

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
July 1, 2015
(approved September 2, 2015)

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, July 1, 2015, in Room 1D of the Legislative Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Allan Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

Present: Allan Taylor, Chairperson
Theresa Hopkins-Staten, Vice Chairperson
Erin D. Benham
Susannah M. Beyl, Student Member
Terry Jones**
Estela López
Maria Mojica*
Timothy J. Noel-Sullivan, Student Member
Robert Trefry, Ex Officio
Joseph J. Vrabely, Jr.
Stephen Wright

Absent: Gregory Gray, Ex Officio

Oath of Office

Attorney Laura Anastasio, Commissioner of the Superior Court, administered the Oath of Office to student members Susannah M. Beyl and Timothy J. Noel-Sullivan.

II. Public Participation

1. Justin McGlamery, a parent of a Renzulli Academy student, expressed his concerns regarding Renzulli Academy students being moved from their building and explained the negative impact on the students. He also stated his concerns about the lack of play space at the Washington Street location, the lack of security at that site, and not receiving accurate information from the Hartford superintendent.
2. Christin L. Goff, parent of a Renzulli Academy student, expressed her concerns about the lack of transparency on the part of the Hartford superintendent and her staff, funding issues related to the school, and her disappointment that the school has not been supported or acknowledged for its success.

3.

*[Mrs. Mojica arrived at 9:47 a.m.]

4. Shontá Browdy, parent of a former Renzulli Academy student, stated her concerns about conditions in Hartford's schools, including PCBs at Clark School and overcrowding at Wish School. She disagreed with the practice of crediting sending schools with the scores attained by Renzulli Academy students. Ms. Browdy stated that Renzulli Academy needs to be recognized for its achievements, and expressed her support for real parental engagement where parents are respected and valued.

III. Consent Agenda

There were no items on the consent agenda.

V. Consideration of Minutes

Dr. López moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded, that the Board approve the Minutes of the June 3, 2015, State Board of Education Meeting.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Items Requiring Action

A. Reappointment of Impartial Hearing Officers

Mr. Wright moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Sections 10-186(b)(2) and 10-233d(b) and 10-15d of the Connecticut General Statutes and Sections 10-145-611(h), 612(h), 613(f), and 10-4-12(f) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, hereby reappoints the following individuals to conduct hearings and render decisions as an impartial hearing board, or otherwise, on matters where they may be appointed to serve in accordance with law for the period from the conclusion of their current appointments through August 31, 2018:

Ann F. Bird
Donal C. Collimore
Janis C. Jerman
Stanton H. Lesser
Thomas C. McNeill, Jr.
Steven R. Rolnick
Frederic S. Ury

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Concussion Education Course and Documents

Mr. Vrabely moved, Ms. Mojica seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Subsections (b) and (e) of Section 10-149b of the Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.): Concussions: Training courses for coaches. Education plan. Informed consent form. Development or approval by the State Board of Education. Revocation of coaching permit, approves the coaches' concussion courses, the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) training module for football coaches, the coaches' concussion annual review materials, and parent/legal guardian informed consent form regarding concussions, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

**[Mr. Jones arrived at 9:56 a.m.]

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

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

D. Approval of the Norfolk-Colebrook Regionalization Plan

Mr. Vrabely moved, Dr. López seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-43 of the Connecticut General Statutes and subject to the final approval of Public Act 15-215, accepts the recommendations of the Norfolk-Colebrook temporary regional school study committee, and shall certify to the town clerk of Norfolk and Colebrook that such recommendations have been approved, and shall send a copy of such certification to the Norfolk-Colebrook temporary regional school study committee, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

E. Approval of Educator Preparation Program Continuing Visit and New Program Proposal Development Period 2015-17

Dr. López moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-145d-9(g) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, grants an extension of approval for educator preparation programs scheduled for continuing approval visits during the academic years 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 and imposes policy restrictions on new program proposal applications, limiting them to only those that can demonstrate an enrollment base of 10 or more candidates per year and can specifically address the Connecticut State Department of Education designated shortage areas as reported by the Department in the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 academic years, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

F. Approval of Commissioner's Network Plan: East Hartford Middle School

Mr. Vrabely moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-223h of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended by Section 261 of Senate Bill 1502, and subject to final approval, adopts and approves the Turnaround Plan for East Hartford Middle School in East Hartford for the Commissioner's Network, subject to the conditions noted in the Commissioner's July 1, 2015, memorandum to the State Board of Education, and

directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action, including, but not limited to, expending such funds as may be necessary to execute and implement the foregoing.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

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

C. Approval of Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Documents

Mr. Vrabely moved, Dr. López seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Subsections (b) and (c) of Section 10-149f of the Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.): Sudden cardiac arrest awareness education program. Consent form, approves the Connecticut Department of Education's Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Parent and Legal Guardian Informed Consent Form and the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Annual Review for coaches, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

[Mrs. Hopkins-Staten left the meeting at 11:49 a.m.]

