



Regular Meeting

April 10, 2026

Location: 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT
Conference Room G006D and *Virtual*

In Attendance:

James Marpe, for Chair Rochelle Palache (in person)
Thomas Ahneman (virtual)
Keith Brothers (virtual)
Lauren Gauthier (virtual)
Albert Ilg (in person)
Donna Karnes (virtual)
Salvatore Luciano (virtual)
Stuart Mahler (in person)
Jean Morningstar (virtual)
Brenda Sisco (virtual)

Gregory Daniels, Executive Director (in person)
Aaron Felman, Staff Attorney (in person)
Maritza Lopez, Accounts Examiner (in person)
Samson Anderson, Research Analyst (in person)

MINUTES

1. Call to Order: James Marpe introduced himself and shared that, at the request of Chair Rochelle Palache, he is chairing today's meeting. Chair Marpe called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.
 - a. Roll Call of Board Members: Attendance was confirmed as noted above.
2. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Approval of the minutes from the March 13, 2026, Regular Meeting
A motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Al Ilg
The motion was seconded by Brenda Sisco
The motion was passed unanimously.
3. Communications and Petitions
 - a. Sec. 4e-34 Disqualification of Contractor, Bidder or Proposer Subcommittee Report
No report
 - b. Sec. 4e-36 Contested Solicitations & Awards Subcommittee Report
Chair Mahler shared that a request was received from a vendor that was denied an award. Information on which a decision can be made is being gathered to complete our response

within the 30-day mandated timeframe. Additional information will be reported at a future meeting. Staff Attorney Felman confirmed that information has been received and is being reviewed.

c. Privatization Contract Committee Report: No report.

d. Audit/Data Analysis Work Group Report

In the absence of Chair Fernandez, Accounts Examiner Lopez shared a report. A special meeting was held on March 31, 2026. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on May 20, 2026 unless an earlier meeting is scheduled. Accounts Examiner Lopez shared that the Audit process was shared with the Work Group members. Since no members replied, Chair Fernandez has instructed her to resume the audit process.

Ms. Lopez thanked the staff and Board Members Palache, Fernandez, Mahler, Marpe, Karnes, Morningstar and Sisco for taking the Introduction to Audit course that was developed by our Training Specialist.

i. Budget Sub-Work Group Report: No report.

In response to Ms. Sisco's inquiry, Executive Director Daniels confirmed that legislatively our budget is still intact. Ms. Sisco explained that the Governor's Budget has been released and is being discussed at the legislative level to determine an interim budget by early May. She does not anticipate that our budget will be affected in this legislative session.

e. Statutes, Regulations, Policies and Procedures Work Group Report

i. Statutes, Regulations, Policies and Procedures Work Group Report

- Chair Ahneman reported that the Work Group met on April 7, 2026 and discussed draft Rules of Practice are at the Office of the Attorney General
- Data Protection Regulations have been completed and elevated to the Board for approval.
- A draft of the 4e-34 Regulations will be focused on in the coming months.
- A Regulatory Buildout is accompanying the adoption of these regulations.

At the request of Chair Ahneman, Research Analyst Anderson provided an update on legislation:

- SB469: AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STATE CONTRACTING STANDARDS BOARD passed out of committee as amended and is on Senate Calendar.

The SCSB submitted five legislative proposals. The legislature added a sixth proposal about SCSB assuming responsibility of posting waivers in excess of

\$10,000 on the State portal. Additionally, our request to amend the waiver threshold from \$10,000 to \$25,000 to be consistent with DAS thresholds was removed. In response, we submitted a response to the Office of Financial Accounts offering that there would not be a fiscal impact on SCSB.

- SB424: Auditors of Public Accounts has been tabled for the Senate Calendar. We are tracking that Bill.
- SB324: AN ACT CONCERNING GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT OVER FRAUD AND WASTE AND ESTABLISHING THE OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT AND EFFICIENCY has been tabled for Senate Calendar.
- SB462: AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT has been tabled for the Senate Calendar.

Both SB324 and SB462 create agencies that oversee waste and fraud and will overlap on our jurisdiction, but neither directly correlate to the work that SCSB does.

- SB251: Increases the authority of the APA. We are tracking this Bill because SCSB was mentioned during testimony of this Bill.
- Research Analyst Anderson shared that he attended the GAE legislative meetings; no additional meetings are scheduled at this time.
- Chair Ahneman attempted to raise the Data Protection Regulations to the Board level for approval at this meeting (as noted under New Business). Since Board members had not yet reviewed the materials, this item will be added to the agenda for the next regular Board meeting on May 8, 2026.
- The next meeting of the SRPP Work Group is scheduled to take place virtually on May 8, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

ii. Personnel Review Sub-Work Group Report: Nothing to report

iii. Chief Procurement Officer Selection Committee Report:

Mr. Marpe shared that the Selection Committee is working with the Department of Administrative Services Human Resources representatives to get approval from the Governor's office to proceed with the hiring process. He hopes to bring the candidate before the Board for a vote when it is appropriate to do so. The members of the

Selection committee is pleased with the candidates and hopes to finalize the appointment as soon as possible.

