

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

**Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
May 13, 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 GoToMeeting on Wednesday, May 13, 2020. This virtual meeting was livestreamed (<https://youtu.be/fUJSIqLijVE>.) to allow for public access.

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Allan Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:30 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.
Dr. Jane Gates (designee representing Mark Ojakian, Ex Officio)
Martha Paluch Prou
Awilda Reasco
Malia K. Sieve
Robert J. Trefry, Ex Officio

Absent: None

II. Public Participation

Chairperson Taylor stated that public participation had been received online and the public comments were available on the website.

III. Executive Session

The Board did not meet in executive session.

IV. Consideration of Minutes

A roll call vote was taken for the Minutes.

A. March 4, 2020, State Board of Education Meeting

Mrs. Benham moved, Dr. López seconded, that the Board adopt the minutes of the March 4, 2020, State Board of Education Meeting.

VOTE ON

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

B. March 16, 2020, State Board of Education Special Meeting

Mrs. Benham moved, Dr. López seconded, that the Board adopt the minutes of the March 16, 2020, State Board of Education Special Meeting.

VOTE ON

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

C. April 23, 2020, State Board of Education Special Meeting

Mrs. Benham moved, Dr. López seconded, that the Board adopt the minutes of the April 23, 2020, State Board of Education Special Meeting.

VOTE ON

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

Motions carried unanimously.

V. Report of the Commissioner

Commissioner Cardona opened with a special recognition of thanks and appreciation to student Board members, Sophia and Milan, who are high school seniors.

The Commissioner made the following acknowledgements:

- He welcomed Chief Academic Officer, Irene Parisi to the agency team.
- He welcomed Dr. Gladys Labas, Director of Equity and Language to the agency team.
- He welcomed Board member Mr. Woody Exley to his first public Board meeting.
- He thanked Ajit Gopalakrishnan and Matt Falconer and for their technical administration of the virtual meeting format.
- He expressed appreciation to all who had submitted on-line public comments.

Commissioner Cardona provided a summary of some of the activities at the agency. He shared that the agency was working on a reopening plan for Connecticut schools and expressed that this was an important undertaking that would require tremendous collaboration, coordination, and communication with partners throughout the State of Connecticut.

He highlighted the following agency activities:

- Bi-weekly conference calls with superintendents.
- Weekly educational partner calls with presidents of AFT, CEA, CAPSS, CABE, and CAS.
- Agency participation in three or four calls a week with the Council of Chief State School Officers.
- The Educational Supports and Wellness area of our agency has supported the serving of approximately 4 million meals in the State of Connecticut since the pandemic took place.
- CSDE partnership with the Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS) to implement the Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer Program (P-EBT).
- Increased efforts to provide social emotional support and guidance support to districts.
- CSDE's professional support series for districts and families.
- A heavy focus on Special education guidance and support.
- Providing flexibility for districts and educators where it is needed to allow districts to adjust to their needs.
- The Academics and Innovation area of our agency is working to make sure that we are identifying the needs of districts, as well as, connecting with the districts that have the most challenge connecting with students to provide more targeted support.

- The creation of four resource guides with updates on professional learning opportunities for families and districts to engage with students for academic learning with free resources for districts.
- The Learn from Home Task Force with the support of Superintendents Nate Quesnel and Paul Freeman have worked to see to it that the donation of 60,000 laptops and 200,000 sets of materials make their way to students right away. Our Academics and Innovation Department is working with the Learn from Home Task Force.
- CARES Act. The Commissioner reiterated that we are going through an unprecedented time and all sectors are going to be affected by this pandemic. We have to make sure that we are supporting our learners by ensuring that we are providing equity and access to learning despite the pandemic and we are going to continue to do that as an agency.

Commission Cardona concluded his report by stating that these are just some of the examples of things that we are doing and the work that is going to keep us moving forward into the summer.

The Board members then engaged Commissioner Cardona in discussion.

VI. Items Requiring Action

There were no Action agenda items for consideration.

VII. Report of the Chair

Chairperson Taylor did not provide a report.

VIII. Financial Matters

Chief Financial Officer Kathy Demsey provided an update on the CARES Act funding. Ms. Demsey reported that the State of Connecticut applied for and was eligible to receive \$111 million in CARES Act funding under the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund.

IX. Consent Agenda

Chairperson Taylor confirmed with the Board members that no report was being removed from the Consent agenda.

A roll call vote was taken for the Consent agenda.

