CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION Hartford

Minutes of Meeting June 4, 2008

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, June 4, 2008, at the State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

I. Call to Order

Vice Chairman Finneran called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

- Present: Allan Taylor, Chair* Whitney Bartell James Blake Beverly Bobroske Alice Carolan Donald Coolican Lynne Farrell* Janet Finneran Patricia Luke Jay Voss
- Absent: Theresa Hopkins-Staten Michael Meotti, Ex-Officio

II.A. <u>Presentation by Members of the State Student Advisory Council on</u> <u>Education (SSACE)</u>

The SSACE members reported on their response to the draft recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on Secondary School Improvement. The following members represented the Council: James Blake from Litchfield High School; David Goldberg from Weston High School; Katie Bradway from Stafford High School; James Reed from Simsbury High School; Brian Rosen from Guilford High School; Devin Murphy from Tolland High School; Erik Neumann from Trumbull High School and Chris Kennedy from Fitch High School.

*[Dr. Farrell arrived at 9:45 a.m.]

XI.A. District Improvement Plan: New London

Commissioner McQuillan presented a brief historical overview of the New London District Improvement Plan. Dr. Carolan, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Accountability, summarized the committee's meeting with the Superintendent and Board Chair and specific recommendations to address in the plan. Discussion followed.

XI.B. District Improvement Plan: Norwich

Commissioner McQuillan presented a brief historical overview of the Norwich District Improvement Plan. Dr. Carolan, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Accountability, summarized the committee's meeting with the Superintendent and Board Chair and specific recommendations to address in the plan. Discussion followed.

XI.C. District Improvement Plan: Bridgeport

Commissioner McQuillan presented a brief historical overview of the Bridgeport Improvement Plan. Dr. Carolan, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Accountability, summarized the committee's meeting with the Superintendent and Board Chair and specific recommendations to address in the plan. Discussion followed.

*[Mr. Taylor arrived at 11:20 a.m.]

III. <u>Consideration of Minutes of the May 7, 2008, State Board of</u> Education Meeting

Mrs. Luke moved, Dr. Farrell seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the May 7, 2008, State Board of Education meeting.

VOTE:	In Favor:	Bobroske, Carolan, Coolican, Farrell, Finneran, Luke, Taylor, Voss
	Opposed: Abstained: Absent:	0 0 Hopkins-Staten

Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Report of the Chair – Mr. Taylor reported on the following:

 Mr. Taylor attended a meeting this morning in Naugatuck to discuss Connecticut's participation and progress in the NASBE Adolescent Literacy Project;

- Mr. Taylor attended the CABE Dinner Series on Student Assessment held on May 13. The next dinner session will be held on June 12, topic: Driven by Accountability;
- A public hearing on the application submitted by the Charter School for Young Children on Asylum Hill was held on Wednesday, May 21 at Hartford's Learning Corridor;
- Mrs. Hopkins-Staten attended a session on HIV/AIDS with the HIV Coordinator for the State Department of Education on May 28-30, in Atlanta, Georgia, sponsored by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention;
- Mr. Taylor, Mrs. Bobroske, and Dr. Voss will attend the NASBE Board of Directors and Study Group meetings on June 5-7;
- The Board's semiannual recognition event will be held Wednesday, June 11th, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. in the Old Judiciary Room at the State Capitol; and
- The State Board of Education Retreat will be held on August 13 at the Waterbury Holiday Inn (formerly known as the Grand Hotel). Details to follow.
- V. <u>Report of the Commissioner</u> Commissioner McQuillan reported on the following:
 - Board members are invited to view the Data Wall Display in the corridor. This represents work done by State Department of Education employees and will be turned into a leadership module.
 - The agency is developing ideas for legislative proposals tied to our budget proposals. Discussions have also centered on incentives to encourage districts to participate in "Sheff."
 - We are continuing discussions related to J.M. Wright Technical School in Stamford.
 - Commissioner McQuillan invited Deputy Commissioner George Coleman to give an update on the Sheff regional office. Deputy Commissioner Coleman stated that the Sheff office has crossed a major milestone by opening the regional office called the Regional School Choice Office (RSCO) at the Learning Corridor in Hartford, a place where parents will have access.

