

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Janet M. Finneran, Chair
Lynne S. Farrell
Theresa Hopkins-Staten
Patricia B. Luke

Minutes of the Meeting of
September 3, 2008

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Janet Finneran called the meeting to order at 1:37 p.m. The meeting was held in Room 305 of the State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut. Present were Ms. Finneran and Ms. Luke. Absent were committee members Theresa Hopkins-Staten and Lynne Farrell. Also present were Commissioner McQuillan, Deputy Commissioner Coleman, Bureau Chief Barbara Westwater, Associate Commissioner Charlene Russell-Tucker, Assistant to the Commissioner Pamela Bergin, Associate Commissioner Barbara Beaudin, Education Consultant Joanne White, Education Consultant Patty Foley, and Education Manager Marlene Lovanio.

II. Approval of Minutes

By unanimous consent, the committee approved the minutes of the July 23, 2008, Policy Development Committee meeting.

III. Revised Draft Position Statement on International Education

Mrs. Luke submitted to Mr. Coleman a copy of the position statement with grammatical edits. She noted that this statement is not consistent with the one the Committee just completed on science education, as it does not outline specific guidelines or best practices.

Mr. Coleman noted that he will review the statement and incorporate what actions districts could take to facilitate the development of a sound international education program.

IV. Position Statements for Consideration in 2008-09

Discussion of the chart on "Position Statements for Consideration in 2008-09" was postponed until the October meeting.

V. Draft Position Statement on English Language Arts

Committee members reviewed the first draft of the Position Statement on English Language Arts Education.

Committee members made the following recommendations to staff:

- Write out “English language learners” rather than using acronym;
- Cite the source pertaining to the recommended time to be devoted to the instruction of English language arts (i.e., International Reading Association), under the “elementary” and “secondary” sections.
- Consider whether we should incorporate a component that addresses English language learners;
- Rather than cite several publications in the first paragraph of the position statement, say what those publications represent;
- Stress the centrality of literacy;
- Emphasize the difference between spoken and written language, and note the importance of literature in a comprehensive program; and
- Second paragraph, change “A quality language arts education should be part of...” to “A quality language arts education must be part of...”.

Mr. Coleman suggested that the statement include a note that superintendents should ensure that satellite childcare programs be held accountable to the same performance standards as public school programs.

VI. Adjourn

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Prepared by: _____

Pamela V. Bergin
Assistant to the
Commissioner