

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

**Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
January 8, 2020
(Approved February 6, 2020)**

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, January 8, 2020, in Plaza North Meeting Room C and D of the State Office Building, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, Connecticut.

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Allan Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m.

Present: Allan B. Taylor, Chairperson
Estela López, Vice Chairperson
Erin D. Benham
Milan Chand, Student Member
Sophia H. Chin, Student Member
Erik M. Clemons
William P. Davenport
Donald F. Harris, Jr.
Dr. Jane Gates (designee representing Mark Ojakian, Ex Officio)
Malia K. Sieve
Robert J. Trefry, Ex Officio

Absent:

II. Public Participation

1. Thomas Stringfellow, a resident of Manchester, addressed the Board on several matters, including movie and reading recommendations.

III. Executive Session

On a motion by Dr. López, seconded by Mrs. Benham, the Board voted unanimously to move into executive session at 9:50 a.m. for the purpose of discussing pending litigation matters. Present in executive session were Board members Mrs. Benham, Mr. Chand, Ms. Chin, Mr. Clemons, Mr. Davenport, Mr. Harris, Dr. López, Dr. Gates, Mrs. Sieve, Mr. Taylor, and Mr. Trefry. Also, present for executive session were Commissioner Miguel Cardona, Legal Director Jessa Mirtle, SDE Attorney Robin Cecere, Assistant Attorney General Ralph Urban and Associate Attorney General Erik Lohr, and Staff Assistant Aldith Dewar.

On a motion by Dr. López, seconded by Mrs. Benham, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn its executive session and reconvene in public session at 10:49 a.m.

Present: Allan B. Taylor, Chairperson
Estela López, Vice Chairperson
Erin D. Benham
Milan Chand, Student Member
Sophia H. Chin, Student Member
Erik M. Clemons
William P. Davenport
Donald F. Harris, Jr.
Malia K. Sieve
Robert J. Trefry, Ex Officio

Absent: Mark Ojakian, Ex Officio

IV. Consideration of Minutes

A. December 4, 2019, State Board of Education Meeting

Mrs. Benham moved, Dr. López seconded, that the Board adopt the minutes of the December 4, 2019, State Board of Education Meeting.

VOTE ON

MOTION:	In favor:	Benham, Clemons, Davenport, Harris, López, Sieve, Taylor
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	0
	Absent:	0

Motion carried unanimously.

The Board unanimously agreed to move the agenda out of order to consider agenda item VII, Report of the Commissioner.

VII. Report of the Commissioner

Commissioner Cardona opened his report by expressing that our thoughts are with the troops being sent to the Middle East and the people in Puerto Rico with the earthquakes. He expressed that these events will have an impact on the students of Connecticut.

Commissioner Cardona reported that December was a great month. He highlighted the following:

- Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) CSDE Capacity Review
- Visited with various Districts
- Professional Development Opportunity – Trauma-Informed Restorative Practices

- Presented at the CAFE New Member Board Orientation/Leadership Conference
- Guest of TalkED: The ReadyCT Podcast

Well Done!

CSDE Involvement in presentations throughout the state/area in December

- Family Engagement Symposium
- Galvanize CT – Women and Girls Empowerment Symposium
- EdSight/CT Report Cards
- CAFE New Member Orientation
- High School Graduation Flexibilities – EdAdvance Curriculum Council
- CT Teacher of the Year Celebration
- New England Task Force on Diversifying Workforce – MA
- University Principal Preparation Initiative meeting – NY

The Commissioner thanked and complimented CSDE Board of Education Student Members Sophia Chin and Milan Chand for their presentations at the Connecticut Teacher of the Year ceremony on December 4, 2019, at the Bushnell. He congratulated Megan Hatch-Geary, the 2020 Connecticut Teacher of the Year.

Welcome!

The Commissioner welcomed Chris Soto, Director of Innovation and Partnerships, and invited Mr. Soto to be recognized by those in attendance.

Congratulations!

Marquis Harris

2020 Alma Exley Scholarship Recipient, University of St. Joseph. Mr. Harris is interested in returning and teaching at Wilby High School in Waterbury.