VI.A Financial Matters

Mr. Coolican moved, Dr. Carolan seconded, that the Board, approves the request for Finance Advisory Committee (FAC) actions to transfer a total of \$15,956,000 from 12 surplus accounts to cover deficits in the Personal Services (\$2,400,000); Other Expenses (\$1,600,000); Magnet Schools (\$6,500,000); Adult Education (\$56,000); and Excess Costs (\$5,400,000) accounts, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE:	In Favor:	Bobroske, Carolan, Coolican, Farrell, Finneran, Luke,
		Taylor, Voss
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	0
	Absent:	Hopkins-Staten

Motion carried unanimously.

XII. <u>Committee Reports</u>

- Finance, Audit and Department Matters Mrs. Luke reported that the Committee me this morning and discussed issues regarding Title 1. Mrs. Luke expressed concern regarding the need to have clerical support in the Office of Internal Audit.
- **Legislation and Bylaws** Mrs. Bobroske referred to the 2008 Education Committee Bills Log.
- **Policy Development** Meeting was cancelled.
- **Connecticut Technical High Schools (CTHSS)** Mr. Coolican reported that a committee will be formed to look at J.M. Wright Technical High School. The CTHSS committee is scheduled to meet on June 11th.
- Ad Hoc Committee on Secondary Education Dr. Voss reported that the Committee met earlier this week and received progress reports from the three work groups (Revisions and Implementations, Middle Level and Higher Education). The formal reports are due on July 14th.
- Ad Hoc Committee on Accountability Dr. Carolan reported that the committee has completed its meetings with all of the districts.

IX. Consent Agenda

Mr. Coolican moved, Mrs. Luke seconded, to approve the following consent agenda items: IX.A., State Board of Education Meeting Schedule 2008-09; IX.B., Adoption of Annual Audit Plan; and IX.C., Approval of Adjustment to Student Labor Fees in the Connecticut Technical High Schools.

IX.A. State Board of Education Meeting Schedule 2008-09

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 1-225 of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the following meeting schedule for the period August 2008 through December 2009:

August 13, 2008 September 3, 2008 October 2, 2008 November 5, 2008 December 3, 2008 January 7, 2009 February 4, 2009 March 4, 2009 April 1, 2009 May 6, 2009 June 3, 2009 July 1, 2009 August 5, 2009 September 2, 2009 October 7, 2009 November 4, 2009 December 2, 2009

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action

IX.B. Adoption of Annual Audit Plan

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education adopts the Annual Audit Plan for the period July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

IX.C. Approval of Adjustment to Student Labor Fees in the Connecticut Technical High Schools

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education approve a uniform increase in the Connecticut Technical High School System (CTHSS) student labor rates to \$15.00 per hour, beginning in the 2008-2009 school year and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE	In Favor:	Bobroske, Carolan, Coolican, Farrell, Luke,
ON		Finneran, Taylor, Voss
MOTIONS:	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	0
	Absent:	Hopkins-Staten

Motions carried unanimously.

By unanimous consent, the Board recessed its meeting at 11:50 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 1:00 p.m. Present: Mrs. Bobroske, Mr. Coolican, Dr. Farrell, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Blake, Dr. Carolan, Mrs. Luke, Ms. Finneran, Ms. Bartell and Dr. Voss. Mrs. Hopkins-Staten and Mr. Meotti were absent.

VIII. Public Participation

- 1. Jean Klein, Connecticut Reading Association, announced that she will no longer serve as the Legislative Chair for the Association. She introduced her replacement, Ms. Marilyn Scanlan White, Berlin High School.
- 2. Richard Cole, President and Chief Executive Officer, Connecticut Academy of Math and

Science, stated his appreciation to the Board for their efforts to improve secondary education in Connecticut. Mr. Cole submitted to the Board, the Academy's Secondary School Reform Initiative Recommendations as requested by Mr. Taylor and Commissioner McQuillan.

