

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

State Board of Education Meeting
June 3, 2015
(approved July 1, 2015)

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, June 3, 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 1:43 p.m.

Present: Allan Taylor, Chairperson
Theresa Hopkins-Staten, Vice Chairperson
Erin D. Benham
Megan Foell
Terry Jones
Estela López
Robert Trefry, Ex Officio
Joseph J. Vrabely, Jr.
Stephen Wright

Absent: Michael Caminear, Student
Gregory Gray, Ex Officio
Maria Mojica

Oath of Office

Attorney Matthew E. Venhorst, Commissioner of the Superior Court, administered the Oath of Office to reappointed Board member Joseph J. Vrabely, Jr. (a copy is in the official file).

II. Public Participation

1. Tom Stringfellow, a resident of Manchester, recommended several publications pertaining to history and cited numerous contributions of veterans of war to our country.
2. LaShawn Robinson, a resident of Hartford, expressed her concerns about the Hartford Public School System's policy of "last in, first out" and its negative impact on education.
3. Milly Arciniegas, Director of the Hartford Parent University, reinforced Ms. Robinson's concerns and stated that a "last in, first out" policy will result in inequities in schools. Ms. Arciniegas told the Board that she plans to work with legislators on this matter. She added that she is

pleased to announce that the Hartford Parent University is graduating 34 parent leaders on June 19, 2015.

4. Three members of the State Student Advisory Council on Education summarized the Council's work over the course of the past year and their suggestions on the three topics studied. Emily Williams, Farmington High School, presented an overview of the Council's research of and recommendations related to the appropriate start time for elementary and high school students. Taylor Schwab, Suffield High School, presented an overview of and recommendations related to the Council's research on the value of community service learning. Peter Russell, Greenwich High School, presented an overview of and recommendations related to the Council's research on student assessment in Grade 11. Discussion followed. A copy of the SSACE PowerPoint presentation is enclosed in the official file.

On a motion by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Vrabely, the Board voted unanimously to add to the agenda the following: VI.D., Resolution in Honor of Megan Foell, Student Member; VI.E., Resolution in Honor of Michael Caminear, Student Member; and VI.F., Approval of High School Work Group's Interim Recommendations as Framework for Subsequent Final Proposal regarding High School Mastery Examination.

III. Consent Agenda

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten removed from the consent agenda items III.D., Rolling Capital Improvement and Capital Equipment Plan for the Technical High School System, and III.E., Adoption of Annual Audit Plan.

Mr. Wright moved, Mrs. Benham seconded, that the Board approve the following consent agenda items: III.A., Recognition of Career and Technical Student Organizations; III.B., Recognition of G.E.D. Scholar; and III.C., Recognition of Adult and Continuing Education Students.

III.A. Recognition of Career and Technical Student Organizations

Whereas, Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) are a co-curricular, integral part of the local, state and national career and technical education programs;

Whereas, The development of individual student leadership skills is the keystone of these organizations; and

Whereas, All CTSO chapters were asked to identify an outstanding service project; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Connecticut Board of Education recognizes the following CTSO Outstanding Service Award Recipients:

- Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA), Hamden High School, Hamden

- Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Manchester High School, Manchester
- Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), Region 15, Pomperaug High School, Southbury
- FFA, formerly known as Future Farmers of America, Region 14, Nonnewaug High School, Woodbury
- Future Health Professionals (HOSA), East Haven High School, East Haven
- Technology Student Association (TSA), Killingly High School, Dayville
- SkillsUSA, H.C. Wilcox Technical High School, Meriden

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

III.B. Recognition of G.E.D. Scholar

Whereas, Lauren Atkinson, a resident of Harwinton, has demonstrated exceptional skill and proficiency in the four subject areas of the high school equivalency examination by attaining a score of 760 on the General Educational Development Tests in 2014; and

Whereas, She is the Connecticut resident with the highest score on the examination; and

Whereas, She has brought honor to herself, to the State Board of Education and the State of Connecticut; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Connecticut State Board of Education honors Lauren Atkinson with great appreciation for her accomplishment in a major adult education endeavor and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

III.C. Recognition of Adult and Continuing Education Students

Whereas, Adult education exemplifies the concept of lifelong learning with more than 12,000 Connecticut residents in adult basic education/secondary school completion programs and nearly 12,000 Connecticut residents in English as a second language and U.S. citizenship preparation programs;

Whereas, The Connecticut Association for Adult and Continuing Education (CAACE), through its CAACE Student Award, recognized three individuals who have overcome numerous obstacles and hardships to persist and succeed in adult education; and

