Preparation Advisory Committee

The EPAC will meet on Friday, December 5, 2014, 12:00 p.m. to 4 p.m. at OHE Board Room, 61 Woodland Street, Hartford. The following will be addressed:

- Provide a report from each of the subcommittees;
- Solicit your feedback on subcommittee recommendations; and
- Discuss a timeline and plan for 2015 development activities and implementation.

Charter School Renewals

Board members were invited to serve as the chair at six hearings planned to consider renewal of charter schools. To date, the following members have volunteered:

<u>Member</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Hearing Date</u>
Robert Trefry	New Beginnings Family Academy	February 24, 2015
Estela López	Odyssey	February 25, 2015

IX. Report of the Commissioner

Commissioner Pryor expressed his appreciation to the Board members for their kind comments and for challenging the Department and providing support during his tenure. He also thanked the State Department of Education team members for their work, particularly noting his gratitude to his Chief of Staff, Adam Goldfarb.

Commissioner Pryor highlighted recent indicators of progress in Connecticut, including Connecticut's #1 ranking among participating states on the Grade 12 NAEP Reading test, coupled with a reduction of nine points in the achievement gap between white and non-white students; four consecutive years of rising high school graduation rates; and other measures). He thanked teachers, principals, superintendents, students and families for their work toward this progress.

He then acknowledged that there is room for continued growth and a need to consider additional measures to address the "rough edges" of reform efforts. Future efforts, he noted, should concentrate on ensuring that students are well-rounded in literacy, numeracy, the sciences (including computer science), civics, the arts, and physical fitness. Further, we must continue to build on our efforts to provide more instruction and less testing, as well as to link health and human services to schools to alleviate the effects of poverty on education. Commissioner Pryor added that it would be appropriate to broaden the public dialogue about educator evaluation to also include preparation, evaluation, and

support. Regarding school accountability, he recommended that a strong system would address these questions: (1) What should schools be designed to do? (2) What resources must be provided to schools to support them? (3) How should we measure their results in a way that broadens the current focus on math and English scores?

Commissioner Pryor introduced Bureau Chief Ajit Gopalakrishnan, who presented a Power Point to the Board, "Next Generation Performance Accountability for Districts and Schools." A copy of Mr. Gopalakrishnan's presentation is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.

Patricia Keavney-Maruca left the meeting at 3:50 p.m.

X. Financial Matters

Kathy Demsey, Chief Financial Officer, reported on the Governor's deficit mitigation plan and its impact on the State Department of Education. She stated that the total rescission to the Department's budget was under \$4 million. The Connecticut Technical High School System budget was reduced by \$1.6 million. She noted that \$944,000 was taken from the mastery test budget, but that this amount is offset by the lower cost of the Smarter Balanced assessment. She added that the Common Core line item was reduced by \$315,000.

XI. Committee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessment

Mr. Wright reported that the Next Generation Science Standards are on track. The committee is now looking at 11th grade testing issues.

B. Accountability and Support

No report was given.

C. Finance, Audit, and Budget

No report was given.

D. Legislation and Policy

Ms. Hopkins-Staten reported that the Committee met this morning and discussed guidelines for policy makers regarding culturally responsive education. A protocol for use of the simulation (e.g. Nature's Classroom), will be sent to superintendents, as a reminder. Children should be given the option to opt out of a simulation if they do not want to participate.

A. Connecticut Technical High School System Board

Legislative proposals for the Technical High School System will be presented to the Legislation and Policy Development Committee Board in January 2015.

B. NASBE

Mr. Taylor reminded the Board that NASBE is requesting participants to be part of different study groups.

Chairman Allan Taylor adjourned the meeting at 4:11 p.m.

Signed: _____
Dianna R. Wentzell, Secretary