3. Chip Croft, Board Chair, Highville Mustard Seed Charter School, stated that in less than a year, Highville has come a long way. He thanked members of the State Department of Education for their efforts and is looking forward to a continued partnership.

XI.A. <u>Approval of Teacher Preparation Program</u>: <u>Western Connecticut</u> <u>State University – New MAT Program</u>

Mr. Coolican moved, Mrs. Luke seconded, that that Board, pursuant to Section 10-145d-9(f)(1) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, grants full program approval for the period June 4, 2008, through September 30, 2009, for the purpose of certifying graduates from the Western Connecticut State University Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) program in the following areas:

<u>Program</u>	Grade Level	Program Level	<u>Program Type</u>
Elementary Education	K - 6	initial	graduate
Secondary Grades:			
Mathematics	7 - 12	initial	graduate
Biology	7 - 12	initial	graduate
Spanish	7 - 12	initial	graduate

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE:	In Favor:	Bobroske, Carolan, Coolican, Farrell, Finneran, Luke, Taylor, Voss
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	0
	Absent:	Hopkins-Staten

Motion carried unanimously.

XI.B. Approval of Teacher Preparation Program: Albertus Magnus College

Mr. Coolican moved, Dr. Carolan seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Section 10-145d-9(f)(1) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, grants provisional approval for the period September 30, 2008, through February 28, 2010, with an interim report due, and interim visit to be conducted, during fall 2009 for the following Albertus Magnus College initial level educator preparation programs:

<u>PK-12</u>

Art

Middle Grades (4-8)

- General Science
- English
- History/Social Studies
- Mathematics
- Spanish

Secondary Education (7-12)

- General Science
- English
- History/Social Studies
- Spanish
- Mathematics
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Business

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE:	In Favor:	Bobroske, Carolan, Coolican, Finneran, Luke, Taylor, Voss
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	Farrell
	Absent:	Hopkins-Staten

Motion carried unanimously.

XI.C. Approval of Alternate Route to Certification Literacy Specialist In Reading Language Arts: Albertus Magnus College

Mr. Coolican moved, Dr. Carolan seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Section 10-145d-9(f)(1) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, grants provisional approval for the period September 30, 2008, through February 28, 2010, with an interim report due, and interim visit to be conducted, during fall 2009 for the Albertus Magnus College Advanced Alternative Route to Certification Literacy Specialist Program in Reading and Language Arts, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE:	In Favor:	Bobroske, Carolan, Coolican, Finneran, Luke, Taylor, Voss
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	Farrell
	Absent:	Hopkins-Staten

Motion carried unanimously.

XI.D. Adoption of Position Statement on Science Education

Mrs. Luke moved, Dr. Farrell seconded, that the Board approves the Position Statement on Science Education and Guidelines for Policymakers dated June 4, 2008, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Ms. Finneran moved, Mrs. Luke seconded, to table this agenda item.

VOTE In Favor: Bobroske, Carolan, Coolican, Farrell, Finneran, TO Luke, Taylor, Voss TABLE: Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0 Absent: Hopkins-Staten

Motion to table carried unanimously.

XI.E. <u>Adoption of Science Standards: Connecticut Mastery Test –</u> <u>Grades 5-8</u>

Mrs. Bobroske moved, Mrs. Luke seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Section 10-14n of the Connecticut General Statutes and the *No Child Left Behind Act*, approves Grade 5 and Grade 8 Science Achievement Standards for the Connecticut Mastery Test, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE: In Favor: Bobroske, Carolan, Coolican, Farrell, Finneran, Luke, Taylor, Voss Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0 Absent: Hopkins-Staten

Motion carried unanimously.

