

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Hartford**

**The Legislation and Policy Development Committee**

Wednesday, October 2, 2019, 8:30 a.m.  
State Office Building, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, Connecticut  
Conference Room: **North Plaza, Meeting Room J**

**Minutes**

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 October 2, 2019.

**I. Call to Order**

Acting Committee Chair Erin Benham called the meeting to order at 8:43 a.m. Also present were Committee members: Donald Harris, and Malia Sieve.

Presenters: Christopher Todd, Talent Office Bureau Chief.

Also present for all or part of the meeting were the following Department of Education (SDE) staff members: Legal Director Jessa Mirtle; and Paralegal and Recorder Thomas Sousa.

**II. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

A question was raised related to the necessary parties to constitute a quorum. Pending review and legal input, a vote to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2019, Legislation and Policy Development Committee meeting was deferred to the next scheduled meeting.

**III. Relay Program Update**

Christopher Todd, the Bureau Chief for the State Department of Education Talent Office, presented a preliminary report on the status of the Relay Program. Mr. Todd discussed the enrollment and program completion data for students in the Relay Graduate School of Education, Alternate Route to Certification Program. He noted that the program successfully was expanding its partnerships with school districts, and explained the unique model Relay has established, providing certification guidance, content area and assessment support for up to five years to its students. Mr. Todd also reviewed the demographics of the individuals attending, completing, and successfully attaining a Connecticut teaching certificate. Of those students who successfully completed content knowledge exams, an estimated 64% identified as educators of color. It was noted that there is expected to be a more reliable and complete update next fall, when an annual progress report will be submitted by the program.

#### **IV. Other Matters**

Acting Committee Chair Benham noted for the Committee that she requested a meeting with the Legislative Education Committee Co-Chairs, to discuss the priorities of the Board. She also indicated additional discussion would be had at future meetings related to choice programs and funding.

The attending members discussed what they would like to address in this Committee, as a matter of future agendas. In particular, Committee Member Sieve noted she would ask for the SDE to highlight for the Committee where it is prioritizing action in line with the Strategic Plan, to allow for their input. Committee Member Harris echoed this sentiment, and also noted that broad updates from the SDE on departmental initiatives would be appreciated, such as related to the impact of the new expulsion guidance. He emphasized his interest in having the Board and Department continue a dialogue related to desegregation and addressing race-based inequities. The Committee members all affirmed their commitment to continued conversation about equity and cultural competency in the educational sector.

#### **V. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 9:28 a.m.