

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Hartford**

**Legislation and Policy Development Committee Meeting  
April 6, 2016**

**Minutes  
(Approved 6/1/2016)**

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education Legislation and Policy Development Committee met in Room 119, State Office Building, Hartford, Connecticut, on April 6, 2016.

**I. Call to Order**

Committee Chair Theresa Hopkins-Staten called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. Also present were committee members Robert Trefry, Joseph Vrabely, Erin Benham, Maria Mojica\* and Terry Jones\*.

Also present for all or part of the meeting were the following Department of Education staff members: Chief Operating Officer Charlene Russell-Tucker; Bureau Chief John Frassinelli; Bureau Chief Isabelina Rodriguez; Special Education Consultant Jay Brown; Legal Director Peter Haberlandt; and Paralegal Michael Wallace.

Also present was Bureau Chief Cheryl Fogerty from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

**II. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

On a motion made by Mr. Vrabely, seconded by Ms. Benham, the Committee unanimously approved the minutes of the March 2, 2016, Legislation and Policy Development Committee meeting.

**III. Written Bill of Rights for Parents of Children Receiving Special Education Services**

Chief Operating Officer Charlene Russell-Tucker provided the committee with background information on the Transition Bill of Rights. Ms. Russell-Tucker stated that Public Act 15-209 requires the State Board of Education on or before July 1, 2015, to draft and adopt a written bill of rights for parents of children receiving special education services to guarantee that the rights of such parents and children are adequately safeguarded, and to distribute the bill of rights to local or regional boards of education for distribution to parents of children receiving special education services in grades six to twelve. Ms. Russell-Tucker noted that she would like to bring this to the full Board for consideration at the May 2016 State Board of Education meeting.

Bureau Chief Isabelina Rodriguez summarized the intent of the bill of rights, noting that this document describes a student's right to a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment. Dr. Rodriguez introduced Special Education Consultant Jay Brown who summarized the twelve rights that are listed in the document and explained the difference between the annual goals and the long-term goals.

Discussion ensued. Handouts were presented and they are enclosed in the official file of this meeting.

\*Ms. Mojica arrived at 8:45

#### **IV. Update on Child Nutrition Programs**

Charlene Russell-Tucker introduced Bureau Chief John Frassinelli and USDA Bureau Chief Cheryl Fogerty to update the Committee on the Child Nutrition Programs. Mr. Frassinelli indicated that these programs are part of the USDA Food and Nutrition Service and makes it possible for schools to offer free or low-cost meals and snacks to all students. Mr. Frassinelli stated that eligibility for free or reduced-price meals is based on income and all meals have some sort of subsidy, and explained the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), which is an alternate approach to determine eligibility. Mr. Frassinelli explained that CSDE will certify students to be eligible for free school meals by matching them with the Department of Social Services data on households receiving assistance from SNAP or TFA. A discussion ensued and questions were asked and answered. Handouts were presented and they are enclosed in the official file of this meeting.

\*Mr. Jones arrived at 9:10

#### **V. Other Matters**

None

#### **VI. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 a.m.

Prepared by:

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Michael Wallace, Paralegal