

Connecticut State Board of Education Hartford

Minutes State Board of Education Meeting June 2, 2021

(Approved September 1, 2021)

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State and posted on the agency's Web site, the members of State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, June 2, 2021, in Plaza North Meeting Room C and D of the State Office Building, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, Connecticut. A GoToWebinar registration link was provided to allow for public attendance to the virtual meeting. This virtual meeting was livestreamed (<https://youtu.be/oG6HQ-wdmDM>.) to allow for public access.

I. Call to Order

Acting Chairperson Allan Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

Present: Acting Chairperson Allan B. Taylor
Estela López, Vice Chairperson
Erin D. Benham
Bonnie E. Burr
Erik M. Clemons
Elwood Exley, Jr.
Donald F. Harris, Jr.
Awilda Reasco
Malia K. Sieve
Robert J. Trefry, Ex Officio

Absent: Dr. Karen DuBois-Walton
Dr. Jane Gates, Ex Officio
Martha Paluch Prou

II. Public Participation

Acting Chair Taylor stated that two written submissions were received for Public Participation via (i) e-mail communication submitted to SDE.StateBoard@ct.gov, and there were no registered speakers for the meeting. All written communication received were shared with the Board and will be posted on the Board's Web site.

1. Michael Edwards of Thomaston, submitted a written statement on the need to stop mask wearing mandate in Connecticut schools.

2. DeLaurentis Family of Fairfield, submitted a written statement concerning the wearing of masks in school buildings for the fall.

State Student Advisory Council on Education (SSACE) End-of-Year Presentation

Acting Chair Taylor introduced Ms. Chereese Miller, Director of Student Activities, Connecticut Association of Schools.

Ms. Miller shared that for 2020-21, SSACE will present its findings on the following two topics: (1) Challenges and Solutions to Remote Learning (Group I), and (2) Rebuilding and Maintaining a School Community after a pandemic (Group II). The students presented a PowerPoint that outlined their discussions. A copy of the presentation is in the official file of this meeting.

Group I - Challenges and Solutions to Remote Learning

- o Clayton Singleton - Woodstock Academy
- o Sarah Sportini - Notre Dame High School
- o Briana Dastoli - Berlin High School
- o Ashley Duong – Branford High School
- o Dana Chmielewski - RHAM High School
- o Rayhan Negeedu- Bunnell High School
- o Ben DeBlasio - High School in the Community
- o Madison Lee – Sport and Medical Science Academy
- o Ayla Taylor-Robichaud - Griswold High School
- o Wendy Zhang – Amity High School

Group II - Rebuilding and Maintaining a School Community

- o Andreas Lolis - Staples High School
- o Ayushman Choudhury - Ellington High School
- o Billy Barry - Lyme-Old Lyme High School
- o Daniel Maroun - Academy of Science and Innovation
- o Felse Kyle - Lyme-Old Lyme High School
- o Hansuja Chaurasia - Pomperaug High School
- o Nick Lenz - Immaculate High School
- o Patrick Riley - Thomaston High School
- o Sam Gibson - East Hampton High School
- o Shakshi Patel - High School In The Community
- o Young In Kim - Wilbur Cross High School

The Board members engaged in discussion with the students after each group presentation. The Board commended the students for being on point with their research and analysis.

III. Executive Session

The Board did not meet in executive session.

IV. Consideration of Minutes

Board Member Benham moved, Board Member Sieve seconded, that the Board adopt the minutes of the May 5, 2021, State Board of Education Meeting and the May 19, 2021, Special State Board of Education Meeting.

A. May 5, 2021, State Board of Education Meeting

VOTE ON

MOTION: In favor: Benham, Burr, Clemons, Exley, Harris, López, Reasco, Sieve

Opposed: 0
Abstained: Taylor
Absent: DuBois-Walton, Prou

B. May 19, 2021, Special State Board of Education Meeting

VOTE ON

MOTION: In favor: Benham, Burr, Clemons, Exley, Harris, López, Reasco, Sieve
Opposed: 0
Abstained: Taylor
Absent: DuBois-Walton, Prou

Motions carried unanimously.

V. Report of the Commissioner

Acting Commissioner Charlene Russell-Tucker referenced her written report that was distributed to Board. She highlighted the following items from her report:

- CSDE's development of ARP ESSR State Plan.
- CSDE collaboration with DPH on availability of school K-12 COVID-19 screening testing program for events and/or summer learning programming.
- CSDE continues to work with DPH on updating our guidance based on CDC changes.
- CSDE is developing plans for July 1 staff return to office as directed by Governor Lamont.
- Visited Greene-Hill School in Bristol with Governor Lamont. Opportunity to visit classrooms and hear students talk about their experiences.

