

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Legislation and Bylaws Committee Meeting

July 2, 2008
8:30 a.m.
State Office Building
Hartford, CT

MINUTES

Members Present

Beverly Bobroske, Janet Finneran and Jay Voss.

Staff Present

Mark McQuillan, George Coleman, Karen Flanagan, Katherine Nicoletti and Marybeth Aleskwiz.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m.

II. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes from the June 4, 2008, meeting were approved with no changes.

III. Discussion of 2008 Legislative Session

Katherine Nicoletti updated the committee on the establishment of the new BEST Task Force that will develop a plan to replace the current BEST program (P.A. 08-107). Mark McQuillan stated that he will chair the BEST Task Force and that planning is just getting started. Discussion followed.

Mrs. Nicoletti also mentioned that additional new legislation requires, by February 1, 2009, that the Commissioners of Education, Higher Education, and Developmental Services, along with the President of SCSU, define autism and developmental disabilities and develop recommendations for a comprehensive statewide plan for teaching students with autism (P.A. 08-169 and S.A. 08-5).

IV. Other

Commissioner McQuillan continued the discussion from last month's meeting regarding his list of tasks to be completed over the summer and fall, which includes a revision to the process by which the Legislation and Bylaws committee develops legislative proposals. The committee reviewed the proposed timeline again. The Commissioner would like to have a more

streamlined and efficient process in order to produce a complete and comprehensive package of legislative proposals. The Committee discussed the timeline and the vital role of SDE staff. Commissioner McQuillan also stated that the Board's assistance in prioritizing issues is also a vital component to producing a package. Discussion followed on ways to meet the timeline.

There was discussion on the secondary school reform effort and proposed changes to the way teachers are certified. It was noted that the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee is studying teacher certification and may have some legislative proposals concerning certification for the 2009 session.

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marybeth Aleskwiz

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