Whereas, These individuals exemplify the spirit and determination necessary to achieve a goal and serve as role models to all adult and young learners in our communities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Connecticut State Board of Education recognizes the following individuals for their accomplishment in this major adult education endeavor:

Rose Buonanducci	Vernon Regional Adult Education
Anh Frederick	Bristol Adult Education
Bo Wang	Norwich Adult Education

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

III.D. Rolling Capital Improvement and Capital Equipment Plan for the Technical High School System

Dr. López moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded, that the Board, pursuant to subsection (d) of Section 10-95i of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the Connecticut Technical High School System's Rolling Capital Improvement and Capital Equipment Plan 2016-2020, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

III.E. Adoption of Annual Audit Plan

Dr. López moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded, that the Board adopts the Annual Audit Plan for the period of July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Dr. López left the meeting during the time of the Audit Plan presentation.

VOTE ON

MOTION: In favor: Benham, Hopkins-Staten, Jones, Taylor,
Vrabely, Wright

Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: López, Mojica

Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Executive Session

The Board did not hold an executive session.

V. Consideration of Minutes

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

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

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Items Requiring Action

A. Biennial Organizational Meeting

VI.A.1., Adoption of State Board of Education Bylaws 2015-17

Mr. Wright moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 3 of Article III of its Bylaws, approves the 2015-17 Bylaws of the Connecticut State Board of Education.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

VI.A.4. 2016 Meeting Schedule

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten moved, Mrs. Benham seconded, that that State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 1-225 of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the 2016 schedule of regular meeting dates, as follows:

January 6, 2016
February 3, 2016
March 2, 2016
April 6, 2016
May 4, 2016
June 1, 2016
July 6, 2016
August 4, 2016 (retreat)
September 7, 2016
October 5, 2016
November 2, 2016
December 7, 2016

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

VI.B. Approval of Mastery-based Learning Guidelines

Mr. Jones moved, Mrs. Benham seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-221a(f)(3), adopts the Guidelines for Mastery-Based Learning, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

VI.C. Approval of PK Sliding Tuition Scale for Regional Educational Service Center-Operated Magnet Schools

The Board unanimously agreed to postpone agenda item VI.C., Approval of PK Sliding Tuition Scale for Regional Educational Service Center-Operated Magnet Schools.

VII. Items for Discussion

A. Application for Funds: SLDS Grant

Ajit Gopalakrishnan, Interim Chief Performance Officer, introduced the panel consisting of partner agencies of the Data Governing Board for P20 WIN (Connecticut's Preschool through Twenty and Workforce Information Network): Jan Kiehne, Policy Research, & Strategic Planning, Connecticut Board of Regents for Higher Education; Jennifer Widness, Vice President, Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges; William J. Gammell, Interim Director of Policy and Research, Connecticut Board of Regents for Higher Education; and Andrew Condon, Director, Research and Information, Connecticut Department of Labor.

Mr. Gopalakrishnan summarized the priority areas of Connecticut's two data systems, IES (Institute of Education Sciences) SLDS (Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems): (1) Instructional Support – Early Warning Systems (EWS), and (2) College and Career. Discussion followed.

VI.F. Approval of High School Work Group's Interim Recommendations as Framework for Subsequent Final Proposal regarding High School Mastery Examination

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten moved, Mrs. Benham seconded, that the Board approve the following resolution.

Whereas, On September 5, 2014, Governor Dannel P. Malloy directed the State Department of Education to convene a work group to examine ways to reduce test burden on Grade 11 students;

Whereas, The State Board of Education established a high school assessment work group as an extension of its Academic Standards and Assessment Committee, comprised of representatives from the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, the Connecticut Association of Schools, the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents, the Connecticut Parent Teacher Association, the American Federation of Teachers-Connecticut, the Connecticut Education

Association, the Board of Regents, a designee of the Connecticut General Assembly Education Committee, and other technical experts in the area of student assessments;

Whereas, The work group has been meeting regularly since November 2014 to study various college readiness exams and has heard directly from experts, students, and teachers; and

Whereas, After careful and thoughtful consideration, the group reached consensus on May 26, 2015, to move towards a nationally recognized college readiness exam for purposes of satisfying the high school mastery assessment requirement under Connecticut and federal law, provided that the following conditions are met:

