# CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION Hartford

# Minutes State Board of Education Meeting March 4, 2020

(Approved May 13, 2020)

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, March 4, 2020, 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 9:38 a.m.

Present: Allan B. Taylor, Chairperson

Estela López, Vice Chairperson

Erin D. Benham Bonnie E. Burr

Milan Chand, Student Member Sophia H. Chin, Student Member

Erik M. Clemons William P. Davenport Karen DuBois-Walton Donald F. Harris, Jr. Martha Paluch Prou Awilda Reasco Malia K. Sieve

Robert J. Trefry, Ex Officio

Absent: Mark Ojakian, Ex Officio

#### Oath of Office

Attorney Jessa Y. Mirtle, Commissioner of the Superior Court, administered the Oath of Office to the newly appointed Board member Bonnie E. Burr. A copy of the Oath of Office is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.

# II. Public Participation

1. Christine Smith, spoke on the significance of the Anne Marie Murphy Paraeducator of the Year Award program. A copy of Ms. Smith's written statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.

- 2. Eddie Santiago, spoke on the renewal of agenda item VI.D., Renewal of State Charter The Bridge Academy, Bridgeport. A copy of Mr. Santiago's written statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
- 3. Kayanna Clark, a student, spoke in support of agenda item VI.D., Renewal of State Charter The Bridge Academy, Bridgeport. A copy of Ms. Clark's written statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
- 4. Jeyleen Lopez, a student, spoke in support of agenda item VI.D., Renewal of State Charter The Bridge Academy, Bridgeport. A copy of Mr. Lopez's written statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
- 5. Jennifer Renkiewicz, spoke in support agenda item VI.C., Renewal of State Charter Odyssey Community School, Manchester.
- 6. Anita Baten, spoke in support of the school regarding agenda items VI.C., Renewal of State Charter Odyssey Community School, Manchester.
- 7. Mario Reid, a student, spoke in support of agenda item VI.D., Renewal of State Charter The Bridge Academy, Bridgeport. A copy of Mr. Reid's written statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
- 8. Leeasya Lindsey, a student, spoke in support of agenda item VI.D., Renewal of State Charter The Bridge Academy, Bridgeport. A copy of Ms. Lindsey's written statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
- 9. Tyrone Elliott, spoke in support of agenda item VI.D., Renewal of State Charter The Bridge Academy, Bridgeport. A copy of Mr. Elliott's written statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
- 10. Iris Jimenez, spoke in support of agenda item VI.B., Renewal of State Charter Common Ground, New Haven.
- 11. Stacey Kendrick, spoke in support of agenda item VI.D., Renewal of State Charter The Bridge Academy, Bridgeport.
- 12. Monique Frasier, spoke in support of agenda item VI.B., Renewal of State Charter Common Ground, New Haven.
- 13. Richard M. Goodrich, spoke on Waterbury Public Schools and teacher diversity. A copy of Mr. Goodrich's handout is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
- 14. Anne Manusky, spoke on the status of the Connecticut State ESSA Plan, Common Core, and the need to remedy the young enrollment kindergarten age.
- 15. Rev. Ernestine Holloway, an advocate for inner city urban schools, addressed the board on several matters.

16. Thomas Stringfellow, addressed the Board on several matters, including movie and reading recommendations.

#### III. Executive Session

Chairperson Taylor requested a motion to go into Executive Session for the consideration and recommendation of the appointment of Chief Talent Officer.

On a motion by Dr. López, seconded by Mrs. Benham, the Board voted unanimously to move into executive session at 10:40 a.m. to discuss personnel matters. Present in executive session were Board members Mrs. Benham, Ms. Burr, Mr. Chand, Ms. Chin, Mr. Clemons, Mr. Davenport, Dr. DuBois-Walton, Mr. Harris, Dr. López, Mrs. Prou, Mrs. Reasco, Mrs. Sieve, Mr. Taylor, and Mr. Trefry. Also, present for executive session were Commissioner Miguel Cardona, Dr. Shuana Tucker, and Staff Assistant Aldith Dewar.

On a motion by Mrs. Benham, seconded by Mrs. Sieve, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn its executive session and reconvene in public session at 11:10 a.m.

