

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
March 4, 2015
(approved April 6, 2015)

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, March 4, 2015, in Room 307 of the State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Allan Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m.

Present: Allan Taylor, Chairperson
Theresa Hopkins-Staten, Vice Chairperson
Erin D. Benham
Michael Caminear, Student
Charles Jaskiewicz
Terry Jones
Estela López
Maria I. Mojica
Robert Trefry, ex officio
Stephen Wright (via conference call)

Absent: Megan Foell, Student
Gregory Gray, ex officio

Oath of Office

Attorney Louis B. Todisco, Commissioner of the Superior Court, administered the Oath of Office to the following reappointed Board members: Erin B. Benham, Estela López, Terry Jones, and Maria I. Mojica (copies are in the official file).

II. Public Participation

1. Janet Steinmayer, President of Mitchell College, expressed her commitment to continuous improvement in the Mitchell College Early Childhood Education program and to fully meeting the requirements of National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) Standard 5, regarding faculty qualifications and numbers. A copy of Ms. Steinmayer's prepared statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
2. Ester Bobowick, Director of Professional Development Services, Cooperative Education Services; Kimberly Mearman, Ph.D., Interim Associate Director for Program

Development, State Education Resource Center; Paula Talty, Superintendent of Cromwell Public Schools; Patrice McCarthy, Deputy Director, Connecticut Association of Boards of Education; and Linette Branham, Director of Policy, Connecticut Education Association, expressed their support for the adoption of agenda item VI.D., Adoption of Connecticut Definition of Professional Learning and Connecticut Standards for Professional Learning. They noted that the standards create a structure for expectations and implementation, and will provide districts with guidance on real and meaningful professional learning. The process was collaborative, inclusive, and will lead to meaningful, sustainable change, they stated. In addition, it was noted that the resulting documents are useful to practitioners and local school board members. Written testimony is included in the official file of this meeting.

3. CT Turner, GED Testing Service, explained the reasons for moving to the new GED test, noting that the former test did not prepare students for the job market and the value of that test has been questioned. The new examination will be more highly regarded, and relies on problem solving and critical thinking skills, he stated.
4. Ray Rossomando, Research and Policy Development Specialist, Connecticut Education Association, spoke about the ESEA waiver application. He stated that our school accountability system should aspire to account for the multiple missions of schools and focus on student-centered objectives. A copy of Mr. Rossomando's prepared statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
5. Ms. Hyacinth Yennie, community activist and parent of former graduates of the Hartford Public School System, expressed her support of funding for neighborhood schools, with accountability for the use of funds to support public education. She stated that the needs of existing schools should be met; inequities within Hartford exist as a result of the manner in which funds are distributed.

At the request of Mr. Jones, agenda item III.A. was removed from the consent agenda.

III. Consent Agenda

Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Dr. López seconded, that the Board consider consent agenda item III.B.

B. Receipt of Report from the Connecticut Advisory Council for Teacher Professional Standards

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education receives the 2014 Annual Report of the Connecticut Advisory Council for Teacher Professional Standards, submitted in accordance with the requirements of subsection (e) of Section 10-144d of the Connecticut General Statutes, and directs the Interim Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

MOTION: In favor: Benham, Hopkins-Staten, Jaskiewicz, Jones, López,
Mojica, Taylor, Wright
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: 0

Motion carried unanimously.

III.A. Receipt of Report from the Connecticut Advisory Council for Administrator Professional Standards

Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Dr. López seconded, that the State Board of Education receives the 2014 Annual Report of the Connecticut Advisory Council for School Administrator Professional Standards, submitted in accordance with the requirements of subsection (e) of Section 10-144e of the Connecticut General Statutes, and directs the Interim Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

MOTION: In favor: Benham, Hopkins-Staten, Jaskiewicz, Jones, López,
Mojica, Taylor, Wright
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: 0

Motion carried unanimously.

The Board unanimously consented to consider agenda item VI.B., Probationary Approval: Mitchell College Educator Preparation Program, at this time.

VI.B. Probationary Approval: Mitchell College Educator Preparation Program

Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Dr. López seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-145d-9(g)(1)(C) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, grants probationary approval to Mitchell College for the period March 4, 2015, to September 30, 2016, with a report due and on-site visit required no later than spring 2016 that addresses the issue of faculty resources as required under the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) standard 5, Faculty Qualifications, Performance, and Development, for the purpose of certifying graduates from Mitchell College in the following area:

<u>Program</u>	<u>Grades</u>	<u>Certification</u>	<u>Program Type</u>
Early Childhood	Nursery-Grade 3	Initial	Undergraduate

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

MOTION: In favor: Benham, Hopkins-Staten, Jaskiewicz, Jones, López,
Mojica, Taylor, Wright
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: 0

Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Executive Session

The Board did not meet in Executive Session.

V. Consideration of the Minutes of the February 4, 2015, State Board of Education Meeting

Dr. López moved, Mrs. Benham seconded, that the Board adopt the Minutes of the February 4, 2015, State Board of Education meeting.

VOTE ON

MOTION: In favor: Benham, Hopkins-Staten, Jones, López,
Mojica, Taylor, Wright
Opposed: 0
Abstained: Jaskiewicz
Absent: 0

Motion carried unanimously.

By unanimous consent, the Board voted to consider agenda item VI.C. at this time.

VI.C. Appointment of Interim Chief Performance Officer

Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Dr. López seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-2(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes and its Bylaws, appoints Mr. Ajit Gopalakrishnan as Interim Chief Performance Officer, effective immediately, to serve until such time as a Chief Performance Officer is appointed, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

MOTION: In favor: Benham, Hopkins-Staten, Jaskiewicz, Jones, López,
Mojica, Taylor, Wright
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: 0

Motion carried unanimously.

