

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Hartford**

**Minutes  
State Board of Education Meeting  
October 7, 2015**

(approved November 4, 2015)

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, October 7, 2015, in Room 1D of the Legislative Office Building, 300 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

**I. Call to Order**

Chairperson Allan Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Present: Allan Taylor, Chairperson  
Erin D. Benham  
Susannah M. Beyl, Student Member  
William P. Davenport  
Terry Jones  
Estela López\*  
Timothy J. Noel-Sullivan, Student Member  
Robert J. Trefry, Ex Officio  
Joseph J. Vrabely, Jr.  
Stephen Wright

Absent: Theresa Hopkins-Staten, Vice Chairperson  
Maria Mojica  
Mark Ojakian, Ex Officio

**Oath of Office**

Attorney Peter Haberlandt, Commissioner of the Superior Court, administered the Oath of Office to new member William P. Davenport.

**II. Public Participation**

1. LaShawn Robinson, parent of a child who attends Kinsella School in Hartford, shared her concerns about transportation services for her child and the related impact on her child's Individualized Education Plan.
2. Tom Stringfellow, resident of Manchester, addressed the Board on several topics, including the importance of recognizing our veterans, an upcoming College Fair in Hartford, and several publications about the history of our country, special education, and the contributions by Native Americans and others.

### **III. Consent Agenda**

Mr. Jones moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-65a (b) of the Connecticut General Statutes, receives the report on the status of the class of 2009 graduates of agricultural science and technology education centers, continues to support the State's investment of resources to the Agricultural Science and Technology Education Programs, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

### **IV. Executive Session**

The Board did not meet in Executive Session.

### **V. Consideration of Minutes**

#### **A. September 2, 2015, State Board of Education Meeting**

#### **B. September 30, 2015, State Board of Education Diversity Workshop**

Mr. Vrabely moved, Mrs. Benham seconded, that the Board adopt the Minutes of the September 2, 2015, State Board of Education meeting; and the September 30, 2015, State Board of Education Diversity Workshop.

#### **September 2, 2015, Minutes:**

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**September 30, 2015, Minutes:**

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**VI. Items Requiring Action**

**A. Adoption of Connecticut English Language Proficiency Standards**

Mr. Vrabely moved, Mrs. Benham seconded, that the State Board of Education, approves the adoption of the Connecticut English Language Proficiency Standards and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**B. Adoption of Grade 11 Assessment**

Mr. Wright moved, Mrs. Benham seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-14n of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended by Sections 2 and 3 of Public Act No. 15-238, approves the SAT as the mastery examination to be administered to Grade 11 public school students in lieu of Smarter Balanced, effective Spring 2016, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

[Estela López arrived at 10:50 a.m.]

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**C. Determination of Teacher "Effectiveness" in Order to Qualify for Exemption from TEAM**

Mr. Wright moved, Mrs. Benham seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-145b (h)(3) of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended by Section 3 of Public Act 15-108, adopts the definition of demonstration of effectiveness to exempt from the Teacher Education and Mentoring (TEAM) Program: (1) an out-of-state teacher who has worked under an appropriate certificate issued by that state for two years out of the past 10 years and has been deemed effective by the employing district; or (2) a teacher who has taught in a Connecticut approved nonpublic school for two years out of the past 10 years and has been deemed effective by the employing school, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**VII. Items for Discussion**

There were no discussion items.

**VIII. Report of the Chair**

Chairperson Allan Taylor referenced his written report (copy in the official file). He elaborated on the Developing Tomorrow's Professionals (DTP) Program, noting that he, Theresa Hopkins-Staten, and Stephen Wright joined the Commissioner at the September 21, 2015, gathering to honor the DTP young men and their mentors who participate in the program.

Chief Operating Officer Charlene Russell-Tucker was invited to present a video presentation on Developing Tomorrow's Professionals. Chairperson Taylor expressed support for DTP, and emphasized the need to expand this program and make it sustainable.

**IX. Report of the Commissioner**

[Mr. Stephen Wright left the meeting at 11:32 a.m.]

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.

Commissioner Wentzell highlighted the Department's work in the area of paraprofessionals and minority teacher recruitment. She stated that she was pleased to join Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman to honor Denise R. Seel, the recipient of the 2016 Anne Marie Murphy Paraeducator of the Year Award. Ms. Seel is a paraeducator at Batchelder Elementary School in Hartford.

Commissioner Wentzell apprised the Board of the ongoing work on the five-year strategic plan, including the convening of numerous focus groups statewide to solicit input on the Board's comprehensive plan.

## **X. Financial Matters**

### **A. Mid-term Budget Technical Adjustments**

Mr. Vrabely moved, Mr. Jones seconded, that the State Board of Education approves the Fiscal Year 2016-17 Mid-Term Budget Technical Adjustments, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

### **B. Budget Rescissions**

Chief Financial Officer Kathy Demsey reported on budget rescissions.

## **XI. Committee Reports**

### **A. Academic Standards and Assessment**

Mr. Wright reported that the committee will be meeting on Tuesday, October 13, 2015.

### **B. Accountability and Support**

No report was given.

**C. Finance, Audit and Budget**

No report was given.

**D. Legislation and Policy**

In Mrs. Hopkins-Staten's absence, Mr. Vrabely reported that the committee met this morning and reviewed technical legislative proposals and discussed the four recipients of the minority teacher recruitment implementation grants. In November the full Board will receive an update on the districts' plans, as well as minority recruitment efforts by the RESCs, Mr. Vrabely noted.

**E. Connecticut Technical High School System**

Mr. Trefry reported that he was pleased to announce that Bullard-Havens Technical High School has reopened its manufacturing program; a ceremony marking this event will take place on Thursday, October 8, 2015. He noted the importance of manufacturing in the Bridgeport area. Mr. Trefry stated that the Technical High School System Board recently recognized those students who won awards at the Skills USA competition, as well as the teacher of the year from each of the technical high schools. The Board also reviewed the system's SBAC results.

**F. NASBE**

Mr. Taylor reported that the NASBE Annual Conference will be held on October 22-24, 2015. He reported that he, Mr. Trefry, and Mr. Wright will be attending the conference.

**Adjourn**

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

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