

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION Hartford

Accountability and Support Committee

Wednesday, May 20, 2020

GoToMeeting

Web Login Information:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7729724380020574222>

Minutes

(Approved on: September 17, 2020)

I. Call to Order

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, and posted on the agency's website, a GoToMeeting registration link was provided to allow for public access. Committee Chairperson Dr. Estela López called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Dr. Estela López, Chairperson
Erin D. Benham
Donald F. Harris, Jr.
Elwood Exley, Jr.
Bonnie E. Burr

Committee Member Absent: None

Staff Present: Desi Nesmith
Lisa Lamenzo
Leslie Navarrete
Jennifer Webb
Irene Parisi
Carole Dibble
Iris White
Dr. Regina Hopkins
Aldith Dewar

Guests Present: Dr. Verna Ruffin, Superintendent, Waterbury Public Schools
Vincent J. Balsamo, Principal, Wallace Middle School, Waterbury
Peter McCasland, Principal, West Side Middle School, Waterbury
Jacquelyn Gilmore, Principal, North End Middle School, Waterbury
Dr. Matthew Conway, Superintendent, Derby Public Schools, Derby
Rachael Caggiano, Principal, Derby Middle School, Derby
Melony Brady-Shanley, Superintendent, Winchester Public Schools, Winchester
Barbara Silverio, Principal, Pearson School, Winchester
Rosanne Field, Principal, Batcheller Elementary School, Winchester
Dr. Iline Tracey, Interim Superintendent, New Haven Public Schools, New Haven
Kristina Denegre, Principal, Clinton Avenue School, New Haven

II. Approval of Minutes

Erin Benham moved, Donald F. Harris, Jr. seconded, that the committee approve the minutes of the April 22, 2020 Accountability and Support Committee meeting.

Vote: In Favor: López, Benham, Harris, Exley, and Burr
Abstained: 0
Opposed: 0
Absent: 0

III. Waterbury Schools

Dr. Verna Ruffin, Superintendent of Waterbury Schools and Principals of Wallace Middle School, West Side Middle School, and North End Middle School appeared before the committee to discuss their potential entrance in the Commissioner's Network for the 2021 school year.

North End Middle Principal Jacquelyn Gilmore described the school's turnaround plan in the areas of talent, academics, culture and climate, and operations. The plan was developed to increase academic rigor in all content areas and engagement in the classrooms by providing high-quality educator professional development and appropriate resources for students, implementing standards based curriculum, and creating a safe climate for students through the continual employment of restorative practice. The school also mentioned that an operations priorities will be to redesign the master schedule to fit more instructional time in the area of mathematics.

Wallace Middle School Principal Vincent J. Balsamo described their school's process in using the Commissioner's Network instructional audit and data as a foundation to the development of their plan, grounded by the school's mission to educate, empower and inspire responsible students and lifelong learners through positive relationships rigorous engaging learning experiences. The school identified key priorities and strategies to increase academic rigor, particularly in mathematics, ELA, and ELL learning, maximize instructional time, strengthen teacher instructional capacity, reduce suspension rate, and strengthen student, family, staff, and community engagement.

West Side Middle School Principal Peter McCasland shared highlights of their school's turnaround plan. Based on the school's initial audit, the school's turnaround committee developed a plan to strengthen teacher support in Tier 1 instruction through robust professional development, build leadership capacity, design an active SRBI program, and restructure student's schedule to maximize instructional time. Principal McCasland stressed the importance of implementing instructional content leadership.

The committee thanked the three Waterbury schools for their interest in the Commissioner's Network and looks forward in seeing improvement in their school and performance.

IV. Derby Middle School, Derby

Dr. Matthew Conway, Derby Superintendent of Schools, and Derby Middle School Principal Rachael Caggiano appeared before the committee to discuss their potential entrance in the Commissioner's Network for the 2021 school year. Derby Middle School Principal Rachael Caggiano described the school's turnaround plan in the areas of talent, academics, culture and climate, and operations the school's turnaround committee developed a plan to build teacher capacity and their effectiveness in the classroom, implement a rigorous uniform curriculum with a robust SBRI program that supports all student needs, and put into effect a PBIS model with fidelity to increase and improve student behavior and further strengthen student and staff relationships.

V. Winchester Schools

Melony Brady-Shanley, Winchester Superintendent of Schools and Principals of Pearson School and Batcheller Elementary School Barbara Silverio and Rosanne Field appeared before the committee to report on the school's progress. Superintendent Brady-Shanley described how the Commissioner Network helped transform Winchester school district from a receivership school district to being on the verge of becoming a Tier 1 school district. She expressed her confidence with the leadership of building administrators and her gratitude for their commitment in ensuring all students receive a high-quality education.

Pearson School Principal Barbara Silverio spoke in length on how the Commissioner's Network plan, aid, and technical support has helped Pearson School build and maintain sound instructional structures and systems of support for teachers and students, enabling the school to hit their strides and have continuous success in their academic achievement, in the areas of ELA, mathematics, and science. She

also shared that redesigning the master schedule to increase instructional mathematics, redeveloping the school's ELA curriculum, and implementing NGSS training have attributed to a surge in student engagement and learning. The school plans to dive further into reading strategies comprehension work strategies and continuing to enforce writing time to continue strengthening ELA.

Batcheller Elementary Principal Rosanne Field shared that Commissioner's Network funding has helped with the building and strengthen of the school instructional coach model and leadership model, the revamping of their RBI intervention model and PBIS model, and redesigning curriculum in all areas based on student data and our overall achievement data. All these learning structures and systems have enabled student-driven teaching and learning, increasing student engagement and decreasing absenteeism. Like Pearson school, Batcheller Elementary school plans to dive further into reading strategies comprehension work strategies and continuing to enforce writing time to continue strengthening ELA instruction.

The committee thanked Superintendent Melony Brady-Shanley, Pearson School, and Batcheller Elementary School for their update and commended all their progress and efforts.

VI. Clinton Avenue School, New Haven

Dr. Iline Tracey, Interim Superintendent of New Haven Public Schools and Clinton Avenue School Principal Kristina Denegre appeared before the committee to report on the school's progress. Dr. Tracey commended Principal Denegre's leadership, her commitment to building a comprehensive dual language program, and highlighted the school's academic progress.

Clinton Avenue School reported that the school continues to provide robust professional development and restorative practice training to all their educators, including paraprofessionals, and to build community partnerships to increase student and family engagement and support systems. Additionally, the school has started to place greater emphasis on teacher collaborative planning time, coaching model, and blending learning; it revamped the school data teams and dual language program, and restructured the school schedule, helping to strengthen EL support structures.

The committee thanked Interim Superintendent Dr. Iline Tracey and Clinton Ave School for their update and commended their progress and efforts.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Prepared by: Leslie Navarrete