The Board reconvened its regular meeting at 11:10 a.m.

Present: Allan B. Taylor, Chairperson

Estela López, Vice Chairperson

Erin D. Benham Bonnie E. Burr

Milan Chand, Student Member Sophia H. Chin, Student Member

Erik M. Clemons William P. Davenport Karen DuBois-Walton Donald F. Harris, Jr. Martha Paluch Prou

Awilda Reasco Malia K. Sieve

Robert J. Trefry, Ex Officio

Absent: Mark Ojakian, Ex Officio

#### IV. Consideration of Minutes

#### A. February 6, 2020, State Board of Education Meeting

Dr. DuBois-Walton moved, Mrs. Benham seconded, that the Board adopt the minutes of the February 6, 2020, State Board of Education Meeting.

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VOTE ON

MOTION: In favor: Benham, Burr, Clemons, Davenport, DuBois-Walton,

Harris, López, Prou, Reasco, Sieve, Taylor

Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0 Absent: 0

Motion carried unanimously.

### V. Report of the Commissioner

Commissioner Cardona reported that February was a busy month and highlighted several activities, including school and district visits, presentations and meetings with various educational partners. The Commissioner also highlighted the following:

- CSDE's involvement in presentations throughout the state in February.
- Bloomfield Superintendent Dr. James Thompson, Jr. received the Lemuel Haynes Lifetime Achievement Award for Education.
- The CSDE and fellow agencies at 450 Columbus Boulevard celebrated its 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Black Heritage Month on February 27<sup>th</sup> with the honoring of Gwen Ifill.
- Commissioner Cardona shared an update on CSDE activities on the Coronavirus, including weekly calls with educational partners, the Governor's Unified Command, communication with school districts and guidance on the continuity of education.
- Commissioner Cardona spoke on the Condition of Education indicators that describe the progress of the public education system.
- Commissioner Cardona stated that 20,000 letters generated by the CSDE Performance Office were mailed to students congratulating them on their PSAT scores.
- Commissioner Cardona thanked the Board members for their support and for all that they do on behalf of the students of Connecticut.

### VI. Items Requiring Action

#### A. Appointment of Chief Talent Officer

Commissioner Cardona invited Dr. Shuana Tucker before the Board for consideration of appointment as Chief Talent Officer. Commissioner Cardona highlighted Dr. Tucker's accomplishments as an educator.

Mrs. Benham moved, Mr. Clemons seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-2a of the Connecticut General Statutes and its Bylaws, appoints Dr. Shuana Tucker as Chief Talent Officer, effective March 13, 2020, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

MOTION: In favor: Benham, Burr, Clemons, Davenport, DuBois-Walton,

Harris, López, Prou, Reasco, Sieve, Taylor

Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0 Absent: 0

Motion carried unanimously.

#### B. Renewal of State Charter - Common Ground, New Haven

A panel consisting of Deputy Commissioner Desi Nesmith, Turnaround Office Bureau Chief Lisa Lamenzo, Common Ground Executive Director Monica Maccera-Filppu, and Lizanne Cox, School Director presented to the Board. Ms. Lamenzo provided an introduction overview of agenda item VI.B., Renewal of State Charter – Common Ground, New Haven. Ms. Maccera-Filppu spoke followed by Ms. Cox.

Dr. López moved, Mrs. Sieve seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (g) of Section 10-66bb of the Connecticut General Statutes, renews the charter of Common Ground High School from July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2023, subject to the Commissioner's March 4, 2020, memorandum to the State Board of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

MOTION: In favor: Benham, Burr, Clemons, Davenport, DuBois-Walton,

Harris, López, Prou, Reasco, Sieve, Taylor

Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0 Absent: 0

Motion carried unanimously.

### C. Renewal of State Charter – Odyssey Community School, Manchester

A panel consisting of Deputy Commissioner Desi Nesmith, Turnaround Office Bureau Chief Lisa Lamenzo, Odyssey Community School Executive Director David Harding, and Annie Busby, Principal, presented to the Board. Ms. Lamenzo provided an introduction overview of agenda item VI.C., Renewal of State Charter – Odyssey Community School. Mr. Harding spoke followed by Ms. Busby.