Student Voice!

Chelsea Bailey

Senior, East Hartford High School. Miss Bailey launched a blog: *"A Little Bit Different, A Lot The Same."* Miss Bailey is on the swim team, a member of the National Honor Society, and is college bound.

CSDE Professional Learning Opportunity

Commissioner Cardona spoke on the success of the first professional development session, Trauma-Informed Schooling, held on December 20, 2019. He introduced the next session, Introduction to Mindfulness and Self-Care, being held on Thursday, January 23, 2020. The Commissioner extended an invitation to members of the Board to attend.

V. Items Requiring Action

The Board considered agenda item V.A., Adoption of Legislative Proposals, at this time.

A. Adoption of Legislative Proposals

Chief of Staff/Legislative Liaison Laura Stefon introduced and discussed the Connecticut State Department of Education's 2020 Legislative Proposals. Discussion was held and edits were requested by the Board.

Dr. López moved, Mr. Davenport seconded, that the State Board of Education adopts these 2020 Legislative Proposals and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

MOTION:	In favor:	Benham, Clemons, Davenport, Harris, López, Sieve, Taylor
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	0
	Absent:	0

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Draft Digital Citizenship, Internet Safety, and Media Literacy Guidelines and Recommended Actions

Dr. López moved, Mr. Harris seconded, that the State Board of Education, in support of Public Act 17-29 Adopts the Draft Digital Citizenship, Internet Safety, and Media Literacy Guidelines and Recommended Actions.

VOTE ON

MOTION:	In favor:	Benham, Clemons, Davenport, Harris, López, Sieve, Taylor
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	0
	Absent:	0

Motion carried unanimously.

VII. Report of the Chair

Chairperson Taylor reported that he attended the 2020 Teacher of the Year Reception and Ceremony that was held at the Bushnell.

VIII. Financial Matters

Chief Financial Officer Kathy Demsey provided a brief financial update on the SDE budget. Ms. Demsey reported that OPM anticipates some rescission shortfall.

Dalio Foundation – Board of Directors Update

Erik Clemons, a governing member of the Dalio Foundation's Board of Directors, provided an informational update on Board activities. Mr. Clemons stated that the Board of Directors has gone from process to real purpose and shared the job positions that have been hired. He indicated that the Board of Directors is currently in the process of interviewing for a Chief Executive Officer and is down to a pool of six candidates. Mr. Clemons expressed that certain things cannot be publicly discussed.

The Board recessed the meeting at 12:13 p.m.

The Board reconvened the meeting at 1:10 p.m.

Present: Allan B. Taylor, Chairperson
Estela López, Vice Chairperson
Erin D. Benham
Milan Chand, Student Member
Sophia H. Chin, Student Member
William P. Davenport
Donald F. Harris, Jr.
Dr. Jane Gates (designee representing Mark Ojakian, Ex Officio)
Malia K. Sieve
Robert J. Trefry, Ex Officio

Absent: Erik M. Clemons
Mark E. Ojakian, Ex Officio

X. Items for Discussion

A. Agency Update

Chief of Staff Laura Stefon provided a PowerPoint summary of the Capacity Review the Department of Education underwent, which was conducted by the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). The CCSSO Stakeholder Engagement consisted of approximately 16 stakeholders. Ms. Stefon highlighted the following:

Agency Staff Survey and CSDE Actions:

- In August 2019, Commissioner Cardona conducted an Agency Staff Survey
- Increased SDE communication through social media (Facebook and Twitter)

- Created Miguel's Memo, an internal newsletter to SDE agency team
- A series of professional development opportunities
- Commissioner Cardona keeps "office hours" at pop-up locations throughout the agency. He finds an available location and sets up his office.

A Capacity Review Rubric represented:

- Vision and Planning
- Department Culture
- External relationships and communication

Major Takeaways were summarized as:

- Communication on the Plan
- Staff and Stakeholders are energized
- Begin the process to develop a new 5-year Plan
- Continue to provide staff with professional development opportunities
- Keep lines of communication open
- Systemize best practices to avoid variations in procedures

Ms. Stefon also highlighted the succession planning for anticipated retirements in 2022 and beyond. She stated that statewide there was a 45% eligibility and 60% eligibility for the Department.

