CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION Hartford

Minutes State Board of Education Meeting December 5, 2018

(Approved February 6, 2019)

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, December 5, 2018, in Plaza North Meeting Room C and D of the State Office Building, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, Connecticut.

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Allan Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:43 a.m.

Present: Allan B. Taylor, Chairperson

Estela López, Vice Chairperson

Erin D. Benham Erik M. Clemons William P. Davenport

Makayla R. Dawkins, Student Member

Donald F. Harris, Jr.

Terry H. Jones

Tarini Krishna, Student Member

Maria I. Mojica Malia K. Sieve

Robert J. Trefry, Ex Officio Joseph J. Vrabely, Jr.

Absent: Mark Ojakian, Ex Officio

Stephen P. Wright

II. Public Participation

- Allen Cook, Ph.D., Director of the School of Education, University of Bridgeport, spoke on the University of Bridgeport's School of Education commendations received during its national accreditation site visit. A copy of Dr. Cook's written statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
- 2. Dr. Samuel Galloway, Director of Human Resources, Bristol Public Schools, spoke in support of the Connecticut Troops to Teachers program.

- 3. Dr. Shuana Tucker, Chief Talent Officer and Patricia Putnam, Talent Officer, representing the Consolidated School District of New Britain (CSDNB), spoke in support of agenda item, X.A., State Board of Education Comprehensive Plan Goal 3 Update, and highlighted the Connecticut Troops to Teachers program. A copy of Dr. Tucker's and Ms. Putnam's written statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
- 4. Dr. Alyson Martin and Dr. Emily Shamash, co-directors of the Graduate Special Education Program, Fairfield University, spoke in support of agenda item, IX.C., Approval of New Educator Preparation Program: Fairfield University, Special Education, Undergraduate Level. A copy of Dr. Martin's and Dr. Shamash's written statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
- 5. Laurie LePine, Director of Human Resources for Groton Public Schools, spoke on Groton's Talent Office Diversity Recruitment Initiatives and the Connecticut Troops to Teachers program. A copy of Ms. LePine's written statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.

At 10:00 a.m., Chairman Allan Taylor stopped the State Board of Education meeting and requested all in attendance to stand in observation of the one minute of silence in memory of President Bush.

- 6. Sana Shah, Bridgeport Outreach Director with Educators for Excellence-Connecticut (E4E-CT), together with fellow Outreach Director Dusty Rader, spoke in support of agenda item, X.A., State Board of Education Comprehensive Plan Goal 3 Update. A copy of Ms. Shah's and Mr. Rader's submission on behalf of Educators for Excellence-Connecticut is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
- Robert Rader, Executive Director, Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, Inc. (CABE), spoke in support of agenda item X.A., State Board of Education Comprehensive Plan – Goal 3 Update. A copy of Mr. Rader's written statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
- 8. Thomas Stringfellow, a resident of Manchester, addressed the Board on several matters, including book recommendations. A copy of Mr. Stringfellow's written statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
- 9. Carol Merlone, Superintendent, Ansonia Public Schools, spoke on agenda item, V.A., Ansonia Section 10-4b Proceeding: Recommendation to Conduct Inquiry. A copy of Dr. Merlone's written statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.

III. Executive Session

The Board did not meet in executive session.

IV. Consideration of Minutes

A. November 7, 2018, State Board of Education Meeting

Mr. Taylor moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the Board adopt the minutes of the November 7, 2018, State Board of Education Meeting.

VOTE ON

MOTION: In favor: Benham, Clemons, Davenport, Harris, Jones, López, Mojica,

Sieve, Taylor, Vrabely

Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: Wright

Motion carried unanimously.

V. Items Requiring Action

A. Ansonia Section 10-4b Proceeding: Recommendation to Conduct Inquiry

Legal Director Peter Haberlandt, Division of Legal and Governmental Affairs, together with Attorney Laura Anastasio introduced the history in matter of the Ansonia 10-4b proceeding. Assistant Attorney General Ralph Urban was present at the meeting and represented and counseled the State Board of Education.

Mr. Vrabely moved, Mrs. Sieve seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-4b of the Connecticut General Statutes, orders in the matter of the Ansonia Board of Education and the City of Ansonia, that the Chair appoint a subcommittee of three members of the State Board of Education to conduct an inquiry as set forth in C.G.S. Section 10-4b and Section 10-4b-9 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, to be held at the State Office Building at 450 Columbus Boulevard in Hartford, Connecticut, beginning at ______ a.m. on ______ and _____, and such other days as may be ordered by the subcommittee, regarding the Ansonia school district's minimum budget requirement (MBR) for the 2018-19 school year, including the reduction by the Ansonia Board of Aldermen of the Ansonia Board of Education's educational appropriation for the 2017-18 school year, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

The Board engaged in questions and answers concerning the resolution on the floor for a subcommittee of three members of the State Board of Education in comparison to the full Board to conduct an inquiry as set forth in C.G.S. Section 10-4b and Section 10-4b-9 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

In lieu of a meeting recess, Chairperson Taylor dismissed the attorneys from the meeting to draft a written comparison of the Ansonia 10-4b Timeline Options if Inquiry is Ordered by the State Board of Education.