Dr. López moved, Mrs. Benham seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (g) of Section 10-66bb of the Connecticut General Statutes, renews the charter of Odyssey Community School July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2025, subject to the Commissioner's March 4, 2020, memorandum to the State Board of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

MOTION: In favor: Benham, Burr, Clemons, Davenport, DuBois-Walton,

Harris, López, Prou, Reasco, Sieve, Taylor

Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: 0

Motion carried unanimously.

#### D. Renewal of State Charter - The Bridge Academy, Bridgeport

A panel consisting of Deputy Commissioner Desi Nesmith, Turnaround Office Bureau Chief Lisa Lamenzo, The Bridge Academy Board Chair Celeste Markle, and Timothy Dutton, Director, presented agenda item VI.D., Renewal of State Charter – The Bridge Academy, Bridgeport. Chairperson Markle, presented to the Board and read written testimony in support of Bridge Academy. Mr. Dutton presented his two rebuttal handouts to the Board and read four pages aloud. A copy of Mr. Dutton's written testimony and handout is enclosed in the official file of this meeting. Discussion ensued.

López moved, Mrs. Sieve seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (g) of Section 10-66bb of the Connecticut General Statutes, renews the charter of The Bridge Academy from July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021, subject to the Commissioner's March 4, 2020, memorandum to the State Board of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

MOTION: In favor: Benham, Burr, Clemons, Davenport, DuBois-Walton,

Harris, López, Prou, Reasco, Sieve, Taylor

Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: 0

Motion carried unanimously.

#### E. Recognition of William P. Davenport

Dr. López acknowledged fellow Board member William (Bill) P. Davenport. Mr. Davenport is the 4-H Youth Development Educator at the Litchfield County UConn Extension Center. He was a former teacher from Nonnewaug High School in Woodbury (Regional School District 14), where Mr. Davenport served for 33 years teaching as an agriscience teacher. Mr. Davenport was selected as the 2004 Connecticut Teacher of the Year. Dr. Lopez thanked Mr. Davenport for his passion for education funding equality.

Chairperson Taylor presented Bill Davenport with a *Certificate of Recognition* to honor his service on the State Board of Education working to ensure the best possible outcomes for all CT students. Chairperson Taylor read the Certificate of Recognition into the record.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 1:21 p.m.

Chairperson Allan Taylor reconvened the meeting at 2:20 p.m.

Present: Allan B. Taylor, Chairperson

Estela López, Vice Chairperson

Erin D. Benham Bonnie E. Burr

Milan Chand, Student Member Sophia H. Chin, Student Member

William P. Davenport Martha Paluch Prou Awilda Reasco Malia K. Sieve

Robert J. Trefry, Ex Officio

Absent: Erik M. Clemons

Karen DuBois-Walton Donald F. Harris, Jr. Mark Ojakian, Ex Officio

# VII. Report of the Chair

Chairperson Taylor did not provide a report.

#### VIII. Financial Matters

IX. Consent Agenda (Any item may be removed from the consent agenda at the request of a Board member)

#### IX. Consent Agenda

Mr. Trefry requested that agenda item IX.C., Approval of Material Change to Elm City College Preparatory, New Haven, be removed from the Consent agenda for discussion. Mr. Trefry referenced an edit to be made on page 2 of Attachment A.

Dr. López moved, Mr. Davenport seconded, that the Board approve the following Consent agenda items: IX.A., Town of Winchester's Application for Waiver of Repayment Pursuant to Section 304 of Public Act 15-5 of the June Special Session; IX.B., Approval of the 2020-21 Concussion and Head Injury Annual Review for Coaches, and IX.D., Receipt of the Condition of Education Report, 2018-19.

