

**Connecticut State Board of Education**  
**Hartford**

Minutes of the Academic Standards and Assessment Committee Meeting  
Monday, September 14, 2020

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State and posted on the agency's website, the Academic Standards and Assessment Committee (hereinafter "Committee") met virtually on Monday, September 14, 2020 via GoToMeeting. This virtual meeting was [livestreamed](#) to allow for public access.

Committee Chair Erik Clemons called the meeting to order at 9:35am.

Present: Erik M. Clemons, Chair  
Estela López  
Martha Paluch Prou  
Awilda Reasco  
Malia K. Sieve

Absent: none

Staff Present: Ajit Gopalakrishnan, Chief Performance Officer  
Irene Parisi, Chief Academic Officer  
Gladys Labas, Director of Equity and Language  
Melissa Hickey, Director of Reading Instruction  
Stephen Armstrong, Social Studies Consultant

Guests Present Nitza Diaz, SERC  
Paquita Jarman-Smith, SERC  
Michelle LeBrun-Griffin, SERC

Call to Order: Chairperson Erik Clemons called meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

I. Approval of minutes for June 22, 2020 Academic Standards and Assessment Committee meeting

Motion to move Martha Paluch Prou, Estela López, second; 0 opposed. Motion carried.

II. African American/Black and Puerto Rican/Latino Course of Studies

Irene Parisi, Chief Academic Officer introduced her colleagues who were working on this new curriculum on the African American/Black and Puerto Rican/Latino Course of Studies. Her colleagues at the agency Dr. Melissa Hickey, Director of reading and literacy and director of Perkins who has been championing this work from the beginning, Dr. Gladys Labas, Director of Languages and Equity and Stephen Armstrong, Education Consultant for k12 Social Studies.

Gladys Labas stated that this is ground breaking and exciting curriculum hoped that this curriculum will be made more viable to students in Connecticut. She introduced Michelle LeBrun-Griffin, Paquita Jarman-Smith, and Nitza Diaz from SERC to present the curriculum to the SBE.

Michelle shared the history of the legislation and gave a detailed description of the course including its full credit elective nature, its two semester focus, the 10 units of studies, and its alignment to the social studies framework. She also discussed the curriculum development process that involved extensive practitioner input and an expert panel review.

Paquita Jaman Smith reported on the Outline of Units of Study Semester One on the African American Black studies that looks at the African origins of humanity, explores the movement for equality and justice, and gives students the opportunity to build classroom cultures for honest, safe conversations.

Nitza Diaz reported on Semester two for Puerto Rico and Latino cultures which focuses on the perspectives of the indigenous groups, the treatment of Latinos throughout American history, major resistances to power, and the contributions of Puerto Ricans/Latinos.

Board members asked clarifying questions and made suggestions in terms of course content, approach, assessment, and evaluation. The full curriculum will be brought to the subcommittee at its November meeting. Board members will have an opportunity to review the materials in advance of that meeting.

### III. New Data Collections to Support Student Engagement

Ajit Gopalakrishnan provided an update on two data collection that will support student participation in 2020-21. This includes weekly collection on learning models and remote learning, and a monthly collection of student-level data on attendance that is separated by remote and in-person days. He indicated that CSDE is working with districts and student information system vendors to lessen the burden on districts. Board members appreciated the efforts on the part of CSDE and the local districts and educators to conduct this level of data collection and monitoring.

### IV. CT Learning Hub

Irene provided an update on the CT Learning Hub and the resources contained on the hub and how they are can be used by students, educators, and parents. She spoke about the partnerships that were developed with several public and private entities to expand the reach of the hub. She also mentioned the RFP whose goal was to provide universal, free access to high quality, high impact online instructional resources and curricula to support all districts. She ended by acknowledging several of her CSDE colleagues for their collaboration. At the request of the Board, Irene share some usage statistics.

### VI. Committee Chair Erik Clemons adjourned meeting at 11:01am

Motion to adjourn Estela López first, Martha second.