XI.F. <u>Adoption of Alternate Science Standards: Connecticut Mastery Test</u> (Grade 5 and 8) and Connecticut Academic Performance Test (Grade <u>10) Skills Checklist</u>

Mrs. Luke moved, Dr. Voss seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Section 10-14n of the Connecticut General Statutes, and the federal *No Child Left Behind Act*, P.L. 107-110, approves the Alternate Science Achievement Standards for the Connecticut Mastery Test Skills Checklist (Grades 5 and 8) and Connecticut Academic Performance Test Skills Checklist (Grade 10), and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE:	In Favor:	Bobroske, Carolan, Coolican, Farrell, Finneran, Luke, Taylor, Voss
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	0
	Absent:	Hopkins-Staten

Motion carried unanimously.

[Mrs. Luke left the meeting at 2:18 p.m.]

XI.G. Renewal of Highville Charter School

Ms. Finneran moved, Dr. Carolan seconded, that the Board, pursuant to subsection (g) of Section 10-66bb of the Connecticut General Statutes, renews the charter of the Highville Charter School from July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2010, said approval granted subject to meeting all financial management issues outlined in the Commissioner's June 4, 2008, memorandum titled "Renewal of State Charter – Highville Charter School," prior to the 2008-09 school year, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE:	In Favor:	Bobroske, Carolan, Coolican, Farrell, Finneran,
		Taylor, Voss
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	0
	Absent:	Hopkins-Staten, Luke

Motion carried unanimously.

[Mrs. Luke returned to the meeting at 2:30 p.m.]

XI.H. Charter School Expansion – Elm City College Preparatory School

Ms. Finneran moved, Mr. Coolican seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Section 10-66bb(c) of the Connecticut General Statutes, grants approval to expand the grade level of Elm City College Preparatory School to add a Grade 9, said approval granted subject to meeting the conditions noted in the Commissioner's June 4, 2008, memorandum, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE:	In Favor:	Bobroske, Carolan, Coolican, Farrell, Finneran, Luke
		Taylor, Voss
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	0
	Absent:	Hopkins-Staten
Motion	carried unanimo	usly.

XI.I. Report on the Operation of Charter Schools

Mrs. Bobroske moved, Mrs. Luke seconded, that the Board, adopts the *Report on the Operation of Charter Schools in Connecticut*, *June 2008*, submitted pursuant to Section 10-66gg of the Connecticut General Statutes, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE:	In Favor:	Bobroske, Carolan, Coolican, Farrell, Finneran, Luke Taylor, Voss
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	0
	Absent:	Hopkins-Staten

Motion carried unanimously.

XI.J. Charter School Enrollments

Mrs. Bobroske moved, Mrs. Luke seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Section 10-66bb(c) of the Connecticut General Statutes, pending final state budget authorization and full compliance with the conditions set forth in the Commissioner's June 4, 2008, memorandum, approves the distribution of 348 additional seats among the existing charter schools for the 2008-09 school year, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE: In Favor: Bobroske, Carolan, Coolican, Farrell, Finneran, Luke Taylor, Voss Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0 Absent: Hopkins-Staten

Motion carried unanimously.

XII. <u>Executive Session</u>

The Board unanimously voted to move into executive session at 2:35 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the Commissioner's Evaluation and pending litigation.

Present at executive session were Board members: Mrs. Bobroske, Ms. Bartell, Mr. Blake, Dr. Carolan, Mr. Coolican, Dr. Farrell, Ms. Finneran, Mrs. Luke, Mr. Taylor and Dr. Voss. Also present was Commissioner of Education Mark K. McQuillan. Mrs. Hopkins-Staten and Mr. Meotti were absent.

> The Board reconvened in public session at 3:00 p.m. Present were Mrs. Bobroske, Ms. Bartell, Mr. Blake, Dr. Carolan, Mr. Coolican, Dr. Farrell, Ms. Finneran, Mrs. Luke, Mr. Taylor and Dr. Voss. Mrs. Hopkins-Staten and Mr. Meotti were absent.

The Board discussed the procedure for the August retreat.

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

Prepared by:_

Mark K. McQuillan, Secretary