Dr. López moved, Mrs. Reasco seconded, that the Board approve the following Consent agenda items: IX.A., Request for Finance Advisory Committee (FAC) Action, IX.B., Request for Finance Advisory Committee (FAC) – CTECS, IX.C., Approval of Commissioner's Network

Extension for New Britain High School, New Britain, IX.D., Approval of Commissioner's Network Turnaround Plan: Pulaski Middle School, New Britain, IX.E., Approval of Commissioner's Network Turnaround Plan: Slade Middle School, New Britain, IX.F., Approval of Commissioner's Network Turnaround Plan: Smalley Elementary School, New Britain, IX.G., Approval of Commissioner's Network Turnaround Plan, Hartford Public High School, Hartford, and IX.H., Approval of New Educator Preparation Program: Relay Graduate School of Education (Relay/GSE), Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) Program.

A. Request for Finance Advisory Committee (FAC) Action

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education approves the request for Finance Advisory Committee (FAC) action to transfer funding from the Education Cost Sharing and State Charter School Accounts to the Other Expenses Account, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

B. Request for Finance Advisory Committee (FAC) – CTECS

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education approves the request for Finance Advisory Committee (FAC) action to transfer funding from the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System (CTECS) Personal Services Account to the CTECS Other Expenses Account, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

C. Approval of Commissioner's Network Extension for New Britain High School, New Britain

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-223h of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves continued participation of New Britain High School, New Britain, in the Commissioner's Network for an additional year commencing July 1, 2020, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action, including, but not limited to, expending such funds as may be necessary to execute and implement the foregoing.

D. Approval of Commissioner's Network Turnaround Plan: Pulaski Middle School, New Britain

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-223h of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended by Section 258 of Public Act 15-5, adopts and approves the Turnaround Plan for Pulaski Middle School in New Britain for the Commissioner's Network, subject to the conditions noted in the Commissioner's May 13, 2020, Executive Summary to the State Board of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action, including, but not limited to, expending such funds as may be necessary to execute and implement the foregoing.

E. Approval of Commissioner's Network Turnaround Plan: Slade Middle School, New Britain

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-223h of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended by Section 258 of Public Act 15-5, adopts and approves the Turnaround Plan for Slade Middle School in New Britain for the Commissioner's Network, subject to the conditions noted in the Commissioner's May 13, 2020, Executive Summary to the State Board of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action, including, but not limited to, expending such funds as may be necessary to execute and implement the foregoing.

F. Approval of Commissioner's Network Turnaround Plan: Smalley Elementary School, New Britain

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-223h of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended by Section 258 of Public Act 15-5, adopts and approves the Turnaround Plan for Smalley Elementary School in New Britain for the Commissioner's Network, subject to the conditions noted in the Commissioner's May 13, 2020, Executive Summary to the State Board of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action, including, but not limited to, expending such funds as may be necessary to execute and implement the foregoing.

G. Approval of Commissioner's Network Turnaround Plan, Hartford Public High School, Hartford

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-223h of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended by Section 258 of Public Act 15-5, adopts and approves the Turnaround Plan for Hartford Public High School in Hartford for the Commissioner's Network, subject to the conditions noted in the Commissioner's May 13, 2020, Executive Summary to the State Board of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action, including, but not limited to, expending such funds as may be necessary to execute and implement the foregoing.

H. Approval of New Educator Preparation Program: Relay Graduate School of Education (Relay/GSE), Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) Program

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-145d-9(g)(2)(B) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, grants provisional approval for the period May 6, 2020 through October 31, 2021, to the Relay Graduate School of Education (Relay/GSE) for a Master of Arts (MAT) program, with ongoing continuing approval status to be determined based on evaluation findings from a September 16, 2020 on-site visit, for the purpose of recommending candidates from Relay/GSE in the following endorsement areas:

E. Connecticut Technical Education and Career System Board

CTECS Chairman Trefry and Superintendent Jeffrey Wihbey presented an update on distance learning that the system started on March 30, 2020. They provided multiple examples of teachers being innovative in teaching to compensate for the loss of the hands-on component in the trades. Students were provided with resource guidance on where to get free breakfast and lunch, as well as guidance on social-emotional support for the parents and the professional resources for educators. CTECS has donated well over a thousand pounds of food throughout Connecticut along with goggles, gloves, and respirators to the first responders early on in the process. The students used the 3-D printers make face masks. Discussion ensued.

F. NASBE

No report was presented.

Chairperson Taylor adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

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