[Mr. Wright disconnected via phone at 10:41 a.m.]

VI.D. Adoption of Connecticut Definition of Professional Learning and Connecticut Standards for Professional Learning

Dr. López moved, Mrs. Benham seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (a) of Section 10-148a of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the Connecticut Definition of Professional Learning and Connecticut Standards for Professional Learning and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

A panel consisting of Chief Talent Officer Sarah Barzee, Division Director, CSDE Talent Office Shannon Marimón, and Associate Education Consultant, CSDE Talent Office Kimberly Audet provided a PowerPoint presentation. Discussion ensued.

The Board requested that this matter be considered by the Legislation and Policy Committee for review, and returned to the Board at its April 2015 meeting.

Dr. López moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded, that the State Board of Education table the Adoption of Connecticut Definition of Professional Learning and Connecticut Standards for Professional Learning.

VOTE TO

TABLE:	In favor:	Benham, Hopkins-Staten, Jaskiewicz, Jones, López, Mojica, Taylor
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	0
	Absent:	Wright

Motion to table carried unanimously.

VI.E. Approval of Adult Education State Plan and Related Discussion

Chief Operating Officer Charlene Russell-Tucker, and Bureau Chief of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education John Frassinelli, provided an overview of adult education and the GED test. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Dr. López seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to its role as the state education agency (SEA) for Connecticut, approves the revised Connecticut State Plan for Adult Education and Family Literacy, Title II of the Workforce Investment Act for the period July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

B. Update on ESEA Flexibility Request

Chief Talent Officer Sarah Barzee, Interim Chief Academic Officer Ellen Cohn, Interim Chief Performance Officer Ajit Gopalakrishnan, Regional School Choice & Sheff Office Division Director Glen Peterson, and Chief Operating Officer Charlene Russell-Tucker presented an overview of the "ESEA Flexibility Request."

The panel provided a PowerPoint presentation.

VIII. Report of the Chair

Chairperson Taylor presented a report on (1) Board member confirmations of Erin B. Benham, Terry Jones, Estela López, and Maria I. Mojica, to serve a four-year term ending February 2019; (2) the Student Member search for 2015-16; (3) the annual recognition of outstanding educators; (4) the Board having hosted three charter school renewal hearings; and (5) the NASBE Legislative Conference, which Mr. Wright will attend. (A copy of Mr. Taylor's report is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.)

IX. Report of the Commissioner

Interim Commissioner of Education Dianna R. Wentzell reported on several initiatives that she has engaged in to support the continuing work of the agency. She noted that she meets weekly with the Department's chiefs, weekly with senior managers, and monthly with all agency managers. In addition, she has met with the CAPSS Board of Directors, the RESC Directors, the Southeastern Connecticut Superintendents group, the CAS Board of Directors, The Teacher of the Year Finalists, the Superintendents' Roundtable, AFT-CT, CEA, and the Trumbull Legislative Forum.

[Mr. Wright disconnected via phone at 3:05 p.m.]

X.A. Financial Matters

Chief Financial Officer Kathy Demsey provided an overview of the Governor's proposed budget and highlighted some reductions to areas in our budget.

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten moved, Dr. López seconded, that the Board add to the agenda and consider agenda item VI.F., Resolution in Honor of Charles A. Jaskiewicz III.

VI.F. Resolution in Honor of Charles A. Jaskiewicz III

- WHEREAS, Charles A. Jaskiewicz III was appointed to the Connecticut State Board of Education by Governor Dannel P. Malloy in March 2011; and
- WHEREAS, Mr. Jaskiewicz has served as a member of the State Board of Education Accountability and Support Committee; and
- WHEREAS, Mr. Jaskiewicz has been a longtime supporter of public education at the local and state levels; and
- WHEREAS, Mr. Jaskiewicz served on the Connecticut Municipal Opportunities and Regional Efficiencies Task Force, charged with developing new approaches in state and local governments to increase cost efficiency through regional collaboration, and was a major contributor to the development of guidelines for the adoption of regional school calendars and related cost efficiencies; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That the Connecticut State Board of Education extends to Charles A. Jaskiewicz III its appreciation for the time, commitment and leadership he has dedicated to the improvement of public education in Connecticut, and offers best wishes for happiness and success in the future.

Motion carried unanimously.

XI. Committee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessment

The Academic Standards and Assessment Committee met on February 5, 2015. The committee discussed competency-based and personalized learning, and is continuing its work on the arts and science standards.

B. Accountability and Support

Dr. López reported that the Accountability and Support committee and the Legislation and Policy Development Committee will conduct a joint meeting on March 19, 2015. [Note: this meeting was subsequently postponed.]

C. Finance, Audit, and Budget

No report was given.

D. Legislation and Policy Development

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten reported that the Legislation and Policy Development Committee met this morning. Martha Stone, Leon Smith, and Kathryn Meyer of the Center for Children Advocacy presented, "Education Legislative Initiatives 2015: 'Second Chance' Platform for Kids." The SDE is partnering with The Center for Children Advocacy on several initiatives. The committee will review materials presented by the Center, and will invite staff back for further discussion.

A. Connecticut Technical High School System Board

Mr. Trefry noted that the CTHSS Board was pleased with the budget for CTHSS.

B. NASBE

Mr. Taylor will participate in NASBE's Webinar on March 12, 2015: "How Policymakers Can Get More Students Invested in Learning."

Mr. Wright will be attending NASBE's Annual Legislative Policy Forum 2015, "Federal Education Policy Under Construction."

Chairperson Taylor adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

Signed: _____
Dianna R. Wentzell, Secretary