

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

Minutes
State Board of Education Workshop
September 30, 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 30, 2015, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 307 of the State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

Attending the workshop were Board members Chairperson Allan Taylor, Vice Chairperson Theresa Hopkins-Staten, Erin D. Benham, Terry Jones, Estela López, Maria Mojica, Joseph Vrabely, and Stephen Wright.

I. Welcome/Introduction

Chairperson Allan Taylor and Commissioner of Education Dianna R. Wentzell welcomed Board members and State Department of Education managers to the Workshop on Diversity: Leading for Transformational Change: A Culturally Responsive Approach, and introduced the workshop facilitators, Ingrid Canady, Interim Executive Director, and Wendy Simmons, Director of the State Educational Resource Center (SERC).

II. Setting the Stage: Key Equitable Concepts; and

III. Equitable Strategic Decision-Making

The facilitators showed video clips and engaged the participants in several activities that assisted in their understanding of the difference between equity and equality, and how structural racism, systemic racism, racial consciousness, micro-aggressions, affirming identity, critical interrogations, and critical interruption impact equitable strategic decision-making.

IV. Planning for Next Steps

The participants engaged in a small group activity to identify the "next steps" that should be taken to follow up on this workshop. They reported the following as leadership priorities for equity:

- o provide training around equity and cultural responsiveness for current educators;
- o critically interrogate Connecticut State Department of Education publication images;
- o develop actionable policies;
- o include some commentary on equity at every board meeting;
- o utilize the Five-year Comprehensive Plan to emphasize this area; and
- o debriefing on the part of the Commissioner's team.

The workshop concluded at 4:00 p.m.

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