

Connecticut State Board of Education
Hartford

Minutes of the
October 13, 2015, Academic Standards and Assessment Committee Meeting

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Academic Standards and Assessment Committee met on Tuesday, October 13, 2015, in Room 223, State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

I. Call to Order

Allan Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

Present: Allan Taylor
Theresa Hopkins-Staten (via telephone 9:15 a.m.)

Absent: Stephen Wright, Chairperson

I. Approval of the Minutes of the June 9, 2015, Academic Standards and Assessment Committee Meeting

Theresa Hopkins-Staten moved, Allan Taylor seconded, that the committee approve the minutes.

Vote:	In Favor:	Taylor, Hopkins-Staten
	Abstained:	0
	Opposed:	0
	Absent:	Stephen Wright

Motion carried.

II. Introduction Draft – Computer Science Position Statement

Jennifer Michalek presented an overview of the draft position statement for computer science. The committee was provided with a standards mapping as well as a state comparison documentation to better understand computer science in Connecticut. A history of the development of the position statement was also presented.

The committee requested the following information be provided to them:

- An analysis of the impact the summer training had on computer science education this year;
- A breakdown of the distribution of teachers who were trained this past summer; and
- A plan to outreach to the Connecticut Business and Industry Association.

The committee recommended that the position statement be revised to be more visionary and less over stated. The committee recommended revising the language to recognize that we currently do not have computer science education statewide, but to emphasize the need for appropriate K-12 Computer Science Programming to be college- and career-ready.

III. Update on NGSS Stakeholder Engagement to Date and Presentation to the Education Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly on October 6, 2015

At the February 2, 2015, State Board of Education meeting, Mr. Taylor expressed the need to engage with the Education Committee of the State Legislature as well as with local school boards, superintendents, principals and families to highlight the potential benefits and challenges associated with NGSS adoption. Ms. Liz Buttner, Science Education Consultant, described an extensive outreach initiative that included a televised Standards Informational Forum with the Education Committee of the State Legislature as well as webinars hosted and archived by the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) and the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS). To date, 35 in-person presentations have occurred in districts statewide. Feedback was collected from all audiences through an on-line survey designed and analyzed by an independent evaluator, Dr. Mhora Lorentson. Stakeholders strongly agreed that NGSS has the potential to be beneficial for Connecticut students and for our State.

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten questioned if there was data regarding to the actual outreach to families and asked if statistics were available for the number of parents who attended information sessions. She was also concerned about the language barrier for non-English-speaking parents. Deputy Commissioner Ellen Cohn commented that language barriers are an on-going challenge. Parents need to have exposure to the standards in both English and their native language. She mentioned translations and translation headsets that could be made available to parents.

The committee was pleased with the stakeholder engagement report presented.

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten questioned if the access to archived webinars was being monitored. Staff responded that more than 440 individuals have accessed the CABE webinar site; statistics will be checked for the CSDE web site. The committee gave the go ahead to move forward with the standards adoption process and recommended that the standards go to the full Board for adoption in November 2015.

IV. K-3 Reading Update

Joanne White, Education Consultant, presented The K-3 Reading Update to the committee. The committee was provided with updates regarding the implementation of the CT K-3 Reading Model, impact of the CT K-3 Reading Model and goals for the next two years, the CT K-3 Reading Model Expansion for Alliance Districts, and K-3 reading assessments. Ms. White provided answers to questions by the Committee regarding the Alliance District participation, and the actionable goals and objectives provided in the Systems for Effective Reading Instruction guidance document.

The committee recommended meeting with Alliance Districts that present problems with continued participation in the CT K-3 Reading Model Expansion, and that the State Department of Education develop a plan of action for participation.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Prepared by: Carla Ghostlaw