

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

**August 15, 2012
State Board of Education Retreat
Draft Minutes**

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, August 15, 2012, at Northeast Utilities, 107 Selden Street, Berlin, Connecticut.

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:19 a.m.

Present: Allan Taylor, Chairperson
Theresa Hopkins-Staten, Vice Chairperson
Ellen Camhi*
Andreea Dinicu
Charles Jaskiewicz
Terry Jones
Estela López
Patricia Luke
Rebecca Salustri
Joseph Vrabely
Stephen Wright

Absent: Ferdinand Risco
Michael P. Meotti, ex officio designee

[*Mrs. Camhi arrived at 9:41 a.m.]

Commissioner Stefan Pryor highlighted portions of the following publications: "State Education Agencies as Agents of Change," by Cynthia G. Brown, Frederick M. Hess, Daniel K. Lautzenheiser, and Isabel Owen (July 2011); The Changing Role of States in Education: The Move from Compliance to Performance Management, by Patrick Murphy and Paul Hill (2011 PIE Network Summit Policy Briefs); "Taking Root: Massachusetts' Lessons for Sustaining the College- and Career-Ready Agenda, Achieve (September 2009); "Louisiana's Turnaround Zone: Answering the Urgency of NOW," Louisiana Department of Education (January 2011); "The Turnaround Challenge," Mass Insight Education & Research Institute (2007); and "2011 State Teacher Policy Yearbook National Summary, National Council on Teacher Quality (2011).

Commissioner Pryor noted that that Board may wish to consider the themes addressed in the reading materials along with the Governor's Six Principles, Public Act 12-116, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Waiver, as well as other states' reform plans (i.e., Massachusetts, Tennessee, Louisiana) when it begins the development of its comprehensive plan.

Chairman Taylor spoke about the role of the Board in times of reform, and urged the Board members to be strong advocates for public education, to convey the message that we must do better, to ask the right questions when developing education policy, and to serve as ambassadors in the community.

Alan Price, Manager of Organizational Effectiveness for Northeast Utilities, and retreat facilitator, spoke about change leadership. He addressed the work of Edgar Schein and John Kotter in relation to achieving positive results and embedding those results into a new culture, and measuring success.

Board members then discussed critical issues and their "vision of success" for public education, how best to serve as "change agents," the importance of replicating best practices, and measuring success (for students, the State Board, and the Commissioner).

Discussion ensued regarding reconfiguring State Board of Education committees to provide leadership to and support the work of the agency. Commissioner Pryor cited several examples of how the Board's inquiries have resulted in improvements to policies and the work of the Department, and how the Board members have served as advocates for public education via op-ed pieces, communications with legislators, etc.

The Board then discussed a few areas in which it would like further information. Mr. Taylor suggested that a work group be formed to discuss agendas, Board committee structure, topics for professional development workshops (e.g., cultural diversity, communications plan, role of regional education service centers, minority teacher recruitment, etc.).

Chairman Taylor thanked Mr. Price for facilitating the Board's discussions, and expressed his appreciation to Northeast Utilities for offering the conference space.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Prepared by: _____
Stefan Pryor, Secretary