B. Recognition of Ellen E. Cohn

Mr. Taylor moved, Dr. López seconded, that the Board add to the agenda and approve the following Resolution in Honor of Ellen E. Cohn as read into the record by Chairperson Allan Taylor:

Whereas, Ellen E. Cohn was appointed by the Connecticut State Board of

Education and has served in the position of Deputy Commissioner since

July 1, 2015; and

Whereas, The Connecticut State Board of Education appointed her to serve as

Interim Chief Academic Officer effective January 7, 2015; and

Whereas, Through her leadership role as Academic Division Director—Standards,

Curriculum, and Assessment, she supported the Academic Office with

distinction; and

Whereas, She has served with a career in education spanning over 20 years,

serving as an assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, a middle school administrator, a director of a special education program, and as a consultant in a regional educational service center (RESC) providing professional development and technical assistance to school

districts;

Now, Therefore, be it Resolved, that the Connecticut State Board of Education honors Ellen E. Cohn for her selfless dedication to Connecticut's children, the Connecticut State Department of Education, and the Connecticut State Board of Education, and expresses appreciation for her years of service to the State of Connecticut, and wishes her well with retirement and in her future endeavors.

Approved unanimously this fifth day of December, two thousand eighteen.

VOTE ON

MOTION: In favor: Benham, Clemons, Davenport, Harris, Jones, López, Mojica,

Sieve, Taylor, Vrabely

Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: Wright

Motion carried unanimously.

The Board unanimously agreed to consider agenda item, X.A., State Board of Education Comprehensive Plan – Goal 3 Update, out of the agenda order.

X. Items for Discussion

A. State Board of Education Comprehensive Plan – Goal 3 Update

Chief Talent Officer Sarah Barzee and Kim Wachtelhausen, Strategy Lead presented a Goal 3 update to the Board.

Dr. Barzee reported that the racial and ethnic diversity of Connecticut's educator workforce has increased from 8.3 percent in October 2015 to 8.7 percent in October 2017.

IX. Consent Agenda

Mr. Vrabely moved, Mr. Davenport seconded, that the Board approve the following Consent agenda items, IX.A., University of Bridgeport, Continuing Approval; IX.B., New Educator Preparation Program Teach for America (TFA) Bilingual Education; and IX.C., Approval of New Educator Preparation Program: Fairfield University, Special Education, Undergraduate Level.

A. University of Bridgeport, Continuing Approval

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 University of Bridgeport (UB) for the period January 1, 2019, through December 31, 2025, with a progress report documenting continuous improvement work related to the Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) standard three due in spring 2022 and annual progress monitoring conducted using program data from the Connecticut Educator Preparation Provider (EPP) Data Dashboard, for the purpose of certifying graduates from UB in the following areas:

Grade Level	Program Level	Program Type
K-6	Initial	Graduate
4-8	Initial	Graduate
7-12	Initial	Graduate
	K-6 4-8 4-8 4-8 7-12 7-12 7-12 7-12 7-12 7-12	4-8 Initial 4-8 Initial 4-8 Initial 4-8 Initial 4-8 Initial 7-12 Initial

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Physics	7-12	Initial	Graduate
Business	7-12	Initial	Graduate
Music	PK-12	Initial	Graduate
Remedial Reading/Language Arts	1-12	Initial	Graduate
Reading/Language Arts Consultant	PK-12	Advanced	Graduate
Intermediate Administration or Supervision	PK-12	Advanced	Graduate

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

B. New Educator Preparation Program Teach for America (TFA) Bilingual Education

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-145d-9(g)(2)(A) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, grants full approval for the period December 5, 2018 through December 31, 2023 to Teacher For America-CT (TFA-CT), with annual progress monitoring conducted using program data from the Connecticut Educator Preparation Provider (EPP) Data Dashboard until TFA-CT's Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) spring 2023 site visit, for the purpose of certifying graduates from TFA-CT in the following new certification area:

<u>Program</u>	Grade Level	Program Level	Program Type			
Bilingual Education	K-12	Initial	Alternate Route to Certification			
and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.						

C. Approval of New Educator Preparation Program: Fairfield University, Special Education, Undergraduate Level

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-145d-9(g)(2)(A) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, grants full approval for the period December 5, 2018 through November 30, 2021, to Fairfield University, with annual progress monitoring conducted using program data from the Connecticut Educator Preparation Provider (EPP) Data Dashboard until Fairfield's Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) spring 2021 site visit, for the purpose of certifying graduates from Fairfield in the following new certification area:

<u>Program</u>	Grade Level	Program Level	Program Type		
Special Education	K-12	Initial	Undergraduate		
and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.					

