

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
September 2, 2015
(approved October 7, 2015)

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, September 2, 2015, in Room 1D of the Legislative Office Building, 300 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

I. Call to Order

Vice Chairperson Theresa Hopkins-Staten called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

Present: Theresa Hopkins-Staten, Vice Chairperson
Erin D. Benham
Susannah M. Beyl, Student Member
Estela López
Maria Mojica (via telephone)
Timothy J. Noel-Sullivan, Student Member
Robert Trefry, Ex Officio
Joseph J. Vrabely, Jr.
Stephen Wright

Absent: Allan Taylor, Chairperson
Gregory Gray, Ex Officio
Terry Jones

II. Public Participation

1. Jacob Easley II, Dean of the School of Education and Professional Studies/Graduate Division, Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU), spoke about the university's efforts to address areas for improvement identified during the fall 2014 state/NCATE site visit, and ECSU's commitment to continuous improvement. A copy of Dean Easley's prepared statement is included in the official file of this meeting.
2. Lisa Lessard, a resident of Waterbury, expressed her concerns about how staff members oversee her daughter's 504 and IEP plan in a transitional education program, particularly, with regard to the process for handling her daughter's diabetes medical kit.

III. Consent Agenda

Mr. Vrabely moved, Mrs. Benham seconded, that the Board approve the following consent agenda items: III.A., Amendment to Prior Action: Region 12 Agriculture Center at Shepaug; III.B.,

Continuing Educator Preparation Program Approval: Central Connecticut State University; and III.C., Continuing Educator Preparation Program Approval: ACES-ARCTELL.

A. Amendment to Prior Action: Region 12 Agriculture Center at Shepaug

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-64 of the Connecticut General Statutes, amends Condition 1 of its conditional approval of the Regional Agricultural Science and Technology Education Center (“ASTE”) application of Regional School District 12 granted on August 4, 2015, by substituting the following language:

Region 12 Board of Education and its constituent towns adhere to local charter and referenda requirements in determining the specific referendum procedures needed in this case and achieve a majority vote of approval for the financial support of the ASTE Center;

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

A. Continuing Educator Preparation Program Approval: Central Connecticut State University

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-145d-9(g)(1)(A) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, grants full continuing approval to Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) educator preparation programs for the period September 30, 2015, through September 30, 2020, for the purpose of certifying graduates from CCSU in the following areas:

Program	Grade Level	Program Level	Program Type
Art Education	PK-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Comprehensive Special Education	K-12	Initial	Graduate
Early Childhood Education	N-3	Initial	Undergraduate
Elementary Education	K-6*	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
English	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
History/Social Studies	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Mathematics	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Music Education	PK-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Physical Education	PK-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Science:			
Biology	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Chemistry	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Earth Science	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
General Science	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Physics	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Technology Education	PK-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
TESOL	PK-12	Initial	Graduate
World Languages:			
French	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
German	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate

Italian	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Spanish	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Intermediate Administration/ Supervision	PK-12	Advanced	Graduate
Reading/Language Arts Consultant	PK-12	Advanced	Graduate
Remedial Reading/Language Arts	1-12	Advanced	Graduate
School Counselor	PK-12	Advanced	Graduate
Superintendent of Schools	PK-12	Advanced	Graduate

*Pursuant to Public Act 12-63, amended by Public Act 13-122 (Section 11), on or after July 1, 2017, an endorsement for elementary education will be issued for Grades 1-6 only to in-state graduates.

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

C. Continuing Educator Preparation Program Approval: ACES-ARCTELL

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-145d-9(g)(1)(A) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, grants full continuing approval to the Area Cooperative Educational Services (ACES), Alternate Route to Certification for Teachers of English Language Learners Program (ARCTELL), for the period September 30, 2015, through September 30, 2020, for the purpose of certifying graduates from ARCTELL, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Executive Session

On a motion by Dr. López, seconded by Mr. Vrabely, the Board voted unanimously to move into executive session at 9:57 a.m. for the purpose of discussing the following personnel matters: IV.A., Appointment of Chief Academic Officer; and IV.B., Appointment of Chief Turnaround Officer. Present in executive session were Ms. Benham, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten, Dr. Lopez, Ms. Mojica (via telephone), Mr. Trefry, Mr. Vrabely, Mr. Wright, Ms. Beyl, Mr. Noel Sullivan, and Commissioner Dianna R. Wentzell.

On a motion by Mr. Vrabely, seconded by Mr. Wright, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn its executive session and reconvene in public session at 10:30 a.m.

Present: Theresa Hopkins-Staten, Vice Chairperson
Erin D. Benham
Susannah M. Beyl, Student Member
Estela López
Maria Mojica (via telephone)
Timothy J. Noel-Sullivan, Student Member
Robert Trefry, Ex Officio
Joseph J. Vrabely, Jr.
Stephen Wright

Absent: Allan Taylor, Chairperson
Gregory Gray, Ex Officio
Terry Jones

Mr. Wright moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the Board consider agenda items VI.F., Appointment, Chief Academic Officer, and VI.G., Appointment, Chief Turnaround Officer. By unanimous consent, the Board considered agenda items VI.F. and VI.G. at this time.