Ms. Stefon finished with a summary of Going Forward:

- Create routine opportunities for two-way communication between SDE and districts.
- Continue to provide data in a timely manner. Chief Performance Officer Ajit Gopalakrishnan and his team were thanked for providing data.

Ms. Stefon concluded that the CCSSO feedback and staff survey would continue to drive our plans and goals moving forward.

Commissioner Cardona thanked Ms. Stefon for the overview. He informed the Board that they would be kept updated on the CCSSO feedback. The Board requested a copy of the PowerPoint.

[Milan Chand and Sophia Chin left the meeting at 1:30 p.m.]

Overview: A Balanced and Purposeful System of Assessment

Prior to agenda item, X.A., a panel consisting of Chief Performance Officer Ajit Gopalakrishnan, Superintendent of Winchester Melony Brady-Shanley, and Director of Curriculum and Professional Development at Region 18 Michelle Dean provided a presentation on "A Balanced and Purposeful System of Assessment."

The presentation provided illustrations of why assessments are performed in K-12 education. Every assessment has a purpose, but one assessment cannot service too many purposes. The types of assessments used in education were outlined as:

- State Summative – an overall performance
- Interim Blocks – Periodic a few times per year (not overall performance)
- Formative – A process used by teachers during instruction throughout the year

Ms. Dean stated that assessment testing needs to be streamlined in support of education. She spoke on the balance of integrated assessment, greater awareness, and more interdepartment ownership. She stated that teachers should be helped as to how to use data since it does not happen naturally.

Ms. Brady-Shanley spoke on the integration of teachers with assessments and analyzing what the assessment is informing. She aligned curriculum with Interim Block assessment. She stated that we should whittle down with less testing and scale back on assessments. There is a need to measure and intervene.

Commissioner Cardona thanked Ms. Brady-Shanley and Ms. Dean for their attendance and participation. The Commissioner extended an invitation for them to prepare a ten-minute clip of their assessment success for the SDE's Learn Together, Grow Together CT.

B. 2018-19 Next Generation Science Standards Assessment Results

Chief Performance Officer Ajit Gopalakrishnan provided a PowerPoint presentation on the NGSS assessment results. The NGSS was defined as a set of learner outcomes designed to engage all students in practicing science. The learner outcomes are driven by an equity mindset. It has a 3-dimensional performance expectations of being proficient in science (i) Practices, (ii) Content, and (iii) Crosscutting. Mr. Gopalakrishnan spoke on Professional learning and the support of teachers, interim Assessments and promising practices, the NGSS Timeline and NGSS results.

XI. Committee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessment

The next meeting will be held on February 24, 2020.

B. Accountability and Support

Dr. López reported that the committee met on December 11, 2019. Stamford Academy in Stamford, and Great Oaks Charter School in Bridgeport presented to the committee.

C. Finance, Audit, and Budget

No report was presented.

D. Legislation and Policy Development

Mrs. Benham reported that the committee did not meet that morning. The next meeting will be held on February 6, 2020.

E. Connecticut Technical Education and Career System Board

CTECS Chairman Trefry provided a follow up summary on the tragic death of the two students from W.F. Kaynor Technical High School in Waterbury. Mr. Trefry conveyed Superintendent Wihbey's account of support activities. He stated that CTECS' priority had been to provide support to the students, staff, and families. He reported that Kaynor Tech assembled the school's crisis team and provided grief counseling to students and anyone else in the school community; extra substitutes were made available for teachers; and support staff walked hallways and checked in on staff. The Kaynor Tech community created memorial banners, signed a toolbox and electrical belt for the two students; collected candles for a vigil service; and bus transportation was organized to transport students to the candlelight vigil and services. Superintendent Wihbey conveyed his gratitude to Commissioner Cardona and Scott Newgass at the State Department of Education.

F. NASBE

No report was presented.

Chairperson Taylor adjourned the meeting at 2:23 p.m.

Prepared by: _____
Dr. Miguel A. Cardona, Secretary
State Board of Education