

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Hartford**

Minutes of December 2, 2009, Meeting

(approved January 6, 2010)

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, December 2, 2009. The meeting was held at the State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

**I. Call to Order**

Chairperson Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

Present: Allan Taylor, Chairperson  
Janet Finneran, Vice Chairperson  
Beverly Bobroske  
Lynne Farrell  
Theresa Hopkins-Staten  
Hannah Klein  
Hunter Kodama  
Patricia Luke  
Linda McMahon  
Michael Meotti, Ex-Officio\*  
Jay Voss

Absent: Kathleen O'Connor

**II. Public Participation**

1. Edward Malin, President, American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education-Connecticut Chapter (AACTE-CT), stated that the Association has concerns and questions regarding the certification regulations, particularly with regard to NCATE accreditation. A copy of Dr. Malin's remarks can be found in the official file of this meeting.
2. Allan Cook, Dean of the School of Education, University of Bridgeport, and member of AACTE-CT, spoke to the Board regarding NCATE and the certification regulations. He stated that the Board needs to understand how NCATE operates as an organization before we give them increased authority in Connecticut.

3. Mary Loftus Levine, CEA Director of Policy and Professional Practice, spoke to the Board regarding teachers' perspectives on three proposed changes in the certification regulations pertaining to (1) special education certification; (2) literacy specialist certification; and (3) Teacher Leader certificate. A copy of Mrs. Levine's remarks can be found in the official file of this meeting.
4. Mark Waxenberg, Director, Government Relations, Connecticut Education Association, submitted comments on agenda item IX.D., Race to the Top Legislative Proposal Regarding Charter Schools. His comments and attachments related to his testimony can be found in the official file of this meeting.
5. Judith Golden, Superintendent, East Hampton Public Schools, and representative of Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS), made comments on the teacher certification regulations and urged the Board to set standards regarding the teacher preparation process. She noted that the Board will receive formal position papers on proposals concerning NCATE approval, Teacher Leader Certificate, and the 093 endorsement.
6. Sarah Querfeld, Superintendent, North Haven Public Schools and representative of CAPSS, expressed four areas of concern regarding the teacher certification regulations. (credit vs. competency, special education, Assistant Superintendent Certificate and impact of K-6 and 6-12 certification on staffing.)
7. Marilyn Scanlan White, Connecticut Reading Association Legislative Chair, spoke to the Board regarding the proposed regulations for school Administrator certification in regard to literacy instruction as part of a Master's degree prior to becoming a principal. A copy of Mrs. White's remarks can be found in the official file of this meeting.
8. Michael Thomas, Vice President, Achievement First, spoke to the Board regarding Charter School funding. He thanked the Board for supporting the position the Massachusetts model uses. He noted that the Board will receive formal position paper at a later time.
9. Michael Sharpe, President, Achievement First, spoke in favor of agenda item IX.D., Race to the Top Legislative Proposal Regarding Charter Schools.
10. Dr. Lynne Clark, Dean, School of Education at Western Connecticut State University and representative of Connecticut State University System (CSU), stated the Connecticut State University System and its institutions are not in agreement with the very recent CSDE proposed revision to the language of NCATE proposal. She expressed support for focusing on competencies of teacher candidates, and the

proposal submitted to the Ad Hoc Committee on Certification at its November 4, 2009 meeting.

11. A written statement from Thomas DeFranco, Dean, Neag School of Education, UCONN, subject: Teacher Certification Regulations, was distributed to the Board and is in the official file of this meeting.

#### **IV. Consideration of Minutes of November 4, 2009 State Board of Education Meeting**

Mrs. Bobroske moved, Ms. Finneran seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the November 4, 2009, State Board of Education meeting.

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten made the following correction to the minutes. On page two of the draft minutes, Ms. Hopkins-Staten moved the motion on the Ansonia District Improvement Plan, not on the Danbury proposal.

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten then made the following statement in reference to items that appeared on the November 4, 2009, meeting.

“At our last Board meeting, we received presentations from Superintendents on plans to improve their districts. During the presentations we learned two districts; Stamford and Danbury track students, with a disproportionate number of Black, Hispanic and limited income students placed in low tracks. And when questioned about this practice, the Superintendent from Stamford responded “there would be blood in the streets” if the district were to move too quickly, and I believe a date of 2014 is included in the improvement plan.

