

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

Minutes
State Board of Education Retreat
August 13, 2015
(approved September 2, 2015)

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State and posted on the agency's Web site, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") held a retreat session on Thursday, August 13, 2015, at 39 Woodland Street, Hartford, Connecticut.

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Allan Taylor called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Present: Allan B. Taylor, Chairperson
Theresa Hopkins-Staten, Vice Chairperson
Erin D. Benham
Terry H. Jones
Estela López
Maria I. Mojica
Timothy J. Noel-Sullivan, Student Member
Joseph J. Vrabely, Jr.
Stephen P. Wright

Absent: Susannah M. Beyl, Student Member
Gregory Gray, Ex Officio
Robert J. Trefry, Ex Officio

II. Discussion of Strategic Plan

Commissioner Dianna R. Wentzell introduced the facilitators: Jonathan Costa, Education Connection; Ada Miranda, CREC; Marta Diez, CREC; and Tamara Gloster, CREC.

Mr. Costa presented an overview of the strategic planning retreat agenda (copy in official file), highlighting the following:

- (i) the process and the roles of the Board and Department;
- (ii) the objective to identify broad goals to guide the work of the Department over the next five years;
- (iii) productive visioning activities; and

- (iv) how to identify the essential questions the Board would like answered to help inform its goal-setting process.

Board members discussed the importance of embedding excellence and equity in the strategic plan, and the attributes of each. Commissioner Wentzell told the Board that a diversity training session is being planned for the Board this fall.

Board members spoke about the timing and importance of stakeholder engagement, and made recommendations regarding inclusion of key players in the upcoming focus group sessions. Discussion ensued regarding the schedule for focus groups and the projected completion dates for a first draft of the plan, as well as opportunities for subsequent input by stakeholders, the public and the Board in response to the Board's proposed themes for its strategic plan.

The facilitators led the Board in small group discussions and activities designed to establish and prioritize areas to focus on in the coming years. They also spoke about what data is essential to inform the strategic plan and a data collection strategy.

III. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 3:40 p.m.

Signed: _____
Dr. Dianna R. Wentzell, Secretary
State Board of Education