

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Legislation and Bylaws Committee

April 7, 2010
8:30 a.m.
State Office Building
Hartford, CT

MINUTES
Approved May 5, 2010

Members Present

Theresa Hopkins-Staten, Janet Finneran, Hunter Kodama, and Kathleen O'Connor. Jay Voss was absent.

Staff Present

Mark McQuillan, George Coleman, Daniel Murphy, Jennifer Widness and Janice Dinnall.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:37 a.m.

Approval of March 3, 2010 Meeting Minutes

The March 3, 2010, meeting minutes were approved unanimously on a motion by Janet Finneran, seconded by Theresa Hopkins-Staten.

Update on Ad Hoc Committee to Study Funding Public School Choice Programs

The Commissioner reported that invitations to participate in the Ad Hoc Committee were sent out and that responses had been received from all except two individuals. A conversation followed regarding the overlap of the Ad Hoc Committee's charge with the Governor's Commission for Achievement Gap. The Commission has been tasked to review, among other things, funding for public schools.

Theresa Hopkins-Staten suggested that a member of the Commission could serve on the Ad Hoc Committee who could then be responsible for reporting back to the Commission on the Ad Hoc Committee's work, so efforts to review funding of public school choice programs were not duplicated. The Legislation and Bylaws Committee

members agreed that the Commission and the Ad Hoc Committee should try to work together on this endeavor.

Update on Race to the Top Legislative Proposals and Feedback from Federal Government on Connecticut's Application

Jennifer Widness provided an update on the status of the legislative proposals relating to Race to the Top. The Commissioner informed members of the Committee that he had been meeting with a number of stakeholders as well as the co-chairs of the Education Committee on a weekly basis in an effort to try and reach consensus on a number of proposals that had been raised to support the application. As part of this discussion, Senate Bill 440, which involves the state's data system and teacher evaluation, still needed to be discussed as well as House Bill 5491, an Act Concerning Certain School District Reforms to Reduce the Achievement Gap in Connecticut.

The Commissioner informed Committee members that efforts to revise the state's application for Phase II were well underway and that he was hopeful to have a draft to share by the beginning of May. Theresa Hopkins-Staten expressed concern about a number of misconceptions that have been expressed by the public about the contents of the application in Phase I. The Commissioner agreed that this was problematic and hoped that efforts to keep stakeholders more informed about the Phase II application would help resolve any misunderstandings.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:29 a.m.