

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Hartford

Minutes

State Board of Education Meeting

April 6, 2015

(approved May 6, 2015)

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Monday, April 6, 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 9:43 a.m.

Present: Allan Taylor, Chairperson
Theresa Hopkins-Staten, Vice Chairperson
Erin D. Benham
Michael Caminear, Student
Megan Foell, Student
Terry Jones
Estela López
Maria I. Mojica
Robert Trefry, Ex Officio

Absent: Gregory Gray, Ex Officio

II. Public Participation

1. Kristina Talbert-Slagle, parent of a student who attends Renzulli Academy in Hartford, expressed her concerns regarding the decision by the Hartford Board of Education to move Renzulli students to a wing of another Hartford school building, noting that the relocation would not be supportive of the school-wide enrichment model. A copy of Ms. Talbert-Slagle's prepared statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.

Christin L. Goff, parent of a student who attends Renzulli Academy, stated that the school has enabled her son to succeed through his Individualized Education Plan. Ms. Goff noted that, legally, she should have been included in any decisions by Hartford that would alter her son's educational placement. A copy of Ms. Goff's prepared statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.

2. Hugo Muniz, parent of a student who attends Renzulli Academy, expressed his concern regarding Hartford's decision to move Renzulli Academy to another building, and noted the importance of considering "minds over money." He stated that the school supports one of Hartford's core beliefs that school settings can make a significant impact on students' lives.
3. Naiyah McGlamery, 4th grade student at Renzulli Academy, stated that the current space is essential to accommodate the students' learning needs, and stated that others should "leave our home alone."
4. Christian Baxter, 7th grade student at Renzulli, read prepared remarks about the positive impact Renzulli Academy has had on his education and his feeling of being safe in school, in part due to it being a small learning environment. A copy of Mr. Baxter's statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
5. Justin McGlamery, parent of students who attend the Renzulli Academy, expressed his concerns about the negative impact a decision to move Renzulli Academy students to another facility would have, and his concerns about Hartford's communication with the School Governance Council. A copy of Mr. McGlamery's prepared statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
6. Christina Burgos, parent of a student who attends Renzulli Academy, expressed her support for keeping the school at its current location. She noted, "Minds over money; leave our home alone."
7. Pastor Jarmaine Lee, father of a child who attends Renzulli Academy, spoke about the benefits of the school and the need to allow our students to attend school in an environment free of negativity and violence. He added, "Value our minds over your money; and leave our home alone."
8. Amber Fork, parent of 4th grade students who attend Renzulli Academy, spoke about the difference in standards between other schools and Renzulli. She stated that Renzulli Academy provides her children with a safe environment in which academic excellence is rewarded.

III. Consent Agenda

Dr. López removed item III.C., Receipt of the Condition of Education, from the consent agenda.

Dr. López moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded, that the Board approve the following consent agenda items: III.A., Connecticut Technical High School System

Healthy Food Certification Waiver, and III.B., Connecticut Technical High School System Tuition and Fees (2015-16 and 2016-17).

A. Connecticut Technical High School System Healthy Food Certification Waiver

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-215f of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves that the Connecticut Technical High School System will not participate in the Healthy Food Certification for school year 2015-2016 as recommended by the Connecticut Technical High School System Board, although it will continue to maintain current Federal nutritional standards in its school meals and a la carte options, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

B. Connecticut Technical High School System Tuition and Fees (2015-16 and 2016-17)

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-95(e) of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the Connecticut Technical High School System's Tuition and Fee Schedule for Fiscal Years 2016 and 2017, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Receipt of the Condition of Education Report

Dr. López stated for the record that she removed this item from the consent agenda, as it contains valuable information about Connecticut's changing demographics. She noted that this data will inform current and future efforts to improve education. Dr. López invited Ajit Gopalakrishnan, Interim Chief Performance Officer, to provide an overview of the report.

Dr. López moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-4(b) of the Connecticut General Statutes, receives *The Condition of Education in Connecticut (2013-14)* and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Executive Session

The Board did not hold an executive session.

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

Dr. López moved, Ms. Mojica seconded, that the Board adopt the Minutes of the March 4, 2015, State Board of Education meeting.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Items Requiring Action

A. Adoption of ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview-Computer and Written Proficiency Test-Computer and Praxis II Family and Consumer Science Test

Dr. López moved, Mrs. Benham seconded, that the State Board of Education (SBE), pursuant to subsection (b) of Section 10-145f of the Connecticut General Statutes, adopts the following subject area assessments with the appropriate passing standards for the certification in the areas listed, effective September 1, 2015:

Test Name	Required for Certification Endorsement	Recommended Passing Score
Praxis II Family and Consumer Sciences (5122)	Home Economics PK-12 (#045)	160
ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview - Computer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • French • German • Italian • Spanish • Portuguese • Russian • Mandarin Chinese • Other World Languages 	World Languages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • #018 French 7-12 • #019 German 7-12 • #020 Italian 7-12 • #023 Spanish 7-12 • #024 Other World Language 7-12 • #022 Russian 7-12 • #024 Other World Language 7-12 • #024 Other World Languages 7-12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced Low • Advanced Low • Advanced Low • Advanced Low • Advanced Low • Intermediate High • Intermediate High • Intermediate High
ACTFL Written Proficiency Test - Computer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • French • German • Italian • Spanish • Portuguese • Russian • Mandarin Chinese • Other World Languages 	World Languages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • #018 French 7-12 • #019 German 7-12 • #020 Italian 7-12 • #023 Spanish 7-12 • #024 Other World Language 7-12 • #022 Russian 7-12 • #024 Other World Language 7-12 • #024 Other World Languages 7-12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced Low • Advanced Low • Advanced Low • Advanced Low • Advanced Low • Intermediate High • Intermediate High • Intermediate High

unless such person meets requirements for an exemption from such testing requirements as provided in subsection (f) of Section 10-145f of the Connecticut General Statutes, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

MOTION: In favor: Benham, Hopkins-Staten, Jones, López, Mojica, Taylor

 Opposed: 0

 Abstained: 0

 Absent: 0

Motion carried unanimously.

