

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
May 6, 2015
(approved June 3, 2015)

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, May 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 9:42 a.m.

Present: Allan Taylor, Chairperson
Theresa Hopkins-Staton, Vice Chairperson
Erin D. Benham
Terry Jones
Estela López
Maria I. Mojica
Robert Trefry, Ex Officio
Stephen Wright

Absent: Michael Caminear, Student
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 reappointed Board member Stephen P. Wright (a copy is in the official file).

II. Public Participation

1. David Schlakman, President of the Board, New Beginnings Family Academy (NBFA), Bridgeport, spoke in support of the State Board of Education granting a five-year charter renewal to NBFA, to allow the school to continue to increase its students' success. A copy of Mr. Schlakman's prepared remarks is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
2. Juan Rivas, a parent of a child who attends New Beginnings Family Academy (NBFA), Bridgeport, spoke in support of the State Board of Education granting a five-year charter renewal to NBFA.
3. Christine King, parent of two students who attend New Beginnings Family Academy (NBFA), Bridgeport, spoke about the benefits of the school's sibling policy, the positive impact the

school has had on her children's grades and self-confidence, and the high level of communication between parents and faculty. She urged the Board to support the resolution to renew the charter for five years.

4. David Howes, Principal of the Interdistrict School for Arts and Communication (ISAAC), New London, stated that ISAAC represents a great choice for New London area students and that he believes in its mission. He expressed his support for the Board's approval of the proposal to renew ISAAC's charter for five years.
5. Lisa Lessard, resident of Waterbury, a parent of a student with special education needs and a special education advocate, expressed her concerns regarding the oversight of and accountability for special education in Waterbury. She expressed concerns about the use of Alliance District funds in Waterbury, and questioned the status of Walsh Elementary School.
6. Jill Johnson, Executive Director and Principal of Explorations Charter School, spoke about the school's continued use of data and how it informs curriculum and professional development, and described future efforts to continue to address the students' unique needs. A copy of Ms. Johnson's prepared remarks is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
7. Craig Baker, Chief Education Officer, Stamford Academy, stated that when looking at data regarding Stamford Academy, it is important to consider the school's unique mission, the student population it serves, and its role in the community. A copy of Mr. Baker's prepared remarks is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
8. Chris Bugbee, Principal, Odyssey Community School, Manchester, described the school's significant growth over the past five years, the grade expansion, and the positive relationship Odyssey has with surrounding communities.
9. Tom Stringfellow, resident of Manchester, congratulated Dr. Wentzell on her appointment, and recommended several articles and publications concerning the role and contributions of African Americans in U.S. history. A copy of Mr. Stringfellow's prepared remarks is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.

III. Consent Agenda

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten removed item III.A., Approval of Application for Funds: Special Education Federal IDEA, Part B, from the consent agenda.

IV. Executive Session

The Board did not hold an executive session.

V. Consideration of Minutes

A. April 6, 2015, State Board of Education Meeting

B. April 17, 2015, Special State Board of Education Meeting

Mrs. Benham moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded, that the Board adopt the Minutes of the April 6, 2015, State Board of Education meeting and the April 17, 2015, State Board of Education special meeting.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

III.A. Approval of Application for Funds: Special Education Federal IDEA, Part B

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten moved, Dr. López seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-11 of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the 2015 grant application entitled "Annual State Application Under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act, as Amended in 2004, for Federal Fiscal Year 2015" to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Items Requiring Action

A. Approval of Charter School Renewal: Interdistrict School for Arts and Communication (ISAAC), New London

Dr. López moved, Mrs. Benham seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (g) of Section 10-66bb of the Connecticut General Statutes, renews the charter of Interdistrict School for Arts and Communication from July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2020,

subject to the conditions noted in the Commissioner's May 6, 2015, memorandum to the State Board of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Charter School Renewal: Common Ground High School, New Haven

Mr. Jones moved, Mrs. Benham seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (g) of Section 10-66bb of the Connecticut General Statutes, renews the charter of Common Ground High School from July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2020, subject to the conditions noted in the Commissioner's May 6, 2015, memorandum to the State Board of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Approval of Charter School Renewal: Odyssey Community School, Manchester

Dr. López moved, Ms. Mojica seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (g) of Section 10-66bb of the Connecticut General Statutes, renews the charter of Odyssey Community School from July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2020, subject to the conditions noted in the Commissioner's May 6, 2015, memorandum to the State Board of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

