

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
Legislation and Bylaws Committee

June 3, 2009  
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, Jennifer Widness and Carol Basile

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 8:33 a.m.

**Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes from the May 6, 2009, meeting were approved with no changes.

**Legislative Update**

Katherine Nicoletti and Jennifer Widness updated the Committee on what had transpired at the legislature since the May 26 Legislative Highlights document was sent to the State Board. Mrs. Nicoletti noted that the General Assembly still did not have a budget and would need to go into special session. The one education bill that the General Assembly had been working on for the past few days was S.B. 939, AAC Educator Certification. It was passed by the House, as amended, the previous night and will now go back to the Senate. Ms. Widness distributed a summary of the bill and discussed the various provisions and highlighted the new provisions that had been added.

The proposal in S.B. 939 regarding the establishment of a new resident teacher certificate for teachers participating in programs such as Teach for America was discussed. A question was raised about the content expertise of these elementary teachers. Commissioner McQuillan suggested the Department study this issue, and he will talk to Barbara Beaudin, Associate Commissioner of the Division of Assessment and Accountability, about doing such a study.

It was noted that a section on graduation requirements was deleted from this bill by the House. Commissioner McQuillan and the Committee expressed disappointment that this proposal did not go forward. The Commissioner noted that whether it is a requirement or not, the State Board should move ahead anyway and write a position statement regarding the graduation requirements for secondary schools. The Department could work with pilot school districts. There was consensus of the Committee that this was a good idea.

Ms. Widness also noted that the bill regarding on-line learning, S.B. 947, contains a provision to raise the dropout age from 16 to 17. That bill is currently in the Senate awaiting passage.

### **E-Mail Procedures**

A question was raised about SBE members corresponding with each other via e-mail and whether that constituted an official "meeting." Karen Flanagan advised the Committee on this issue and discussion followed.

### **Retirements**

Mrs. Bobroske thanked the three staff members of the Committee who will be retiring as of July 1 – Karen Flanagan, Katherine Nicoletti and Carol Basile – and wished them well.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Carol Basile*