Mr. Ilg read Chapter 62 4e-2 (g) to the Board members emphasizing the following items related to the hiring of a Chief Procurement Officer:

- Will serve a six-year term
- Will report to and be in the service of the 14 Board members
- Will be supervised by the Executive Director for administrative and secretarial purposes only

Mr. Ilg stated that it is apparent to him that *we* have not been operating correctly and lengthy discussion ensued.

Chair Marpe assured Mr. Ilg that the Selection Committee:

- The candidates interviewed were from both the private and public sectors.
- Candidates possessed the level of experience required for the position.
- Neither OPM nor other agencies were involved with the selection of the candidate.
- Is working with OPM to determine the level of compensation that will be offered.
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Mr. Ilg responded that the salary should be comparable to the heads of commissions and noted that the Governor does not appoint the CPO. He expressed his confidence in Chair Marpe.

As a member of the Selection Committee, Mr. Luciano stressed that they all agreed with Mr. Ilg. Mr. Luciano shared that there were over 100 qualified candidates, the Selection Committee reviewed dozens of resumes and conducted interviews. They identified two candidates with extensive experience. The position was then offered to two people who both declined. The Selection Committee then selected additional candidates and conducted additional interviews. Before bringing their selected candidate to the Board, the Selection Committee is working to agree on a salary schedule and confirm that the individual will accept the job if it is offered to them. After the Selection Committee has completed this process, the individual will be brought to the Board for a final decision.

Mr. Ilg does not think the CPO should be a State employee if they are to retain independence from OPM. Chair Marpe again stressed that OPM is not involved in the candidate selection. Mr. Luciano explained to Mr. Ilg that the Board members select the individual.

Mr. Ilg noted that before the SCSB had staff members, people from the private sector come to our meetings. Since SCB hired state employees, he believes that the Board has lost touch with the people of Connecticut. Mr. Ilg reviewed the history of corruption under Governor Rowland's administration that led to Governor Rell creating this Board.

Mr. Marpe closed the discussion by explaining to Mr. Ilg that the CPO Selection committee consisted of both newer members, like him and Chair Palalche, and long-term Board members like Brenda Sisco, Salvatore Luciano and Lauren Gauthier.

Mr. Marpe thanked Mr. Ilg for sharing his thoughts.

f. Training Work Group Report

Chair Ahneman explained the work group met on March 13, 2026 and discussed:

- Internal policies
- Training Handbook: a focused internal handbook that contains necessary items for maintaining our accreditation
- Participant Handbook: For training participants
- Data Privacy protections: which is a joint effort with the SRPP Work Group.
- 2025 Course Content Review Analysis: has been shared with the Work Group
- Course development: will continue through the end of the year.
- Annual Accreditation Report to the International Accreditors for Continuing Education and Training (IACET) will be completed by July 2026.

Trainer Specialist Hufcut reported that the State will be conducting an audit of one of our courses to ensure compliance with Federal accessibility mandates.

Chair Ahneman then cancelled the next meeting which was scheduled to take place at noon today. He would like to reschedule for next week and will be reaching out to the Work Group members with proposed dates.

g. Staff Report

i. Administrative and Operations Report – Gregory F. Daniels, Executive Director
Executive Director Daniels provided the following highlights:

- The Annual Statement of Financial Interests: Board members should have received an email from the Office of State Ethics and must be completed and returned.
- Website Modernization Project: is moving forward at a very fast pace. We are working with DAS-BITS as we are endeavoring to make our website more user friendly and accessible to the public. The new website will be written in plain

English that is easier to understand and navigate while still containing all the information required. The Website developers have done a great job at making our material more understandable. When a demonstration is available, it will be shared with the Board.

ii. Chief Procurement Officer's Report (Vacant)

iii. Legal Update – Aaron Felman, Staff Attorney

- Regulatory Buildout under the SRPP Work Group continues.
- Audit Rules and Procedures: Staff Attorney Felman continues to work with Accounts Examiner Lopez on this initiative.
- 4e-36, Contested Solicitations and Awards: As reported earlier, SCSB received a complaint and requested information. He has just received a large amount of documentation that is being reviewed promptly to remain in compliance with the 30-day timeline to issue a decision.

A. Mandated Regulations Reporting Table: Updates were shared with Board members.

iv. Legislative Update – Samson Anderson, Research Analyst
See report offered above.

4. Old Business

5. New Business

- a. Consideration of the Draft Data Protection Regulations approved by the SRPP Work Group on March 10, 2026
Per discussion earlier in the meeting, this item will be considered next month.

6. Opportunity for Citizens to Address the SCSB: None

7. Adjournment

At 11:05 a.m., a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Salvatore Luciano. The motion was seconded by Stuart Mahler. The meeting was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Aleshia Hall

Administrative Assistant

DRAFT