We also heard from the Danbury representative that some teachers don’t believe that these students are capable of doing college prep work and that this midset has existed for a long time. And that these students had to “prove” to certain disbelieving teachers, they’re capable of high quality classes like AP courses. We learned that as a result of this district’s recent participation in Project Opening Doors, these same students did extremely well in AP classes and received some of the highest test scores in the district.

Research has consistently shown that when schools track, limited income, Black and Hispanic students are disproportionately placed in low track classes, systematically receive fewer resources, teachers have lower expectations and standards, and the curriculum is not designed to prepare them to attend college. Simply put, there is a very strong correlation between social class, ethnicity and tract placement.

I can not and will not remain silent on this issue. Every student in this state has a right to be offered a high quality education; every child has a right to realize his or her full potential regardless of social class or ethnicity.

Therefore, I request that this Board consider taking the following action:

- Adopt a resolution disapproving tracking;
- Require any school district engaging in such a practice, to make full disclosure to a student's parents or guardian; and
- Require districts that track to make annual filings to the State Department of Education, detailing the basis for such placement, ethnicity and social class of each student being tracked."

Mrs. Bobroske requested Mrs. Hopkins-Staten's comments be reflected in the minutes.

Mrs. Luke made the following correction to the minutes under agenda item XI.B., Regulations Concerning State Educator Certificates, Permits and Authorizations: on page five of the draft minutes, under proposals 1 and 2, replace the words "it was decided" to "there was consensus."

VOTE ON	In Favor:	Taylor, Finneran, Bobroske, Farrell, Hopkins-Staten,
MINUTES AS		McMahon, Voss
CORRECTED:	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	Luke
	Absent:	O'Connor

Motion carried.

## **VI. Report of the Chair**

Mr. Taylor distributed a written report, which is in the official file of this meeting, and includes the following:

- Forum on Education Reform in New England, Bedford, New Hampshire, November 10, Commissioner McQuillan and I attended the Forum a collaboration among 6 technical assistance and research centers. Deputy Secretary Tony Miller (USDE) spoke about the Obama administration's four key education reform priorities and the status of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.
- CABE/CAPSS Convention: Annual session, "Dialogue with the State Board of Education," was well attended by local school board members and superintendents (November 20, attended by Allan Taylor; Janet Finneran; Pat Luke; Beverly Bobroske). Discussion of Connecticut's performance on NAEP – need to clearly state

the difference between "proficiency" and goal; look at how we measure growth; need to raise standards, increase our graduation requirements, lengthen school year. Some members expressed concerns about excess costs of special education students, while another asked how to integrate multicultural education into the general curriculum. Discussion about how to work more effectively together, and the need for board members to work with their local legislators by keeping them informed of education issues.

- CABE New Board Member Orientation, Commissioner McQuillan and I will address new school board members at an orientation session scheduled for December 10.

## **VII. Report of Commissioner**

Commissioner McQuillan introduced Daniel Murphy, Agency Legal Director.

Commissioner McQuillan distributed a written report, which is in the official file of this meeting, and includes information on the following:

### **Comprehensive Plan Priorities**

#### **Priority 1: Early Childhood Education**

- Meeting with Janice Gruendel and Joyce Staples regarding reconstitution of Early Childhood Cabinet and Office of Planning and Coordination
- Response to federal Early Childhood Challenge Grant House Bill

#### **Priority 2: Academic Achievement, Achievement Gaps**

- Continued preparation of revised certification regulations
- Meeting with Deans of Higher Education regarding certification regulations

#### **Priority 3: Secondary School Reform**

- Completion of charge to Ad Hoc Committee for future of Wright Technical
- Weekly meetings with CTHSS Superintendent and Central Office
- Final preparation for CTHSS Superintendent's Search

#### **Sheff Comprehensive Management Plan**

- Multiple meetings on Sheff transportation funding for magnet schools in Hartford region
- Transition Planning for Director of the Regional School Choice Office (RSCO)

### **Internal Operations**

- Biweekly meetings on ARRA Guidance Committee
- Regular meetings with HR on SDE and CTHSS Staffing
- Organizational meetings Race to the Top Application
- Cabinet and Administrative Council Meetings
- Attendance at Milken Award Ceremony at Platt High School
- Speaker at CCSSO's celebration of Anthony Mullin, National Teacher of the Year

