

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

**Minutes
State Board of Education Retreat
August 5, 2020**

(Approved September 2, 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") held a virtual retreat session on Wednesday, August 5, 2020, via GoToMeeting. A conference call line was provided to the virtual meeting to allow for public access to the Board's proceedings.

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Allan Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:39 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
Erik M. Clemons
Karen DuBois-Walton
Martha Paluch Prou
Awilda Reasco*
Malia K. Sieve
Robert J. Trefry, Ex Officio

Absent: Donald F. Harris, Jr.
Elwood Exley, Jr.
Mark Ojakian, Ex Officio

II. Opening Comments, Objectives for the Day

Chairperson Taylor opened the Retreat with welcoming comments and appreciation to the Board members for their commitment to attending the Retreat.

III. Bylaws Review and Update

Chairperson Taylor introduced agenda item III. with Board member Erin Benham, Chair of the Legislation and Policy Development Committee, and Legal Director Jessa Mirtle.

Chair Benham summarized that the review of the Bylaws came out of the Legislation and Policy Development Committee and that the prevailing Bylaws were not amended the prior year as the committee did not have a quorum. She stated that the new committee had reviewed the Bylaws. Legal Director stated that it was appropriate to amend the Bylaws on each odd number year.

Discussion ensued regarding (i) the scheduling of meetings, (ii) format and time allotted for public participation; (iii) question of an equity committee, and (iv) and the parliamentary authority of Robert's Rules of Order.

*[Awilda Reasco arrived to the meeting at approximately 10:12 a.m.]

IV. 2020-21 School Reopening Update

Chairperson Taylor introduced agenda item IV. Commissioner Cardona opened by sharing that the opportunity to listen to the Board's discussions helps to understand the perspective of the Board.

Commissioner Cardona summarized that based on the entries of the Reopening Plans submitted, there was a need for plan flexibilities especially with high schools. Some plans may require some form of hybrid. "Remote only" must be based upon the recommended range of leading and secondary indicators. We continue to work with the Department of Public Health.

Commissioner Cardona stated that we must keep track of moving data, look at the trends, and surveys. He indicated that not all schools are built the same. The Commissioner referenced the Healthy Tuesday meetings being held under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Charlene Russell-Tucker for health decisions.

Discussion ensued concerning (i) districts' submission of the three plans, (ii) funding, (iii) status on teachers, and (iv) assessments and equity gap.

V. Planning for the next State Board of Education Five-Year Comprehensive Plan

Chairperson Taylor introduced agenda item V. Commissioner Cardona presented an overview of the Five-Year Plan background Bridge to Serve. In December the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) performed a review of the agency with feedback. The SDE started using the CCSSO feedback in January and has been engaged with the Leadership Team. There will be a CCSSO input phase to the Board. CCSSO will be connected with the Five-Year Plan.

The Commissioner concluded that at the forefront, friends of equity and access, and blended learning will be needed.

VI. Charter Schools Overview

Chairperson Taylor introduced agenda item VI. with Deputy Commissioner Desi Nesmith and Division Director Lisa Lamenzo, Turnaround Office. They presented a comprehensive charter school PowerPoint overview that encompassed:

- What? Who? Why? Charters were established as non-profit, public schools, subject to federal and state laws governing public schools.
- Renewal Process
- Funding and Transportation
- 2019-19 Charter School, Host District and State Accountability Indices
- Accountability – The Turnaround Office oversees the charter schools.
- Support and Resources

Discussion ensued regarding (i) standards for charter schools, (ii) parent engagement, and (iii) accountability.

VII. Logistics of In-Person September Meeting

Chairperson Taylor introduced and spoke on agenda item VII. He stated SBE's resolve to hold an in-person September meeting. Staff Assistant Aldith Dewar provided the Board with the preliminary logistics in anticipation of the SBE members working towards returning to 450 Columbus Boulevard. She summarized some preliminary considerations to be explored were (i) the governing executive order, (ii) directives from the 450 building management on building accessibility, (iii) room set up arrangement of Room C & D for social distancing, (v) face marks or face covering requirements, and (iv) technology support for public accessibility.

Ms. Dewar concluded that we have taken preliminary steps to put the target of an in-person September meeting into action. The Board will be updated on the status of an in-person meeting being permissible.

VIII. Adjourn

Commissioner Cardona provided closing remarks to the Board to inform them of the objective to move away from using executive orders for policy. He provided them with a notice of the need for an imminent special meeting.

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 12:03 p.m.

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