

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

**ANNUAL RETREAT
August 7, 2014**

Draft Minutes

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State and on posted on the agency's web site, the Connecticut State Board of Education held a retreat on August 7, 2014, at the Mark Twain House, Hartford, Connecticut.

Present: Michael Caminear, student member
Megan Foell, student member
Theresa Hopkins-Staten
Charles A. Jaskiewicz III
Terry H. Jones
Patricia Keavney-Maruca
Estela Lopez
Allan B. Taylor
Robert Trefry, ex officio
Joseph J. Vrabely Jr.
Stephen P. Wright

Absent: Gregory W. Gray, ex officio

Chairman Allan Taylor called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Kristen Amundson, Executive Director of the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE), facilitated the retreat session.

Board members discussed how they operate as a Board, highlighting their areas of strength and areas to focus on in the coming year(s). When surveyed, Ms. Amundson noted that the Connecticut State Board of Education consistently spoke of respect for others' opinions, and maintaining a focus on academic achievement, with a shared sense of accountability.

Other topics covered included the following:

- the importance of improving communication between the Department and the Board, and enabling the Board to better communicate with the public and other stakeholders;

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- following up with individuals who appear before the Board during public participation at regular meetings;
- working effectively and proactively with legislators;
- developing a policy review process;
- an evaluation process for the Commissioner;
- completing the development of the five-year comprehensive plan; and
- developing clear, quantifiable measures and a timetable for assessing progress toward meeting the Board's goals.

The Board engaged in small group discussions of ways to enhance communication and work related to long-range and succession planning, in light of the potential for several new Board members.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Stefan Pryor, Secretary
State Board of Education