

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

**Legislation and Policy Development Committee Meeting
January 3, 2018**

**Minutes
(Approved 2/14/18)**

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Board of Education Legislation and Policy Development Committee met in the North Plaza, Meeting Room J, State Office Building, Hartford, Connecticut, on January 3, 2017.

I. Call to Order

Committee Chair Joseph Vrabely called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m. Also present were Committee members: Erin Benham, William Davenport, Donald Harris, Terry Jones, and Malia Sieve. State Board of Education Member Estela López honored us with her presence.

Also present for all or part of the meeting were the following Department of Education Staff members: Chief of Staff Laura Stefon, Chief Operating Officer Charlene Russell-Tucker, Chief Talent Officer Sarah Barzee, Legal Director Peter Haberlandt, Staff Attorney Matthew Venhorst and Recorder Mildred Pagán.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

On a motion made by Committee Chair Vrabely and seconded by Erin Benham, the Committee unanimously approved the minutes of the December 6, 2017, Legislation and Policy Development Committee meeting.

III. Legislative Proposals

Committee Chair Vrabely introduced Chief of Staff Laura Stefon. Ms. Stefon gave an overview of another set of five legislative proposals to be introduced to legislation after SBE approval. The proposals were discussed and voted upon favorably by the Committee. Each proposal is included in the State Board of Education meeting materials, which are available on the State Board's website at:

http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/pdf/board/boardmaterials010318/Adoption_of_2018_Legislative_Proposals.pdf

IV. Overview of Opportunities for Regional Collaboration

Committee Chair Vrabely introduced Legal Director Peter Haberlandt who then presented SDE Staff Attorney Matthew Venhorst. Mr. Venhorst gave an overview and background on the statutory procedures regarding regional school district formation and dissolution. Mr. Venhorst used the regionalization efforts of Norfolk and Colebrook as an example, noting that these towns

studied the issue of regionalization several years ago but the matter failed in referendum. As a result, a regional district never was formed in those districts.

Mr. Venhorst also reviewed procedures regarding the dissolution of a regional school district, noting that the statutes require a committee to study this issue and, if the committee deems dissolution to be advisable, a referendum of all interested towns. The Region 11 School District, which consists of the towns of Chaplin, Hampton, and Scotland, recently formed a committee to study the issue of dissolution. After the committee studied the issue for one year, the committee determined that dissolution was not advisable. This matter will soon come before the State Board of Education. Mr. Venhorst noted that regionalization is a long-term arrangement between school districts. However, school districts can cooperate and collaborate in myriad other ways that do not require formal regionalization.

A discussion ensued followed by a question and answer session. Committee Chair Vrabely asked that this interesting topic be presented to the State Board of Education.

Committee Chair Vrabely thanked the SDE staff for their presentations and everyone for attending the meeting.

V. Other Matters

VI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mildred Pagán, Recorder