### **Statewide Meetings**

- P20 Council Planning with Commissioner Meotti
- Speaker:
  1. Meriden Community Development Meeting for Early Childhood Support
  2. CAS Principal of the Year Awards

## **VIII. Financial Matters**

### **VIII.A. FY2010-11 Mid-Term Budget Technical Adjustments**

Ms. Finneran moved, Mrs. Luke seconded, that the Board accepts the Fiscal Year 2010-11 Mid-Term Budget Technical Adjustments as submitted to the Office of Policy and Management, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE:	In Favor:	Taylor, Finneran, Bobroske, Farrell, Hopkins-Staten, Luke, McMahon, Voss
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	0
	Absent:	O'Connor

Motion carried unanimously.

### **VIII.B. FY-2010-11 Budget Reduction Options**

Ms. Finneran moved, Mrs. Luke seconded that the Board approves the statement developed by the Commissioner of Education in response to the budget instructions from the Office of Policy and Management concerning the 5 percent budget reduction options for fiscal year 2010-11, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

By unanimous consent THE Board agreed to consider this item later on in the meeting in order to incorporate an additional statement.

**IX. Consent Agenda**

Mrs. Luke moved, Dr. Farrell seconded, that the Board approve the following items on the Consent Agenda: IX.A., Appointments to Connecticut Advisory Council for School and Administrator Professional Standards and IX.B., Application for Funds: New Venture Fund.

**IX.A. Appointments to Connecticut Advisory Council for School and Administrator Professional Standards**

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (b) of Section 10-144e of the Connecticut General Statutes, reappoints Camille Vautour and Gary Alger to serve as State Board of Education representatives to the Connecticut Advisory Council for School Administrator Professional Standards through January 15, 2012, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

**IX.B. Application for Funds: New Venture Fund**

RESOLVED, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-11 of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the application to the New Venture Fund, supported by The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, to assist Connecticut in its application for the 2010 Race to the Top funds, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE	In Favor:	Finneran, Bobroske, Farrell, Hopkins-Staten, Luke,
ON		McMahon, Taylor, Voss
MOTIONS:	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	0
	Absent:	O'Connor

Motions carried unanimously.

**X. Connecticut Technical High School System**

**X.A. Appointments and Charge to Ad Hoc Committee on J.M. Wright Technical High School**

Mrs. Luke moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded that the Board forms an Ad Hoc Committee to explore the future uses of the J.M. Wright Technical High School, to serve in an advisory capacity to the State Board of Education;

appoints to said committee the following individuals:

- State Board of Education Connecticut Technical High School System (CTHSS) Committee (3)
- Commissioner of Education
- Interim Superintendent of the CTHSS
- Assistant Superintendents of the CTHSS (2)
- President of the State Vocational Federation of Teachers (SVFT)
- President of American Federation of School Administrators (AFSA)
- State Department of Education (SDE) Chief Financial Officer
- SDE Bureau Chief for Fiscal Management
- CTHSS Business Office Consultant
- CTHSS Chief of Engineering
- CTHSS Unit Coordinator for Trades
- President of the Bridgeport Workforce Development Board
- Executive Assistant, Bridgeport Workforce Development Board
- President of Norwalk Community College
- Former President and CEO, Pitney Bowes
- Superintendent of Stamford Public Schools
- Executive Director of Stamford Chamber of Commerce
- Senior Member of the J.M. Wright Advisory Committee
- Lieutenant Governor, State of Connecticut
- A Representative and Senator from the General Assembly (2)

charges said committee to (a) fulfill the tasks outlined in the December 2, 2009, "Charge to the Ad Hoc Committee on J.M. Wright Technical High School;" (b) develop by May 14, 2010, a plan to re-open the building for the purpose of providing a

technical high school education program overseen by the State Board of Education for the communities of Norwalk, Stamford, and Bridgeport, and others in the region; and (c) to present to the State Board of Education in June 2010 its findings, recommendations and proposed next steps; and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE: In Favor: Taylor, Finneran, Bobroske, Farrell, Hopkins-Staten,  
Luke, McMahon, Voss  
Opposed: 0  
Abstained: 0  
Absent: O'Connor

Motion carried unanimously.

## **XI. Items for Discussion**

[Mr. Meotti arrived at 11:10 a.m.]