- 1) The assessment offers appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities and students who are English learners;
- 2) The Connecticut General Assembly appropriates sufficient funding to cover the costs of:
 - a. Procuring and administering a nationally recognized college readiness assessment to all students in Grade 11;
 - b. Building systems for data integration, reporting, and accountability and increased staffing needs of the CSDE necessitated by the transition to a new statewide high school assessment; and
 - c. Supporting equity in access to test preparation resources;
- 3) The assessment complies with all federal laws and regulations and receives approval from the U.S. Department of Education as an amendment to the state's Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) flexibility renewal request; and
- 4) The work group continues to convene and consult stakeholders and experts in order to address the aforementioned conditions in the development of the final recommendation regarding the Grade 11 statewide mastery examination, which will be presented to the State Board of Education for its consideration; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, The State Board of Education approves the work group's interim recommendations as the framework for the final recommendation regarding the state's high school mastery exam, which will be presented to the State Board of Education for consideration for approval pursuant to C.S.G. 10-14n (a) and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. Report of the Chair

Chairperson Taylor reported that he attended the "Dream Big" ceremony on May 28, 2015, to support CHET and college savings. He made reference to an essay written by Julia Walker, a 7th grade student who attends East Lyme Middle School. Mr. Taylor thanked Board members Stephen Wright, Terry Jones, Robert Trefry, and Theresa Hopkins-Staten for volunteering to represent the Board at one or more of the upcoming CTHSS graduation ceremonies. Theresa Hopkins-Staten, Vice Chairperson, will join the Commissioner and her staff at an upcoming SDE Staff Meeting on June 19, 2015. A copy of the Chair's written report is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.

IX. Report of the Commissioner

Commissioner Dianna R. Wentzell reported on her efforts to sustain focus on the work and goals of the Department and Board. She reported on several initiatives designed to support this work, including the submission of an Equity Plan and Connecticut's ESEA flexibility waiver; ongoing discussions of education issues with legislators; several meetings with SDE staff and education partners; school visits; and her involvement at numerous statewide meetings. Commissioner Wentzell noted that she served as a judge of documentary films at History Day, and spoke at the SSACE "Challenge to Educational Citizenship Awards" Ceremony. Commissioner Wentzell highlighted the results of the study titled, "Evaluating the Academic Performance of Choice Program in Connecticut." Copies were made available at the Board meeting. A copy of the Commissioner's written report is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.

VI.D. Resolution in Honor of Megan Foell, Student Member

Mr. Jones moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the Board approve the following resolution:

Whereas, Section 10-1 of the Connecticut General Statutes provides for the appointment of two student members to the Connecticut State Board of Education; and

Whereas, Governor Dannel P. Malloy appointed Megan Foell, of Thomaston, Connecticut, to the State Board of Education for a one-year term commencing July 1, 2014; and

Whereas, During her tenure, Ms. Foell has served with distinction and has contributed greatly to the Board's discussions of education policy issues; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education extends to Megan Foell its appreciation for her commitment to educational excellence and equity in Connecticut public schools and best wishes for continued success in her future endeavors.

VOTE ON

MOTION: In favor: Benham, Hopkins-Staten, Jones, Taylor,
Vrabely, Wright

Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: López, Mojica

Motion carried unanimously.

VI.E. Resolution in Honor of Michael Caminear, Student Member

Mr. Jones moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the Board approve the following resolution:

Whereas, Section 10-1 of the Connecticut General Statutes provides for the appointment of two student members to the Connecticut State Board of Education; and

Whereas, Governor Dannel P. Malloy appointed Michael Caminear, of Branford, Connecticut, to the State Board of Education for a one-year term commencing July 1, 2014; and

Whereas, During his tenure, Mr. Caminear has served with distinction and has contributed greatly to the Board's discussions of education policy issues; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the State Board of Education extends to Michael Caminear its appreciation for his commitment to educational excellence and equity in Connecticut public schools and best wishes for continued success in his future endeavors.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

X. Financial Matters

No report was given.

XI. Committee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessment

Mr. Wright reported that the Academic Standards and Assessment Committee will meet on Tuesday, June 9, 2015.

B. Accountability and Support

No report was given.

C. Finance, Audit, and Budget

No report was given.

D. Legislation and Policy Development Committee

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten reported that the committee met this morning, and summarized a discussion of Educator Preparation Program Continuing Visit and New Program Proposal Development Period 2015-17, which will be brought to the Board for its consideration at the July meeting.

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten reported that the committee received an update on the Waterbury Crosby High School Turnaround Plan, and noted that it was progressing very nicely.

E. Connecticut Technical High School System Board

The committee will be discussing plans to ensure college and career readiness of CTHSS students, as well as the Admissions Policy and the inclusion of special education students.

F. NASBE

Mr. Taylor reported that he will attend the NASBE Board of Directors meeting on June 19, 2015, and Mr. Trefry will attend the NASBE Career Readiness Group Study on June 19-20, 2015.

Chairperson Taylor adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

Signed: _____
Dr. Dianna R. Wentzell, Secretary