

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
February 24, 2009

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Janet Finneran called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. The meeting was held at the State Department of Education, Middletown Office, 25 Industrial Park Road, Middletown, Connecticut. Present were Committee Members Ms. Janet Finneran, Chair; Mrs. Patricia Luke, and Mrs. Theresa Hopkins-Staten (arrived at 10:10 a.m.). Dr. Lynne Farrell was absent.

Also present were Commissioner Mark McQuillan, Deputy Commissioner George Coleman, Associate Commissioners Marion Martinez, Charlene Russell-Tucker and Barbara Beaudin; Bureau Chiefs Paul Flinter, Barbara Westwater and Mark Linabury; Assistant to the Commissioner Pamela Bergin; and Education Manager Marlene Lovanio.

II. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Mrs. Luke, seconded by Ms. Finneran, the committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2009, Policy Development Committee meeting.

III. Draft Position Statement on Mathematics

Committee members discussed the Revised Position Statement on Mathematics and recommended some language changes. Department staff members will revise the statement accordingly, and will resubmit it for further discussion by the Committee at its March 4, 2009, meeting.

**IV. Proposed Key Concepts for New Statements or Statements
Requiring Substantial Revisions**

Committee members discussed and reached consensus on each of the templates displaying the key concepts for the following position statements:

- A. Education of Students With Special Needs
- B. Early Education: Preschool and Kindergarten
- C. Culturally Responsive Education

(Mrs. Hopkins-Staten arrived at 10:10 a.m.)

- D. Coordinated Approach to School Health
- E. Secondary Level Education (middle and high school)
- F. Creating a Physically, Emotionally and Intellectually Safe and Healthy Learning Environment

V. Position Statement on Infants and Toddlers

The committee concurred that no edits to this statement are necessary, and this statement should be presented to the full Board for adoption in April 2009. Discussion ensued regarding whether guidelines should accompany all statements. Agreement was reached that it is not necessary to develop guidelines for every statement; it will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Commissioner McQuillan noted that the document "First Steps" should be cited as a reference source on the Statement on Infants and Toddlers.

VI. Schedule for Presentation of Position Statements

Several changes were made to the schedule: Move the statements on "time" and "coordinated approach to school health" to April; Move "early education" and "culturally responsive education" to May; Move "secondary level education" and "student support services" to June.

VII. Draft Statement on Career Pathways Initiative

Staff members were asked to clarify what "dual credit" means, and to be consistent in all position statements with regard to the reference to prekindergarten through Grade 12.

The committee agreed to place this statement on the consent agenda for the April 1 meeting, but asked that sufficient information be provided for the benefit of newly appointed State Board of Education members, to ensure that they understand the background and purpose of the statement.

VIII. Draft Statement on International Education

Discussion ensued regarding proposed changes to make the statement more concise and clear. The importance of presenting a consistent position on world language throughout our position statements and other documents was discussed, as was the need to articulate "next steps" for districts and to encourage them via incentives (e.g., competitive grants) to apply our position statements to their work within the district. The committee agreed to place this statement on the consent agenda for the April 1 meeting, but asked that sufficient information be provided for the benefit of newly appointed State Board of Education members, to ensure that they understand the background and purpose of the statement.

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IX. Follow Up

The next committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 4, following the regular State Board of Education meeting. The committee will review revisions to the draft position statement on mathematics.

X. Adjourn

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Prepared by Pamela V. Bergin, Assistant to the Commissioner