

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Janet M. Finneran, Chair
Lynne S. Farrell
Hannah Klein
Patricia B. Luke

Minutes of November 16, 2009, Committee Meeting

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Janet Finneran called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. The meeting was held in room 305, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

Committee members Ms. Finneran, Dr. Farrell, and Mrs. Luke were present. Staff members in attendance were Commissioner Mark K. McQuillan, Assistant to the Commissioner Pamela Bergin, Deputy Commissioner George Coleman, Associate Commissioner Charlene Russell-Tucker, Associate Commissioner Marion Martinez, Associate Commissioner Barbara Beaudin, Bureau Chief Paul Flinter, Bureau Chief Deborah Richards, Education Consultant Andrea Brinnel, Education Consultant Bonnie Edmondson, Education Consultant Joann Frieberg, and Education Consultant Marie Glowski.

II. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Mrs. Luke, seconded by Dr. Farrell, the committee approved the minutes of the September 2, 2009, committee meeting.

III. Position Statement on the Education of Students Who are English Language Learners

Dr. Marie Glowski presented the revised statement to the committee.

Mrs. Luke recommended that the target audience of the position statement (i.e., policymakers) guide its contents; she added that certain information might be more appropriately placed in the accompanying guidelines for practitioners (e.g., program definitions). Mrs. Luke submitted several written edits to make the statement clearer and more succinct. She reviewed the statement after asking three questions: (1) What is the issue being addressed?; (2) What is our goal?; and (3) How do we accomplish it?

Commissioner McQuillan noted that the statement should address the need for professional development, to better prepare teachers to support English language learners.

The committee agreed that the statement required revisions, and would like to discuss it again at the next meeting.

IV. Draft Position Statement on Early Childhood Education

Education Consultant Andrea Brinnel presented an overview of the statement to the committee, noting that it addresses a broader age group, and supports the goals for

Connecticut's young children, outlined in *Ready by Five, Fine by Nine: Connecticut's Early Childhood Systems Framework*.

Ms. Finneran noted that pages 2 and 3 should be titled, "Guidelines," as they give direction to those who share responsibility for effective high-quality early childhood education.

Mrs. Luke submitted written edits to the statement.

Mr. Coleman noted that the statement should address access and affordability, as well as the importance of leadership and "ownership" in effective early childhood education.

Dr. Flinter stated that he will work with Ms. Brinnel to incorporate the role of community-based providers in making health insurance and social service referrals.

The committee agreed that the statement required revisions, and would like to discuss it again at the next meeting.

V. Position Statement on Creating a Healthy Learning Environment that is Physically, Emotionally and Intellectually Safe

Dr. Flinter introduced the statement, noting that it is a "blended" statement of two former position statements: Creating a Healthy School Environment and Supportive School Settings.

He noted that a healthy learning environment is directly correlated with positive student outcomes, achievement, relationships, etc.

Dr. Bonnie Edmondson and Dr. Joann Freiberg noted that the statement is research-based and was drafted to "punctuate" those research findings.

Mr. Coleman suggested that the word "personal" be inserted before the word "bias" in the third paragraph.

The committee agreed that further edits are required, and asked that the revised statement be presented to the committee for further discussion at its next meeting.

VI. Adjourn

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 2:03 p.m.