

**CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
Hartford**

**Legislation and Policy Development Committee Meeting  
September 5, 2018**

**Minutes**  
(Approved 10/3/2018)

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, 450 Columbus Blvd., Hartford, Connecticut, on September 5, 2018.

**I. Call to Order**

Committee Chair Joseph Vrabely called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. Also present were Committee members: Erin Benham, Donald Harris, William Davenport, and Malia Sieve.

Board Member Robert Trefry honored us with his presence as well.

Absent: Terry Jones

Presenters: Dr. Sarah Barzee, Chief Talent Officer; Dr. Katie Moirs, Education Consultant and Committee Chair Vrabely.

Also present for all or part of the meeting were the following Department of Education staff members: Chief of Staff/Legislative Liaison Laura Stefon; Chief Financial Officer Kathy Demsey; Sheff Office Director Glen Peterson; Legal Director Peter Haberlandt; Attorney Robin Cecere 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 June 6, 2018, Legislation and Policy Development Committee meeting.

**III. ACES Alternate Route to Certification for Library Media Specialist (ARCLMS) Program (State Continuing Approval)**

Committee Chair Vrabely introduced Chief Talent Officer, Dr. Sarah Barzee, who talked about evaluation findings for the Alternate Route to Certification for Library Media Specialist (ARCLMS) program continuing approval review conducted during May 2018. Dr. Barzee then introduced Dr. Katie Moirs who continued the presentation.

Dr. Moirs explained that ARCLMS is a cross endorsement, alternate route to certification (ARC) program that prepares licensed, experienced Connecticut teachers for positions as School Library Media Specialists, K-12. It is a one-year program that currently remains fully approved by the CSBE through September 30, 2018.

Dr. Moirs indicated that Connecticut is transitioning to a new model for educator preparation provider program approval, including ARC programs. Under this new model, ARCLMS will be on a seven-year approval cycle. It will be required to submit to the CSDE an Institutional Report that describes any program modifications (e.g., new courses) for continued approval.

Dr. Moirs explained that although Connecticut does not require a licensure assessment for the Library Media Specialist endorsement, ARCLMS is considering adopting the Educational Testing Service Praxis II Library Media Specialist Test for providing additional data to inform candidate preparation, especially in the area of program administration.

Dr. Moirs stated that during a meeting on May 24, 2018, the CSDE Review Committee unanimously recommended full continuing approval for the period October 1, 2018, through November 30, 2025, with annual progress monitoring.

A discussion ensued with committee members asking a variety of questions, which Dr. Barzee and Dr. Moirs responded to accordingly.

On a motion made by Committee Chair Vrabely and seconded by Erin Benham, the Committee unanimously approved forwarding the ACES ARCLMS program for consideration to the full Board later today.

#### **IV. Relay Alternate Route to Certification (ARC) (State Continuing Approval)**

Dr. Barzee also spoke about evaluation findings for the Connecticut Relay Graduate School of Education, Alternate Route to Certification program (CT Relay/GSE ARC) from the continuing approval visit, conducted on May 2, 2018. Dr. Barzee then turned it over to Dr. Moirs who continued the presentation.

Dr. Moirs explained that the CT Relay/GSE ARC is a part time, non-degree, non-credit bearing program designed for non-certified staff members (e.g., paraprofessionals and others) employed in local Connecticut school districts in partnership with CT Relay/GSE ARC. It is a two-year program that was granted initial approval by the CSBE from November 2, 2016 to October 31, 2018. Additionally, the CT Relay/GSE ARC promise to Connecticut is to recruit and retain candidates of color for Connecticut schools, particularly high need districts.

Dr. Moirs indicated that CT Relay/GSE ARC hosted an on-site, continuing approval visit in New Haven, Connecticut. During the one-day visit, the CSDE visiting team evaluated progress that CT Relay/GSE ARC has made during the first two years of program implementation. The visiting team determined that the program is partially meeting state requirements.

Dr. Moirs stated that during a meeting on May 24, 2018, the CSDE Review Committee unanimously recommended provisional approval for three years for CT Relay/GSE ARC, with an annual progress report required and a focused, on-site visit required in two years to ascertain the program's progress meeting full state requirements.

A discussion ensued with committee members asking a variety of questions, which Dr. Barzee and Dr. Moirs responded to accordingly.

On a motion made by Committee Chair Vrabely and seconded by Erin Benham, the Committee unanimously approved forwarding the CT Relay/GSE ARC program for consideration to the full Board at the October meeting.

**V. Discussion Regarding State Board of Education Position Statement on Public School Choice**

Committee Chair Vrabely introduced this topic to Committee members. He explained that it was the focus of discussion at the August CSBE retreat and based on the interest in this subject expressed by some Board members, he thought it would be a good idea to start a discussion at the September Committee meeting.

A discussion ensued with Board members and CSDE staff discussing the legal, legislative and fiscal aspects of the various choice programs of public education in Connecticut.

Committee Chair Vrabely indicated that there needs to be more discussion on the matter and asked that this topic be included on the agenda at the October Committee meeting.

Committee Chair Vrabely thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

**VI. Other Matters**

**VII. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mildred Pagán, Recorder