

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

Accountability and Support Committee

Monday, February 6, 2017
450 Columbus 6 North Meeting Room A
Hartford, Connecticut

Minutes

I. Call to Order

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, Committee Chairperson Dr. Estela López called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

Committee Dr. Estela López, Chairperson
Members Present: Erin D. Benham
 Robert J. Trefry
 Malia Sieve

Committee William Davenport
Member Absent:

Staff Present: Desi Nesmith
 Iris White
 Peter Haberlandt
 Louis Todisco
 Robert Kelly
 Felicia Canty
 Carla Ghostlaw

Guests Present: Dr. Reginald Mayo, Interim Superintendent of New Haven Public Schools
 Janet Brown-Clayton, Principal of Lincoln-Bassett Community School
 Dr. Aresta Johnson, Interim Superintendent of Bridgeport Public Schools
 Michele Cerino, Principal of Luis Munoz Marin School

II. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Erin Benham, seconded by Malia Sieve, the committee voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the January 9, 2017, meeting of the Accountability and Support Committee.

III. Lincoln-Bassett Community School, New Haven

Mr. Nesmith expressed pleasure in having Lincoln-Bassett School as part of the Commissioner's network. The redesign of their leadership team has enabled them to increase students' academic performance.

Dr. Reginald Mayo highlighted the great school leadership management, Principal Brown-Clayton is providing at Lincoln-Bassett School. Ms. Brown-Clayton updated the committee on the strategies she is implementing to change school climate; including increasing parent engagement. She also reported on the academic and instructional piece. Ms. Brown-Clayton described the roles within Lincoln Bassett's leadership team consisting of a math coach, a literacy coach, a school operations officer, a school climate coach, and a data and technology coach. She also explained how they increased student accountability by openly discussing expectations with their leadership team. Data is improving with a decrease in suspension rate by 12.2 percentage points from the 2013-14 baseline year to 2015-16. The school staff analyzes data consistently and make adjustments accordingly. One of the challenges for Lincoln-Bassett has been to decrease chronic absenteeism. Their transience rate went from 16 percent to 9 percent. Lincoln-Bassett created the Eagle's Landing closet which consists of school community partners that provide boots, shoes, and uniforms to the students.

IV. Luis Munoz Marin School

When Principal Michele Cerino joined Luiz Munoz Marin School, she had to make difficult decisions about where to focus her improvement efforts in Year One of the Network. Her first priority was to create a safe learning environment by improving the school's climate and culture through implementation of Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS). In their first year, Marin had 112 Out-of-School Suspensions (OSS). Last year they had 45 OSS, and currently have 17 OSS year to date. Principal Cerino summarized the school's focus on culture and climate and building a safe environment, as well as focusing on their professional development plan. This year the implementation is focused on providing embedded coaching to teachers and developed a teacher leadership team that focused on sustainability and offered teachers an opportunity to have conversations around improving their practice. The majority of their students are English learners. There is a bilingual classroom at every grade level and dual language classrooms from K-3. The school is bringing non English and English speaking students together and they are provided Spanish instruction. Dr. Lopez recommended that Luis Munoz Marin School do more to meet growth targets to show credibility of investment.

V. Charter Approval Preview, Elm City College Preparatory, Achievement First Bridgeport Academy, and Amistad Academy

Desi Nesmith, reminded the committee of the Achievement First Bridgeport Academy, Amistad Academy and Elm City College Prep charter renewal resolutions going before the State Board for its consideration at the March 1, 2017 meeting. The committee was provided with a brief history of the schools. The charter renewal process was outlined including the site visits to the schools and the public hearings held in their respective host cities. He also indicated that the renewal recommendations were being finalized and the complete renewal information for each school would be made available to the full Board later this month.

VI. Charter Management Organization Agreements (CMOs)

Peter Haberlandt and Louis Todisco from our Legal Office gave an overview of the Charter Management Organization Agreements to the committee. At the March 1, 2017, State Board meeting, the three Achievement First CMO agreements will go to the board for consideration. These CMO agreements will be presented to the board after the board renewal decision on all three Achievement First charter schools. Committee members were briefed on the similarities between these agreements and the prior Achievement First CMO that was approved in September 7, 2016. Committee members were appreciative of the legal office bringing this item to their attention.

VII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Prepared by: Carla Ghostlaw