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

[Mrs. Hopkins-Staten returned to the meeting at 11:53 a.m.]

IV. Executive Session

On a motion by Mr. Vrabely, seconded by Mrs. Benham, the Board voted unanimously to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing agenda item VI.G., Appointment of Deputy Commissioner of Education.

Present in executive session were Mr. Taylor, Mrs. Hopkin-Staten, Mrs. Benham, Ms. Beyl, Mr. Jones, Dr. López, Ms. Mojica, Mr. Noel-Sullivan, Mr. Trefry, Mr. Vrabely, Mr. Wright, and Commissioner Wentzell.

On a motion by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Vrabely, the Board voted unanimously to move out of executive session and reconvene in public session at 1:06 p.m. Present were Board members: Mr. Taylor, Mrs. Hopkin-Staten, Mrs. Benham, Ms. Beyl, Mr. Jones, Dr. López, Ms. Mojica, Mr. Noel-Sullivan, Mr. Trefry, Mr. Vrabely, and Mr. Wright.

VI. G. Appointment of Deputy Commissioner of Education

Mr. Vrabely moved, Mrs. Benham seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-3a of the Connecticut General Statutes and Article IV of its Bylaws, approves the appointment of Ellen E. Cohn as Deputy Commissioner, State Department of Education, effective July 1, 2015, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-3a of the Connecticut General Statutes and Article IV of its Bylaws, approves the appointment of Ellen E. Cohn as Deputy Commissioner for the Implementation of Education Reform, State Department of Education for Education, effective July 1, 2015, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion as amended carried unanimously.

The Board recessed its meeting at 1:08 p.m.

The Board reconvened the meeting at 1:55 p.m. The following members were present:

Allan Taylor, Chairperson

Theresa Hopkins-Staten, Vice Chairperson

Erin D. Benham

Susannah Beyl, Student

Terry Jones

Estela López

Maria I. Mojica

Timothy Noel-Sullivan, Student

Robert Trefry, Ex Officio

Joseph J. Vrabely

Absent: Gregory Gray, Ex Officio
Stephen P. Wright

VII. Items for Discussion

There were no items for discussion.

VIII. Report of the Chair

Chairperson Taylor referenced his written report, noting the following:

- o Several Board members recently attended many of the Connecticut Technical High School graduation ceremonies; and
- o Mrs. Hopkins-Staten addressed all employees of the State Department of Education at the June "all staff meeting" held at Rentschler Field in East Hartford.

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

IX. Report of the Commissioner

Commissioner Wentzell referred to her printed report, and highlighted the following points:

- o The Connecticut State Department of Education has been interacting with the United States Education Department (USED) on Connecticut's ESEA flexibility request; Connecticut's formal request to move to a college-readiness assessment for Grade 11 students; and a conference call with USED Secretary Duncan and chief state school officers on Smarter Balanced and PARCC assessments, including concerns about how to communicate and ensure that parents understand the scores. Commissioner Wentzell noted that Connecticut is trying to develop a reporting format for SBAC similar to what parents have been accustomed to in the past (CMT report).
- o Laura Stefon, the SDE legislative liaison, is preparing a summary of the 2015 legislative session in relation to education. She informed the Board that legislation authorizing the Commissioner to appoint a receiver for the Winchester Public Schools had been approved and that the receiver would be appointed by August 1, reporting directly to the Commissioner. The Commissioner will share an executive summary on this matter with the Board.
- o SDE staff greatly appreciated Vice Chairperson Hopkins-Staten's participation and thoughtful comments at the recent "all staff" meeting. The Board will receive a summary of the feedback offered by SDE employees.
- o The Annual Back-to-School Meeting with Superintendents and education partners is scheduled for August 19, 2015, at A.I. Prince Technical High School in Hartford, and Board members are welcome to attend.
- o Mini-grants to districts, awarded in the 2014-15 school year, have been well received by districts. Commissioner Wentzell noted that she had the pleasure of attending an event at Mattatuck Museum in Waterbury, and will send a link to the event to Board members.

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

X. Financial Matters

Chief Financial Officer Kathy Demsey reported on the 2015 Special Session of the General Assembly. She noted that the Department's budget is approximately \$3.1 billion, and summarized the impact on the Education Cost Sharing grant, Alliance Districts, charter school account, magnet schools, bilingual education, talent, and the CTHSS.

XI. Committee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessment

No report was given.

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 would not be meeting today.

E. Connecticut Technical High School System Board

Mr. Trefry reported on the CTHSS graduations, and noted that the Board had reviewed a report summarizing progress in the CTHSS at the conclusion of the first year of its strategic plan.

F. NASBE

Mr. Taylor reported that he attended the NASBE Board of Directors meeting on June 19, 2015, and Mr. Trefry attended the NASBE Career Readiness Group Study on June 19-20, 2015. The Annual Conference will be held in October 2015, in Baltimore, Maryland.

Chairperson Taylor adjourned the meeting at 2:21 p.m.

Signed: _____
Dr. Dianna R. Wentzell, Secretary