By unanimous consent, the Board considered agenda item VI.C. at this time.

C. Norfolk-Colebrook Temporary Regional School Study Committee

Dr. López moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded, that the State Board of Education, in support of the report to be submitted by the Norfolk-Colebrook temporary regional school study committee, endorses the development of a legislative proposal providing for a 5-year exemption from the provisions of C.G.S. Section 10-51(b), 10-262i, the Minimum Budget Requirement, as applied to Norfolk and Colebrook, for the period beginning in the 2016-17 school year, and further endorses a proposal that would authorize this board to extend these exemptions beyond this 5-year period if a new regional board of education for the towns of Norfolk and Colebrook demonstrates to the SBE, following three years of operation of the new regional district, that such further exemption is required in order to preserve the financial viability of such new district, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Dr. López moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded, that the resolution be amended to read as follows:

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, in support of the report to be submitted by the Norfolk-Colebrook temporary regional school study committee, endorses the development of a legislative proposal providing for a 10-year exemption from the provisions of C.G.S. Section 10-51(b), relating to proportional allocation of expenses, and C.G.S. Section 10-262i, the Minimum Budget Requirement, as applied to Norfolk and Colebrook, for the period beginning in the first school year in which the consolidation is in effect, provided that this Board may suspend the exemption from Section 10-262i after five years have passed if it concludes that the exemption from Section 10-262i endangers the interest of the state in the quality of education provided by the district, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion as amended carried unanimously.

By unanimous consent, the Board considered agenda item VII.A., Charter School Oversight Process, at this time.

VII. Items for Discussion

Chief Operating Officer Charlene Russell-Tucker and Bureau Chief Mark Linabury presented an overview of the charter school renewal process, highlighting efforts to strengthen the renewal process, the new “renewal toolkit,” and the performance framework, standards and indicators, rubric and renewal report. Discussion ensued. A copy of the power point presentation is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.

VI.B. Application to be an Accrediting Agency: Green Apple

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten moved, Dr. López seconded, that the State Board of Education denies the application of Green Apple Accreditation of Children’s Services to become a state-approved accrediting agency, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

The Board recessed the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 1:15 p.m. Present were Allan Taylor, Theresa Hopkins-Staten, Erin D. Benham, Michael Caminear, Megan Foell, Terry Jones, Estela López, Maria I. Mojica, and Robert Trefry, ex officio.

VI.D. Petition for Declaratory Ruling

Dr. Joseph Johnson, Petitioner; Attorney Corey J. Brinson, counsel to Dr. Johnson; and Attorney Matthew Venhorst and Attorney Louis B. Todisco, representing the State Department of Education, presented oral argument in the matter of “Dr. Joseph Johnson vs. Stefan Pryor, Petition for Declaratory Ruling, Case No. 14-1,” in response to the hearing officer’s “Proposed Final Decision and Order.”

Chairman Taylor called for a recess at 2:30 p.m. for purposes of drafting a resolution to reflect the Board's discussion.

The meeting reconvened at 2:40 p.m.

Dr. López moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 4-176 of the Connecticut General Statutes and Section 10-4-11 et. seq. of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, sets aside the proposed declaratory ruling from the hearing officer in the Petition for Declaratory Ruling No. 14-1, and issues the following as its ruling: the Petitioner has met the requirements of 50 school months of successful teaching or service, in accordance with Section 10-145d-574(c) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Jones and Ms. Mojica left the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

IX. Report of the Commissioner

Interim Commissioner Wentzell referred the Board to her written report, highlighting her efforts over the past month to sustain focus on the work and goals of the Department. The report highlights an update on federal submissions; meetings with legislative groups; internal operations; external operations; and state-wide meetings. She also included a "save the date" announcement regarding the May 12, 2015, Connecticut Kindergarten Symposium.

XI. Committee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessment

No report was given.

B. Accountability and Support

Dr. López noted that the next meeting of the Accountability and Support Committee, to be held jointly with the Legislation and Policy Development Committee, is scheduled for April 21, 2015, at 10:00 a.m.

C. Finance, Audit and Budget Committee

No report was given.

D. Legislation and Policy Development Committee

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten stated that the committee met this morning and was introduced to the Department's new legislative liaison, Laura Stefon. The committee also received an update on Connecticut's definition of professional learning, which will be presented to the full Board at the May meeting. Chief Financial Officer Kathy Demsey and Communications Director Kelly Donnelly updated committee members about the legislative session to date.

E. Connecticut Technical High School System Board

Mr. Trefry called attention to the CTHSS Newsletter, included in the Board's supplemental materials folder.

F. NASBE

No report was given.

Chairperson Taylor adjourned the meeting at 3:02 p.m.

Signed: _____
Dr. Dianna R. Wentzell, Secretary