

**Connecticut State Board of Education  
Hartford**

**The Legislation and Policy Development Committee  
Special Meeting**

Wednesday, December 14, 2021, 3:00 p.m.

**Committee Members**

Malia K. Sieve, Chair  
Donald F. Harris, Bonnie E. Burr, Karen Dubois-Walton, Robert Trefry  
Martha Paluch Prou and Elwood Exley, Jr.

**Minutes**

*(Approved April 6, 2022)*

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Board of Education Legislation and Policy Development Committee convened a virtual, special meeting on December 14, 2021.

**I. Call to Order**

Committee Chair Malia K. Sieve called the meeting to order. Also present were Committee Members Karen Dubois-Walton, Donald F. Harris, Bonnie E. Burr, Martha Paluch Prou, Elwood Exley, Jr., and Robert Trefry. In addition, the following were also in attendance: Laura Stefon, Chief of Staff & Legislative Liaison; Eric Scoville, Director of Communications; Irene Parisi, Chief Academic Officer; John Frassinelli, Director of School Health, Nutrition, Family Services & Adult Education; Michael McKeon, Director of Legal and Governmental Affairs; Christopher Todd, Bureau Chief, Talent Office; Matthew Falconer, Education Consultant, and Sonya Efanayi, Secretary.

**Presenters:**

Laura Stefon, Chief of Staff & Legislative Liaison, CSDE  
Irene Parisi, Chief Academic Officer, CSDE  
Christopher Todd, Bureau Chief – Talent Office, CSDE

**II. Review and Discussion**

Laura Stefon began a presentation on the CSDE's legislative proposals for the 2022 legislative session. The first proposal seeks a one-year extension, from January 1, 2023 to January 1, 2024, of the date by which the legislature had previously directed the CSDE to design a model K-8 curriculum. Ms. Stefon noted that although the CSDE fully supports this directive, it had taken approximately two years to create the statutorily mandated African American and Latino studies course whereas this model curriculum would, in contrast, apply to all subjects in grades kindergarten through eight and was thus far more extensive. Mr. Harris questioned the reason additional time was needed, and Ms. Stefon and Irene Parisi discussed the need to ensure that the CSDE was able to obtain full stakeholder input. Mr. Exley raised a question regarding the action that the State Board had taken on the prior African American and Latino studies course and Mr. Harris questioned the manner and timing of that course's implementation. Ms. Sieve called for a vote on bringing this proposal to the full Board for its consideration. Mr. Exley moved to do so, and Ms. Burr seconded. The Committee members voted in favor of the motion,

with Mr. Harris abstaining. Dr. Dubois-Walton and Mr. Harris, however, noted that the Committee was concerned about the time this model curriculum was taking and asked that the Committee receive updates on its progress.

Ms. Stefon then discussed two proposals that would give the Commissioner of Education flexibility in conjunction with possible changes in federal school-nutrition statutes. This flexibility had been permitted under Governor Lamont's Executive Orders during the pandemic in response to federal relaxation of its school-nutrition provisions, and the proposed legislation would invest similar flexibility in the Commissioner following the expiration of the Executive Orders should the federal government either continue or sometime in the future reinstate such relaxation of its statutory requirements. Ms. Burr moved to bring these proposals to the full Board, and Mr. Harris seconded. The Committee unanimously voted in favor of the motion.

Ms. Stefon then began discussing the CSDE legislative proposals relating to the reissuance of certain teaching certifications. Mr. Todd explained the current process and limitations for such certification reissuance and how the legislative proposals would benefit individuals who had previously obtained certification, left the workforce, but were now seeking to reenter teaching. It would also help in streamlining the CSDE's reissuance process. Mr. Harris moved to bring these proposals to the full Board, and Mr. Exley seconded. The Committee unanimously voted in favor of the motion.

### **III. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

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