

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

**Minutes
Special State Board of Education Meeting
April 23, 2020
(Approved May 13, 2020)**

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State and posted on the agency's Web site, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met via teleconference on Thursday, April 23, 2020. A conference call line was provided to allow individuals who wished to listen to the Board's proceedings.

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Allan Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

Staff Assistant to the Board, Aldith Dewar, took an attendance roll call.

Present: Allan B. Taylor, Chairperson
 Estela López, Vice Chairperson
 Erin D. Benham
 Bonnie E. Burr
 Milan Chand, Student Member
 Sophia H. Chin, Student Member
 Erik M. Clemons
 Karen DuBois-Walton
 Elwood Exley, Jr.
 Donald F. Harris, Jr.
 Martha Paluch Prou
 Malia K. Sieve
 Robert J. Trefry, Ex Officio

Absent: Mark Ojakian, Ex Officio
 Awilda Reasco

II. Executive Session

Chairperson Taylor requested a motion to go into Executive Session for the consideration and recommendation of the appointment of Chief Academic Officer.

On a motion by Dr. López, seconded by Ms. Burr, the Board voted unanimously to move into executive session at 9:42 a.m. to discuss a personnel matter. Present in executive session were Board members Mrs. Benham, Ms. Burr, Mr. Chand, Ms. Chin, Mr.

Clemons, Dr. DuBois-Walton, Mr. Exley, Mr. Harris, Dr. López, Mrs. Prou, Mrs. Sieve, Mr. Taylor, and Mr. Trefry. Also, present for executive session were Commissioner Miguel Cardona, Deputy Commissioner Desi Nesmith, candidate Irene E. Parisi, Office of the Commissioner Executive Office Manager Ann Marie Hitchery, and Staff Assistant Aldith Dewar. Mrs. Reasco was absent.

On a motion by Mrs. Benham, seconded by Ms. Burr, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn its executive session and reconvene in public session at 10:12 a.m.

The Board reconvened its special meeting at 10:12 a.m.

Present: Allan B. Taylor, Chairperson
Estela López, Vice Chairperson
Erin D. Benham
Bonnie E. Burr
Milan Chand, Student Member
Sophia H. Chin, Student Member
Erik M. Clemons
Karen DuBois-Walton
Elwood Exley, Jr.
Donald F. Harris, Jr.
Martha Paluch Prou
Malia K. Sieve
Robert J. Trefry, Ex Officio

Absent: Mark Ojakian, Ex Officio
Awilda Reasco

Commissioner Miguel Cardona thanked the Board members for their presence and flexibility in attending the meeting. He also thanked all who were listening into the meeting and expressed wellbeing of their families. The Commissioner thanked everyone for their support of the State Department of Education, the leadership team, and members of the SDE who were on the call for the work that is done on behalf of the students of Connecticut.

III. Appointment of Chief Academic Officer

Commissioner Cardona presented to the Board that he was recommending Irene Parisi for the vote of the Board as the Chief Academic Officer for the Connecticut State Department of Education. The Commissioner summarized Ms. Parisi's background, experience, technical skills, and leadership skills would make Ms. Parisi the best candidate for the state. He indicated that with Ms. Parisi's joining our dedicated and committed team, we are not only going to address issues that the pandemic has caused, but propel the success of our

learners in Connecticut for years to come. We want to continue to raise the bar for all our students and Ms. Parisi joining our team would help us on that path. Commissioner Cardona requested that the Board consider Irene Parisi as the top candidate for the Chief Academic Officer position.

Mrs. Benham moved, Mr. Harris seconded, that the Board approve the following Consent agenda item: III, Appointment of Chief Academic Officer. Aldith Dewar conducted a roll call vote.

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-2a of the Connecticut General Statutes and its Bylaws, appoints Ms. Irene Parisi as Chief Academic Officer, effective April 27, 2020, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

MOTION:	In favor:	Benham, Burr, Clemons, DuBois-Walton, Harris, López, Prou, Sieve, Taylor
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	0
	Absent:	Exley*, Reasco

*Mr. Elwood Exley was inadvertently disconnected from the meeting at the time of the vote, and he later communicated his affirmative for the appointment of Irene Parisi as Chief Academic Officer which would have made the vote 10:0.

Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. López moved, and Mr. Clemons seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. The Board members unanimously agreed.

The meeting adjourned 10:17 a.m.

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