# A. Town of Winchester's Application for Waiver of Repayment Pursuant to Section 304 of Public Act 15-5 of the June Special Session

WHEREAS, the Town of Winchester, pursuant to Section 304(b) of Public Act 15-5 of the June Special Session, has applied for a waiver of the final repayment of \$144,173 required to be made annually by April 30 under the repayment agreement required under Section 304(a) of Public Act 15-5 of the June Special Session for reimbursement of overpayments made by the State pursuant to Section 10-76g of the General Statutes during the fiscal years ending June 30, 2013, to June 30, 2014, inclusive; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Winchester has demonstrated significant improvement in the fiscal and financial practices of its school district, has demonstrated that structural changes have been implemented to ensure the school district is properly handling taxpayer funds, and has satisfied other criteria required by the Commissioner; now therefore be it,

**RESOLVED,** That the State Board of Education approves the waiver application submitted by the Town of Winchester pursuant to Section 304(b) of Public Act 15-5 of the June Special Session for the payment to be made by April 30, 2020, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

# B. Approval of the 2020-21 Concussion and Head Injury Annual Review for Coaches

**RESOLVED**, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Subsection (b)(2) of Section 10-149b of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the 2020-21 Concussion and Head Injury Annual Review for Coaches, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

#### D. Receipt of the Condition of Education Report, 2018-19

**RESOLVED**, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-4(b) of the Connecticut General Statutes, receives *The Condition of Education in Connecticut* (2018-19) and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

MOTION: In favor: Benham, Burr, Davenport, López, Prou, Reasco, Sieve,

Taylor

Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0

Absent: Clemons, DuBois-Walton, Harris

Motions carried unanimously.

# C. Approval of Material Change to Elm City College Preparatory, New Haven

Dr. López moved, Mr. Davenport seconded, that the Board approve the following Consent agenda item: IX.C., Approval of Material Change to Elm City College Preparatory, New Haven.

**RESOLVED**, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-66ss of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the material change to Elm City College Preparatory (ECCP) operation consolidating two schools, elementary school (Elm City College Preparatory Elementary School) and middle school (Elm City College Preparatory Middle School) to one location for the 2020-21 school year, subject to the Commissioner's March 4, 2020, memorandum to the Board, "Approval of Material Change to Elm City College Preparatory," and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

MOTION: In favor: Benham, Burr, Davenport, López, Prou, Reasco, Sieve,

Taylor

Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0

Absent: Clemons, DuBois-Walton, Harris

Motion carried unanimously.

### X. Items for Discussion

# A. College Enrollment, Credit Attainment and Remediation of High School Graduates (P20WIN Report)

A panel consisting of Chief Performance Officer Ajit Gopalakrishnan, Dr. William Gammell, Director Office of Research & System Effectiveness, Connecticut State Colleges and Universities; Dr. Lloyd Blanchard, Associate Vice President for Budget, Management, and Institutional Research, University of Connecticut; and Jan R. Kiehne, Sr. Assoc. for Division Support Resources, P20 WIN Program Manager, Connecticut State Colleges and Universities; presented a report on results from P20WIN for the High School Graduating Classes of 2010 through 2014. The report answered the following three questions related to high school graduates in Connecticut colleges:

- Enrollment: What percentage of the graduating class enrolled in a Connecticut public university or community college (UCONN, the four Connecticut State Universities, and 12 Connecticut community colleges) within 16 months of graduation?
- 2. Credit Attainment: What percentage of those who enrolled in a Connecticut public university or community college within 16 months of graduation earned at least one year's worth of credits (24 or more) within two years of enrollment?

3. Remediation: What percentage of those who enrolled in one of the four Connecticut State Universities or one of the 12 community colleges within 16 months of graduation took a remedial course within two years of enrollment?

Discussion ensued with questions and answers.

# XI. Committee Reports

#### A. Academic Standards and Assessment

No report was presented.

# B. Accountability and Support

Dr. López reported that the committee did not meet in February 2020.

# C. Finance, Audit, and Budget

No report was presented.

# D. Legislation and Policy Development

Mrs. Benham reported that the committee met that morning. A discussion was held on Gun Safety Guides. For the April 1, 2020, meeting, a district that is changing its school start time will present.

#### E. Connecticut Technical Education and Career System Board

CTECS Chairman Trefry introduced Superintendent Jeffrey Wihbey. Mr. Wihbey reported on the previous month recruitment process for students and staff.

#### F. NASBE

Chairperson Taylor reported that the Connecticut State Board of Education is a member of NASBE.

Chairperson Taylor adjourned the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

Prepared by:	
. ,	Dr. Miguel A. Cardona, Secretary
	State Board of Education