

Connecticut State Board of Education Hartford

Accountability and Support Committee

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

A link to participate in the meeting was available on [the State Board of Education's Website](#) on September 22, 2021

Minutes (Approved December 16, 2021)

I. Call to Order

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State and posted on the agency's website, the Accountability and Support Committee (hereinafter "Committee") met virtually on September 22, 2021, via Microsoft Teams Meeting. A link to participate in the meeting was available on [the State Board of Education's Website](#) on September 22, 2021.

Committee Chairperson Dr. Estela López called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Dr. Estela López, Chairperson

Donald F. Harris, Jr.
Elwood Exley, Jr.
Bonnie E. Burr

Committee Member Absent: Erin D. Benham

Staff Present: Lisa Lamenzo
Irene Parisi
Leslie Navarrete
Robert Kelly
Felicia Canty
Shakira Jacobs-Vazquez

Guests Present: Dr. Nicholas Spera, Executive Director, Interdistrict School for Arts and Communication (ISAAC), New London
Richard Muckle, Board Chairperson, Interdistrict School for Arts and Communication (ISAAC), New London
Denise Dunning, Principal, ISAAC, New London
Tanya Collins, Dean of Students and Human Resources, ISAAC, New London
Attorney Dori Antonetti, ISAAC's Legal Counsel, Shipman & Goodwin LLP

II. Approval of Minutes

Elwood Exley, Jr., moved, Donald F. Harris, Jr., seconded, that the committee approve the minutes of the July 13, 2021 Accountability and Support Committee meeting.

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

III. Interdistrict School for Arts and Communication (ISAAC), New London

Lisa Lamenzo, Division Director for the CSDE Turnaround Office, provided an overview of the work to date with ISAAC and their corrective action plans on their probation status. The CSDE identified special education billing, disposal of school-owned computers and other IT equipment, board governance, and school policies and procedures, as areas of focus for ISAAC's corrective action plans on their probation status. She shared that the corrective action plans for the four areas were approved today. Ms. Lamenzo welcomed ISAAC Executive Director Dr. Nicholas Spera, ISSAC Principal Denise Dunning, ISAAC Dean of Students and Human Resources, ISAAC Tanya Collins, ISAAC Board Chairperson Richard Muckle, and Attorney Dori Antonetti to provide a progress update.

ISAAC shared highlights on their progress in the four areas of focus identified in their recently approved corrective action plans. Some of the highlights included: expanding collaboration opportunities with districts, the community, and other stakeholders, building more robust lines of communication with students, teachers, parents, community, the CSDE, and other stakeholders, and fortifying a checks and balance system to ensure measures for all correction action plans are followed with fidelity. ISAAC also provided examples of implementing a detailed and robust reporting and documentation process, as well as enhancing training opportunities for board governance.

ISAAC looks forward to the continuous improvement of their school system to maximum learning and teaching, so students are prepared for high school. ISAAC extended their appreciation to the CSDE, Charter School and the Turnaround division.

Chair López opened the floor for questions and comments. The committee commended their progress and looks forward to their future update.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Prepared by: Leslie Navarrete