

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
November 5, 2008

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Janet Finneran called the meeting to order at 2:50 p.m. The meeting was held in Room 305 of the State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut. Present were Ms. Finneran, Dr. Farrell, Ms. Hopkins-Staten and Ms. Luke. Also present were Commissioner McQuillan, Deputy Commissioner Coleman, Bureau Chief Barbara Westwater, Assistant to the Commissioner Pamela Bergin, Associate Commissioner Barbara Beaudin, and Education Consultant Daniel Gregg.

II. Approval of Minutes

By unanimous consent, the committee approved the minutes of the October 2, 2008, Policy Development Committee meeting.

III. Revised Draft Position Statement on International Education

Committee members discussed the Revised Position Statement on International Education and Exchange (draft dated October 27, 2008). Committee members agreed to the following changes:

- Reduce the statement further by eliminating duplication (i.e., remove language from statement that is contained in the accompanying guidelines).
- Remove the word "effectively" from the subheadings under the Guidelines and Definitions.

Ms. Hopkins-Staten questioned whether our budget and legislative proposals support international education and exchange.

Mr. Coleman replied that international education is much more discretionary, but is an important component of the secondary school reform initiatives.

Ms. Hopkins-Staten asked what incentives are offered to districts (page 1 of draft statement, third bullet from bottom) and what is being done to secure financial incentives; she recommended that this be included in the budget proposal.

Mr. Gregg noted that the Freeman Foundation has provided funds for sister-school projects.

Agreement was reached to review this statement again at the December 3 committee meeting.

IV. Position Statements for Consideration in 2008-09

Committee members reviewed the chart on "Position Statements for Consideration in 2008-09," showing which month statements were scheduled for presentation. This chart requires further work (i.e., all statements have not yet been scheduled for committee discussion). Committee members requested that the revised chart show the name of the staff member assigned primary responsibility for each statement. Further, when a new statement is being introduced, staff members are to share with the committee in advance of the initial discussion the key components they intend to include in the statement. This will be a starting point for committee members, and will allow them to give staff members direction in terms of areas they would like to focus on in developing a first draft of the statement (entry-age for kindergarten; gifted and talented/special needs; culturally responsive education; coordinated approach to health).

The chart will be revised and circulated to the committee in preparation for discussion on December 3.

Commissioner McQuillan raised the possibility of also developing a statement on Advanced Placement courses.

V. Other

Board members agreed to schedule an additional meeting to review the upcoming work plan and to hear presentations by Department staff members on the proposed key components of new position statements. Pamela Bergin will coordinate committee members' and staff members' schedules.

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VI. Adjourn

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Prepared by: _____
Pamela V. Bergin,
Assistant to the Commissioner