D. Approval of Charter School Renewal: New Beginnings Family Academy, Bridgeport

Dr. López moved, Ms. Mojica seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (g) of Section 10-66bb of the Connecticut General Statutes, renews the charter of New Beginnings Family Academy from July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2018, subject to the conditions noted in the Commissioner's May 6, 2015, memorandum to the State Board of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

E. Approval of Charter School Renewal: Explorations Charter School, Winsted

Dr. López moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (g) of Section 10-66bb of the Connecticut General Statutes, renews the charter of Explorations Charter School from July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2018, subject to the conditions noted in the Commissioner's May 6, 2015, memorandum to the State Board of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

F. Approval of Charter School Renewal: Stamford Academy, Stamford

Prior to voting on the resolution, Board members discussed the conditions noted in the Commissioner's May 6, 2015, memorandum to the Board regarding the proposed 3-year renewal of Stamford Academy. Board members reached consensus that in lieu of Stamford Academy being placed on probation for one year, the provisions outlined on page 7 of the Commissioner's May 6, 2015, memorandum, as appropriate, be added to the conditions upon which the Board grants the renewal of the school's charter for the period July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2018.

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten moved, Dr. López seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (g) of Section 10-66bb of the Connecticut General Statutes, renews the charter

of Stamford Academy from July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2018, subject to the conditions noted in the Commissioner's May 6, 2015, memorandum to the State Board of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

G. Adoption of Connecticut Definition of Professional Learning and Connecticut Standards for Professional Learning

Dr. López moved, Ms. Mojica 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.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

H. Designation of Subject Area Certification Shortage Areas

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten moved, Mrs. Benham seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-8b of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the Designation of Certification Shortage Areas, 2015-16 (Fall Hiring Report), and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

The Board recessed its meeting at 12:45 p.m.

The Board reconvened the meeting at 1:35 p.m. The following members were present:

Present: Allan Taylor, Chairperson
Theresa Hopkins-Staten, Vice Chairperson
Erin D. Benham
Terry Jones
Estela López
Maria I. Mojica
Robert Trefry, ex officio
Stephen P. Wright

Absent: Michael Caminear, Student
Megan Foell, Student
Gregory Gray, ex officio

I. Receipt of Report on Racial Imbalance Statistics

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten moved, Ms. Mojica seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Sections 10-226a and 10-226b of the Connecticut General Statutes, accepts the Racial Imbalance Report dated April 14, 2015, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

J. Request for Finance Advisory Committee (FAC) Action

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten moved, Mrs. Benham seconded, that the State Board of Education approves the request for Finance Advisory Committee (FAC) action to transfer an estimated \$12,877,000 between various accounts, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

VII. Items for Discussion

There were no discussion items on the agenda.

VIII. Report of the Chair

A copy of the Chair's written report is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.

IX. Report of the Commissioner

Commissioner Designate Dianna R. Wentzell reported on her efforts to sustain focus on the goals of the Department and Board. She reported on several initiatives designed to support this work, including the development of an Equity Plan and the submission of Connecticut's ESEA flexibility waiver; ongoing discussions of education issues with legislators; several meetings with education partners and school visits; and her involvement at numerous statewide meetings (focused on early childhood education; reading, the role of paraprofessionals; etc.) and events (Invention Convention; Unified Sports banquet; and the CAS Scholar-Athlete Banquet).

X. Financial Matters

No report was given.

XI. Committee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessment

No report was given.

B. Accountability and Support

Dr. López reported that on Tuesday, April 21, 2015, the Accountability and Support Committee held a joint meeting with the Legislation and Policy Development Committee. The committees were updated on the Crosby High School Turnaround Plan.

C. Finance, Audit, and Budget

Mr. Taylor reported that the Finance, Audit and Budget Committee will meet on May 18, 2015.

D. Legislation and Policy Development Committee

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten reported that the committee met this morning, and received a legislation update from Laura Stefon, Legislative Liaison.

The committee discussed a proposed revision to its Bylaws regarding delegating authority to the Commissioner to submit grant applications.

Bureau Chief John Frassinelli gave a presentation to the committee on the Supports for Pregnant and Parenting Teens Program (SPPT).

E. Connecticut Technical High School System Board

Mr. Trefry reported that one year ago, a strategic plan was developed for the CTHSS. The results will be reviewed in June 2015. The Board will receive an update in September 2015.

A list of the CTHSS graduation dates was provided to the Board members. The Board is invited to attend the graduation ceremonies.

F. NASBE

Mr. Wright reported that he will participate on an upcoming call on legislation.

Chairperson Taylor adjourned the meeting at 2:17 p.m.

Signed: _____
Dr. Dianna R. Wentzell, Secretary