VI. Items Requiring Action

F. Appointment, Chief Academic Officer

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 following appointment:

Ms. Mary Anne Butler, Chief Academic Officer
State Department of Education

effective September 25, 2015, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

G. Appointment, Chief Turnaround Officer

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 following appointment:

Mr. Desi Nesmith, Chief Turnaround Officer
State Department of Education

effective September 30, 2015, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

V. Consideration of Minutes

- A. July 1, 2015, State Board of Education Meeting
- B. August 4, 2015, Special State Board of Education Meeting
- C. August 13, 2015, Special State Board of Education Meeting
- D. August 13, 2015, State Board of Education Retreat

Dr. López moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the Board adopt the Minutes of the July 1, 2015, State Board of Education meeting; August 4, 2015, Special State Board of Education meeting; August 13, 2015, Special State Board of Education meeting; and the August 13, 2015, State Board of Education Retreat meeting.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Items Requiring Action

- A. Continuing Educator Preparation Program Approval: University of Connecticut

Dr. López moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-145d-9(g)(1)(A) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, grants full continuing approval to the University of Connecticut (UConn) educator preparation programs for the period September 30, 2015, through September 30, 2020, with a progress report due in spring 2017 that addresses requirements described by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) standard 2, for the purpose of certifying graduates from UConn in the following areas:

but that she would abstain from the vote and, accordingly, Dr. López returned to the room for the votes and abstained on each of these items.

B. Continuing Educator Preparation Program Approval: Eastern Connecticut State University

Mr. Vrabely moved, Mrs. Benham seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-145d-9(g)(1)(A) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, grants full continuing approval to Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU) educator preparation programs for the period September 30, 2015, through September 30, 2020, with a progress report due in spring 2017 that addresses requirements described by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) standards 2, 3, 4 and 6, for the purpose of certifying graduates from ECSU in the following areas:

Program	Grade Level	Program Level	Program Type
Early Childhood Education	N- 3	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Elementary Education	K-6*	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
English	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
History and Social Studies	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Mathematics	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Biology	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Earth Science	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Physical Education	PK-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate

*Pursuant to Public Act 12-63, amended by Public Act 13-122 (Section 11), on or after July 1, 2017, an endorsement for elementary education will be issued for Grades 1-6 only to in-state graduates.

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Continuing Educator Preparation Program Approval: Southern Connecticut State University

Ms. Benham moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-145d-9(g)(1)(A) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, grants full continuing approval to Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) educator preparation programs for the period September 30, 2015, through September 30, 2019, with a progress report due in spring 2017 that describes SCSU's continuous improvement efforts towards meeting requirements described by NCATE standards 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6, for the purpose of certifying graduates from SCSU in the following areas:

Program	Grades	Certification	Program Type
Art Education	PK-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Comprehensive Special Education	K-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Early Childhood	Birth-K	Initial	Graduate
Early Childhood	Nursery-3	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Elementary Education	K-6*	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Elementary/Bilingual Dual	K-6*	Initial	Undergraduate
Elementary/Special Education Dual	K-6*	Initial	Undergraduate
Health Education	PK-12	Initial	Undergraduate
Physical Education	PK-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Secondary Education:			
Biology	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Chemistry	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Earth Science	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
English	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
French	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
General Science	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
German	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Italian	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
History/Social Studies	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Mathematics	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Physics	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Spanish	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Remedial Reading/Language Arts	1-12	Advanced	Graduate
School Counseling	PK-12	Advanced	Graduate
School Library Media	PK-12	Advanced	Graduate
School Psychologist	PK-12	Advanced	Graduate
Speech and Language Pathology	PK-12	Advanced	Graduate
Reading/Language Arts Consultant	PK-12	Advanced	Graduate
Intermediate Administration	PK-12	Advanced	Graduate
Superintendent of Schools	PK-12	Advanced	Graduate

*Pursuant to Public Act 12-63, amended by Public Act 13-122 (Section 11), on or after July 1, 2017, an endorsement for elementary education will be issued for Grades 1-6 only to in-state graduates.

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

MOTION:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

D. Continuing Educator Preparation Program Approval: Charter Oak State College

Ms. Benham moved, Mr. Vrabely 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 the Charter Oak State College (COSC), Alternate Route to Certification, Early Childhood Education Program (ECEARC), for the period September 30, 2015, through September 30, 2018, and requires the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) to conduct an on-site visit no later than spring 2018 to determine progress towards meeting requirements described by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) standards 1, 2, 3 and 4, as well as focused monitoring of the program until the on-site visit, including a review and evaluation of annual progress reports, for the purpose of certifying graduates from ECEARC, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Lopez returned to the meeting room at 11:55 a.m. The votes on agenda items VI.B., VI.C., and VI.D. were taken at this time.

Mr. Trefry left the meeting room at 11:55 a.m.

