

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Legislation and Bylaws Committee

May 6, 2009
8:30 a.m.
State Office Building
Hartford, CT

MINUTES

Members Present

Beverly Bobroske, Janet Finneran and Jay Voss

Staff Present

Mark McQuillan, Karen Flanagan, Katherine Nicoletti, Jennifer Widness
and Carol Basile

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m.

Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes from the April 1, 2009, meeting were approved with no changes.

Legislative Update

The Education Committee Bill Highlights document that was e-mailed to SBE members was reviewed by Katherine Nicoletti and Jennifer Widness. There was discussion on S.B. 939, An Act Concerning Educator Certification and specifically the proposed 120 CEU requirement. Committee members indicated that they would like to continue with their position that the current 90 CEU hours remain.

There was also discussion on An Act Concerning High School Reform. Ms. Widness noted that this bill was referred to the Appropriations Committee last week. They met yesterday, and this bill was on their agenda, but they did not vote on it. This means, essentially, that the bill is now dead. She said she would be talking with the Education Committee Cochairs to see what their plans are for this bill. It was noted that Theresa Hopkins-Staten, a State Board member, had concerns about the special diplomas for completing the high school reform requirements, so Ms. Widness agreed to speak with her about this issue.

Commissioner McQuillan asked what our fall-back position was regarding secondary school reform and noted that between now and the June SBE meeting, this may need to be discussed and brought back to the committee.

It was also noted that the bill containing the proposal for the new program ("TEAM") to replace BEST also died in the Appropriations Committee last week. Mrs. Nicoletti indicated that there is money set aside by the Appropriations Committee for BEST, so perhaps the new program will be rolled into a larger budget bill.

The Committee decided that this "Highlights" document was very informative, so staff agreed to continue to provide it each month.

Mrs. Nicoletti reviewed the Log of Education Committee Bills and briefly explained the bills that were not already included in the Highlights. She noted that among these bills, two are now dead: AAC Middle College System and AAC Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care.

SBE Bylaws

Karen Flanagan explained that every odd year, the State Board's June meeting is an organizational meeting and the State Board's Bylaws are amended, if necessary. She asked Committee members if they had amendments and none were offered.

Mrs. Bobroske will present the Bylaws to the full State Board at today's meeting and request that if there are any amendments, they be sent to Pam Bergin. The Bylaws will then be voted on at the June SBE meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Basile