**XI.A. Regulations Concerning Educator Certificates, Permits and Authorization**

Dr. Martinez, Associate Commissioner, Division of Teaching, Learning & Instructional Leadership, Nancy Pugliese, Bureau Chief, Educator Standards and Certification and Georgette Nemr, Education Consultant presented the report to the Board. Discussed ensued.

By unanimous consent, the Board recessed its meeting at 12:30 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 1:18 p.m. Present: Mrs. Bobroske, Ms. Finneran, Dr. Farrell, Mrs. Luke, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten, Mrs. McMahon, Mr. Kodama, Ms. Klein, Dr. Voss and Commissioner Meotti. Mrs. O'Connor was absent.

**VIII.B. FY-2010-11 Budget Reduction Options** (continued)

Ms. Finneran moved, Mrs. Luke seconded, that the Board approves the statement developed by the Commissioner of Education in response to the budget instructions from the Office of Policy and Management concerning the 5 percent budget reduction options for fiscal year 2010-11, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Mrs. Luke moved, Ms. Finneran seconded, that the following language be added as the second paragraph on the second page of the December 2, 2009 Memo to the Board from the Commissioner:

“However, when reviewing the attached list of grants for potential reductions, further consideration must be given to the impact on federal revenues. Many of these grants are used by the Department of Social Services for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) for matching purposes in order to be eligible for federal funds. Furthermore, reductions could impact the Department of Education’s ability to apply for and continue to receive funding under the various federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) grants. Lastly, a number of these grants are used under various federal matching or maintenance of effort requirements, e.g., a portion of the Omnibus education grant is used as a state match for the federal National School Lunch Program.”

VOTE	In Favor:	Finneran, Bobroske, Farrell, Hopkins-Staten, Luke,
ON		McMahon, Taylor, Voss
AMEND-	Opposed:	0
MENT:	Abstained:	0
	Absent:	O'Connor

Motion carried unanimously.

VOTE ON In Favor: Finneran, Bobroske, Farrell, Hopkins-Staten, Luke,  
MOTION AS McMahon, Taylor, Voss  
AMENDED: Opposed: 0  
Abstained: 0  
Absent: O'Connor

Motion, as amended, carried unanimously.

**XI.B. Dropout Prevention: Data Bulletin and Department Initiatives**

Ms. Sarah Ellsworth, Bureau Chief, Data Collection, Research and Evaluation and Ms. Allison Zhou, Education Consultant, Data Collection, Research and Evaluation provided the Board with a PowerPoint presentation.

**XI.C. PK-12 Social Studies Curriculum Framework**

Dr. Marion Martinez, Associate Commissioner, Division of Teaching, Learning & Instructional Leadership, and Ms. Harriet Feldlaufer, Bureau Chief, Teaching and Learning, presented the report to the Board. Discussion followed.

**XI.D. Race to the Top Legislative Proposal Regarding Charter Schools**

Attorney Daniel Murphy and Attorney Jennifer Widness, Office of Legal and Government Affairs, and Mr. Mark Linabury, Bureau Chief, Choice Programs, presented the report to the Board. Discussion followed.

[Mrs. McMahon left at 3:00 p.m.]

[Dr. Farrell left at 3:05 p.m.]

[Mrs. Bobroske and Dr. Voss left at 3:15 p.m.]

**XI.E. CCSSO – NGA Common Core Standards**

Commissioner Mark McQuillan briefed the Board on this project. The Board will need to decide to adopt common core of college-ready and workforce standards and K-12 learning progression standards. This will require revisions to our state math and reading standards.

**XII. Committee Reports**

- **Finance, Audit and Department Matters** – Mrs. Luke reported that the Committee will meet on December 9.
- **Connecticut Technical School System** -- The next meeting will be on December 9 at Ella T. Grasso Technical High School in Groton.

- **NASBE** – Mr. Taylor will be attending the regional meeting on common standards. The meeting will be held in Philadelphia on Thursday and Friday, February 18 and 19, 2010.
- **Ad Hoc Committee on Accountability:** The committee will be meeting on December 15 at the State Office Building.
- **Ad Hoc Committee on Certification:** No meeting has been scheduled. The Commissioner will keep working on this internally and get materials to the Board.

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 3:27 p.m.

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mark K. McQuillan, Secretary