

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

Minutes of Workshop
October 20, 2009

(approved 11.4.09)

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") held a workshop on Tuesday, October 20, 2009. The workshop was held at the State Office Building, Room 307, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

I. Call to Order

Janet Finneran, Vice Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

Present:	Janet Finneran, Vice Chairperson Theresa Hopkins-Staten Hannah Klein (arrived at 1:40 p.m.) Hunter Kodama Kathleen O'Connor (via conference call) Jay Voss
Absent:	Allan Taylor, Chairperson Beverly Bobroske Lynne Farrell Patricia Luke Linda McMahon Michael Meotti, Ex-Officio

Ms. Finneran noted that the workshop was scheduled to allow for further discussion of specific topics: charter schools and educator evaluation. No action will be taken at this workshop.

II. Discussion of Legislative Proposals

Charter Schools

Commissioner McQuillan and Attorney Jennifer Widness, Division of Legal and Governmental Affairs, summarized those legislative proposals which the Board had reached consensus on at its October 7, 2009, and noted that those proposals will be resubmitted to the Board for action in November.

The Board discussed various options for funding charter schools and their impact on parity of funding between charters schools and other public schools, as well as on the local tax base and state budgets. Members also discussed the importance of considering whether charters are contributing to closing the achievement gap; whether we should use this opportunity to review the way we fund education in the long-term; what the demand is for more charters and to what extent and at what pace we should expand charter schools in Connecticut (not exclusively for the purpose of the Race to the

Top application); whether parents should have the right to say where they want their child(ren) to be educated; and the sustainability of funding of charters.

Hannah Klein arrived at 1:40 p.m.

It was agreed that the Department will follow up with the Legislation and Bylaws Committee at its November 4, 2009, meeting, regarding more specific funding and policy scenarios that might be considered for Connecticut's charter school legislation.

Educator Evaluation

Commissioner McQuillan and Associate Commissioner Marion Martinez introduced the issues concerning educator evaluation, including whether Connecticut can show evidence of a vigorous and robust method for evaluating teachers/administrators; the correlation between pay and student achievement; use of student data to improve instruction and learning; and multiple ways to measure effective instruction. Dr. Martinez summarized the contents of the National Comprehensive Center for Teacher Quality report, "A Practical Guide to Evaluating Teacher Effectiveness" (April 2009).

Discussion ensued regarding the existing "Guidelines for Teacher Evaluation" and whether this document, if more closely monitored, would continue to have value. Board members noted that we need to define what data are being referred to and what we mean by student achievement. The importance of communication regarding expectations for performance, ongoing professional development and supervision was discussed. A discussion of evaluation of administrators (e.g., principals) is also necessary, Commissioner McQuillan noted.

Board members agreed that the Department should investigate ways to make the document more current and useful, including the incorporation of the Connecticut Accountability for Learning Initiatives (CALI), applying other proven practices; incorporating content knowledge into an evaluation; and charging the state with responsibility for greater oversight to determine the effectiveness of educator evaluation at the district level, including reporting out and linking results to teacher preparation programs.

Commissioner McQuillan stated that no specific legislative changes are being proposed at this time, although this is subject to change as a result of additional information that may be presented next month.

Commissioner McQuillan told the Board that he anticipates that a report by a workgroup addressing these issues will be ready for discussion with the State Board of Education in December.

III. Adjourn

By unanimous consent, the workshop was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Mark K. McQuillan, Secretary