

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION Hartford

Accountability and Support Committee

Wednesday, January 15, 2020
450 Columbus Plaza North Hearing Room J
Hartford, Connecticut

Minutes (Approved March 11, 2020)

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 3:00 p.m.

Committee Dr. Estela López, Chairperson
Members Present: Erin D. Benham
 Donald F. Harris, Jr.
 William Davenport

Committee
Member Absent: None

Staff Present: Desi Nesmith
 Lisa Lamenzo
 Leslie Navarrete

Guests Present: None

II. Approval of Minutes

Donald F. Harris, Jr. moved, Erin Benham seconded, that the committee approve the minutes of the December 11, 2019 Accountability and Support Committee meeting.

Vote: In Favor: López, Benham, and Harris
 Abstained: Davenport
 Opposed: 0
 Absent: 0

III. Turnaround Office Updates

Deputy Commissioner Desi Nesmith and Turnaround Office Bureau Chief Lisa Lamenzo presented SBE Accountability and Support Committee members with Turnaround Office updates which focused on strengthening support and accountability and enhancements to the programs managed by the office. These updates included, revisions to the Commissioner's Network Application through input from principals, district leadership, and interagency partners. Revisions to the application are geared to encourage applicants to develop a clear and concise action plan that addresses root causes for each section of the TACO (Talent, Academics, Culture and Climate, and Operations) framework, while developing measures to track the school's progression and emphasizing on fiscal and program transparency.

Bureau Chief Lamenzo also highlighted SBE members' participation in school visits over the past year, increasing visibility, accountability and support to schools and districts. She shared that the feedback from the field has been positive and welcoming to additional opportunities to highlight progress. Another update included the utilization of ESSA milestone targets, developed by the Performance Office, within district and school improvement planning, including Alliance District plans, Commissioner's Network plans, and Charter School's corrective action plan. The goal is for all districts and schools to use common metrics when setting goals and evaluating progress. The Deputy Commissioner highlighted the structural and content changes to the Alliance District (AD) Symposium. The feedback received from Alliance Districts drive the content presented at the symposium. Since the structural and content changes, district attendance has significantly improved. In addition, there is more emphasis on cross-agency collaborations and external partnerships to deliver best practices. School districts are also invited to present on their successful efforts at the symposium. Similar changes have been adopted with the NetStat Sessions, the Turnaround Office's school level professional development series.

Bureau Chief Lamenzo described that the changes were driven by school leadership feedback and data trends. This year, the three NetStat modules focus on mathematics, student attendance, and school culture and climate. Each module consists of a yearlong continuous learning opportunity, which is reflective and action-oriented. In terms of charter school updates, the office has streamlined corrective action planning processes to reflect school improvement best practices. In addition, Bureau Chief Lamenzo described the collaboration across CSDE's offices to offer various support opportunities for charter schools. She went on to highlight the recognition of Side by Side Charter School's science program by Learn Together, Grow Together CT.

The Board members commended all the progress realized in the Turnaround Office.

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

Prepared by: Leslie Navarrete