

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Legislation and Bylaws Committee

December 1, 2010
8:30 a.m.
State Office Building
Hartford, CT

APPROVED MINUTES

Members Present

Theresa Hopkins-Staten, Janet Finneran, Jay Voss, Neha Mehta and Patrick Campbell.

Staff Present

Mark McQuillan, George Coleman, Jennifer Widness and Paul Flinter.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:34 a.m.

Approval of October 6, 2010 Meeting and November 4, 2010 Meeting Minutes

The October 6, 2010, meeting and November 4, 2010, meeting minutes were approved unanimously on a motion by Janet Finneran, seconded by Theresa Hopkins-Staten.

Legislative Proposals

Attorney Widness asked committee members whether there were any outstanding questions pertaining to the legislative proposals. Theresa Hopkins-Staten inquired whether there were any plans to make additional proposals that would respond to the recommendations of the Commission on Educational Achievement. In particular, she felt that there was a need to provide specialized training for teachers and administrators working in urban districts. The Commissioner agreed and informed Ms. Hopkins-Staten that the RESCs, led by CREC, are developing an ARC for administrators that would focus on providing school leaders for urban districts. In addition, the Commissioner noted that he is a member of the legislature's Achievement Gap Task Force which is also working to develop legislative proposals to respond to the Commission's report. Ms. Hopkins-Staten stated that she feels it is important for the Board to take the lead on these issues.

Mr. Flinter then answered questions that the Committee members posed about the proposal to raise the eligibility age to enroll in adult education in order to be consistent

with the recent changes made to raise the drop out age. Committee members had some concerns about the types of alternative educational opportunities being offered to students that had been expelled and asked that further discussion be held on this issue in the coming months.

Sheff v. O'Neill Update

Deputy Commissioner Coleman presented to the Committee members the Department's long term proposal to meet the needs of the court order in the matter of Sheff v. O'Neill. Pursuant to the Stipulated Agreement entered into in April 2008, by 2012-13, the state will be required to meet the demand of 80% of Hartford-resident minority students who seek to enroll in an integrated educational setting.

The Department's proposal to meet this goal includes the creation of Crandall Innovation schools in suburban districts using existing school buildings that, in order to be eligible for financial incentives from the state, must enroll at least 25% of the school's student population from Hartford. In addition, once a student enrolls in a Crandall Innovation school in the district, that student would be eligible to remain enrolled in that district for the remainder of their academic career, as an OPEN Choice student.

In addition, in an effort to curb rising transportation costs, under the Department's proposal, Hartford and the surrounding region would be divided into four quadrants to regionalize the area and create efficiencies in transportation costs.

The Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner will present their proposal to representatives from the City of Hartford in December.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 a.m.