E. Continuing Educator Preparation Program Approval: Sacred Heart University

Ms. Benham moved, Mr. Vrabely 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 Sacred Heart University (SHU) educator preparation programs for the period September 30, 2015, through September 30, 2018, and requires the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) to conduct an on-site visit no later than spring 2018 to evaluate progress towards meeting requirements described by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) standards 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6, as well as focused monitoring of the program until the on-site visit, including a review and evaluation of annual progress reports, for the purpose of certifying graduates from SHU in the following areas:

Program	Grade Level	Program Level	Program Type
Elementary Education	K – 6*	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Secondary Grades			
English	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
History/Social Studies	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Mathematics	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
General Science	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Biology	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate

Chemistry	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Spanish	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Business	7-12	Initial	Graduate
Intermediate Administration and Supervision	PK-12	Advanced	Graduate
Remedial Reading/ Language Arts	1-12	Advanced	Graduate

*Pursuant to Public Act 12-63, amended by Public Act 13-122 (Section 11), on or after July 1, 2017, an endorsement for elementary education will be issued for Grades 1-6 only to in-state graduates.

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried.

VII. Items for Discussion

A. Update on Connecticut English Language Proficiency Standards

Ellen Cohn, Deputy Commissioner for the Implementation of Education Reform, and Megan Alubicki-Flick, ESL/Bilingual Consultant, Academic Office, presented the report and gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Board (copy enclosed in official file). Discussion ensued.

B. Overview of 2015 Legislative Session

Laura Stefon, Legislative Liaison, provided a summary of legislation passed during the 2015 Session of the General Assembly, and described the timelines for submitting proposals for the 2016 legislative session. She noted that the Legislation and Policy Development Committee will discuss proposals at the October committee meeting, and proposals will be submitted to the full Board for consideration in November.

VIII. Report of the Chair

Vice Chairperson Theresa Hopkins-Staten referred Board members to the "Report of the Chair" in the Board's supplemental materials folder, which includes a summary of the following matters:

- o The State Board of Education's Annual Retreat, held on August 13, 2015;
- o The 2015 Back to School Conference with Superintendents, held on August 19, 2015, at A.I. Prince Technical High School;

- The annual CAFE Board of Directors Meeting on September 9, 2015, at CAFE Headquarters in Wethersfield;
- On September 17, 2015, Vice Chairperson Hopkins-Staten will introduce Dr. James Comer at the CT NAACP Symposium: Historically Black Colleges and Universities: A viable option for teacher recruitment;
- The first meeting of the State Student Advisory Council is scheduled for September 21, 2015, at the State Office Building;
- The Developing Tomorrow's Professionals will host a breakfast at the Aqua Turf Club on September 21, 2015, at 8:30 a.m. Mrs. Hopkins-Staten encouraged Board members to attend;
- Stephen Wright will serve as a voting member on the Mastery Examination Committee. The Committee is scheduled to meet on September 22, 2015; and
- The 2015 Annual NASBE Conference will be held October 22-24, 2015, in Baltimore. Mr. Taylor, Mr. Wright and Mr. Trefry will attend. This year's theme is "States Charting a Course for Change."

In addition, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten extended congratulations to Chief Operating Officer Charlene Russell-Tucker on being recognized as one of 100 Women of Color in 2015.

IX. Report of the Commissioner

Commissioner Dianna R. Wentzell referenced her written report (copy in official file). Commissioner Wentzell's report summarized several meetings that support the work and goals of the State Department of Education, including internal and external operations, numerous statewide back-to-school convocations, and meetings with legislators and the Governor's Office.

Dr. Wentzell asked Ajit Gopalakrishnan and Deputy Commissioner Ellen Cohn to provide an update on student performance. A copy of their PowerPoint presentation is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.

X. Financial Matters

Chief Finance Officer Kathy Demsey reported that the Department is approaching the next budget cycle, and will present budget adjustments and reduction options to the State Board of Education in October.

XI. Committee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessment.

Mr. Wright reported that the committee has reviewed English Language standards and social-emotional standards, and is scheduled to meet in September.

B. Accountability and Support

No report was given.

C. Finance, Audit and Budget

The Committee met on August 20, 2015, to discuss affirmative action matters and the work of the Office of Internal Audit.

D. Legislation and Policy

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten reported that the committee met this morning to discuss minority teacher recruitment initiatives in Waterbury, and received an update from Attorney Louis Todisco on the hearing officer selection process.

E. Connecticut Technical High School System

Mr. Trefry reported that the CTHSS received its SBAC results, and will focus efforts on improving mathematics performance. He noted that approximately 10,800 student were enrolled at the beginning of the 2015-16 school year, and reported on the manufacturing program at Bullard Havens, and a partnership between Henry Abbott and the local community college. Mr. Trefry said the system has had an increase in the number of students requiring special education services.

F. NASBE

Mr. Wright reported that the Governmental Affairs Committee is expected to take a formal position on the ESEA statute in the near future.

Adjourn

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 1:27 p.m.

Prepared by: _____
Dianna R. Wentzell, Secretary
State Board of Education