VOTE ON

MOTION: In favor: Benham, Clemons, Davenport, Harris, Jones, López, Mojica,

Sieve, Taylor, Vrabely

Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: Wright

Motions carried unanimously.

VI. Report of the Chair

Chairperson Taylor did not provide a report.

VII. Report of the Commissioner

Commissioner Wentzell referenced her written report. The Commissioner highlighted two acknowledgments: (i) Commissioner Dianna Wentzell was the recipient of the 2018 CABE Friend of Public Education Award at the 2018 CABE/CAPSS Convention; and that the 2019 Connecticut Teacher of the Year Reception and Awards Ceremony and Paraeducator of the Year is being held this evening at the Bushnell. Commissioner Wentzell highlighted that Scotland's 2018 Teacher of the Year Linda Stefon is the mother of Chief of Staff Laura Stefon.

VIII. Financial Matters

No report was presented.

XI. Committee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessment

The committee will meet on December 17, 2018.

B. Accountability and Support

Dr. López reported that the committee will meet on December 10, 2018.

C. Finance, Audit, and Budget

Mr. Taylor reported that the committee met on November 30, 2018.

D. Legislation and Policy Development

Mr. Vrabely reported that the committee met this morning. Dr. Sarah Barzee and Dr. Katie Moirs presented two educator preparation programs. The committee continued State Board of Education Position Statement on Public School Choice.

E. Connecticut Technical Education and Career System Board

CTECS Chairman Trefry requested that Jeffrey S. Wihbey, Superintendent of the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System (CTECS) provide an update.

F. NASBE

No report was presented.

The Board recessed for lunch at 11:59 a.m.

The Board returned from lunch at 12:42 a.m.

Present: Allan B. Taylor, Chairperson

Estela López, Vice Chairperson

Erin D. Benham Erik M. Clemons

Makayla R. Dawkins, Student Member

Donald F. Harris, Jr. Terry H. Jones

Tarini Krishna, Student Member

Maria I. Mojica Malia K. Sieve

Robert J. Trefry, Ex Officio Joseph J. Vrabely, Jr.

Absent: William P. Davenport

Mark Ojakian, Ex Officio Stephen P. Wright

V. Items Requiring Action (continued)

A. Ansonia Section 10-4b Proceeding: Recommendation to Conduct Inquiry

The meeting resumed with the continuation of agenda item V.A., Ansonia Section 10-4b Proceeding: Recommendation to Conduct Inquiry. The attorneys presented the Board with an "Ansonia 10-4b Timeline Options if Inquiry is Ordered by the State Board of Education."

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The Board deliberated and compared the 10-4b timeline options between a subcommittee of three members of the State Board of Education compared to the full Board to conduct an inquiry as set forth in C.G.S. Section 10-4b and Section 10-4b-9 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

The Board voted in opposition of the resolution for the Chair to appoint a subcommittee of three members of the State Board of Education to conduct an inquiry.

VOTE ON

MOTION: In favor: 0

Opposed: Benham, Clemons, Harris, Jones, López, Mojica,

Sieve, Taylor, Vrabely

Abstained: 0

Absent: Davenport, Wright

Motion failed unanimously.

On a motion by Mr. Vrabely, Ms. Sieve seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-4b of the Connecticut General Statutes, orders in the matter of the <u>Ansonia Board of Education and the City of Ansonia</u>, that the full State Board of Education conduct an inquiry as set forth in C.G.S. Section 10-4b and Section 10-4b-9 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, regarding the Ansonia school district's minimum budget requirement (MBR) for the 2018-19 school year, including the reduction by the Ansonia Board of Aldermen of the Ansonia Board of Education's educational appropriation for the 2017-18 school year, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

MOTION: In favor: Benham, Clemons, Harris, Jones, López, Mojica, Sieve, Taylor,

Vrabely

Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0

Absent: Davenport, Wright

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Harris moved a motion, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the Ansonia 10-4b Inquiry be held on Thursday, January 3, 2019, beginning at 9:30 a.m., in lieu of the regularly scheduled State Board of Education meeting, at the State Office Building at 450 Columbus Boulevard, Plaza North Conference Room C and D, Hartford, Connecticut.

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VOTE ON

MOTION: In favor: Benham, Clemons, Harris, Jones, López, Mojica, Sieve, Taylor,

Vrabely

Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0

Absent: Davenport, Wright

Motion carried unanimously.

The attorneys advised the Board that the Ansonia 10-4b Inquiry had to be noticed to the public as a State Board of Education hearing, and not a regular Board meeting.

Chairperson Taylor adjourned the meeting at 1:12 p.m.

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