VI. Items Requiring Action

A. Adoption of 2022 Meeting Schedule

Acting Chair Taylor stated that October 5, 2022, was Yom Kippur and asked the Board if the October 2022 meeting, could be changed to October 12, 2022. The Board members unanimously agreed. The schedule was amended.

Board Member Harris moved, Board Member Burr seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 1-225 of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the 2022 schedule of regular meeting dates as amended, as follows:

January 5, 2022
February 2, 2022
March 2, 2022
April 6, 2022

May 4, 2022
June 1, 2022
July 6, 2022 (Tentative), **or**
July 13, 2022 (Tentative)
August 3, 2022 (Retreat)
September 7, 2022
October 12, 2022
November 2, 2022
December 7, 2022

and directs the Acting Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

MOTION:	In favor:	Benham, Burr, Clemons, Exley, Harris, López, Reasco, Sieve, Taylor
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	0
	Absent:	DuBois-Walton, Prou

Motion carried unanimously as amended.

VII. Report of the Chair

Acting Chair Taylor announced that the July meeting would be held on July 14, 2021.

VIII. Financial Matters

No report was presented under Financial Matters.

IX. Consent Agenda

Acting Chair Taylor requested a motion for the Consent agenda.

The following Consent agenda items were requested to be removed:

- IX.I., Receipt of Report on Racial Imbalance – requested by Board Member López
- IX.A. Recognition of Connecticut Association for Adult and Continuing Education Student Award Winners – requested by Board Member Trefry
- IX.B., Recognition of GED Scholar Award Winner - requested by Board Member Trefry
- IX.C., Recognition of Career and Technical Education Student Organizations - requested by Board Member Benham

Board Member Burr moved, Board Member Benham seconded, that the Board approve the following Consent agenda items: IX.D., Connecticut Advisory Council for Teacher Professional Standards; IX.E., Connecticut Advisory Council for Administrator Professional Standards; IX.F., Request for Finance Advisory Committee (FAC) Action – Connecticut, Technical Education and Career System (CTECS); IX.G., Flexibilities for Implementing the Connecticut Guidelines for Educator Evaluation 2017 (Flexibilities 2021-22) for the 2021-22 School Year; and IX.H., edTPA Cut Score Waiver for the 2021-22 School Year.

D. Connecticut Advisory Council for Teacher Professional Standards

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education receives the 2019-2020 Annual Report of the Connecticut Advisory Council for Teacher Professional Standards, submitted in accordance with the requirements of subsection (e) of Section 10-144d of the Connecticut General Statutes, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

E. Connecticut Advisory Council for Administrator Professional Standards

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education receives the 2019-2020 Annual Report of the Connecticut Advisory Council for Administrator Professional Standards, submitted in accordance with the requirements of subsection (e) of Section 10-144e of the Connecticut General Statutes, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

F. Request for Finance Advisory Committee (FAC) Action – Connecticut, Technical Education and Career System (CTECS)

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education approves the request for Finance Advisory Committee (FAC) action to transfer funding from the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System (CTECS) Personal Services Account to the CTECS Other Expenses Account, and directs the Acting Commissioner to take the necessary action.

G. Flexibilities for Implementing the Connecticut Guidelines for Educator Evaluation 2017 (Flexibilities 2021-22) for the 2021-22 School Year

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-151d of the CT General Statutes, approves the Flexibilities for Implementing the *CT Guidelines for Educator Evaluation 2017* for the 2021-22 school year, and directs the Acting Commissioner to take the necessary action.

H. edTPA Cut Score Waiver for the 2021-22 School Year

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education adopts the recommendation from the Connecticut State Department of Education to implement a waiver of the edTPA cut score for all Connecticut educator preparation provider (EPP) program candidates completing and submitting for scoring an edTPA portfolio during the period September 1, 2021, to August 31, 2022, and directs the Acting Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

MOTION: In favor: Benham, Burr, Clemons, Exley, Harris, López, Reasco, Sieve, Taylor
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: DuBois-Walton, Prou

Motions carried unanimously.

Board Member Trefry explained that IX.A. and IX.B. were being pulled not for discussion, but for a reading of the names in recognition of the work accomplished. Vice Chair López read the resolution and names of each of the honorees into the record of the minutes.

Board Member Sieve moved, Board Member Benham seconded, that the Board approve the following Consent agenda item: IX.A:

A. Recognition of Connecticut Association for Adult and Continuing Education Student Award Winners

WHEREAS, Adult education exemplifies the concept of lifelong learning with nearly ten thousand Connecticut residents in adult basic education/secondary school completion programs and nearly twelve thousand Connecticut residents in English as a Second Language (ESL) and U.S. citizenship preparation programs; and

WHEREAS, The Connecticut Association for Adult and Continuing Education (CAACE), through its CAACE Student Award, recognized eight individuals who have overcome numerous obstacles and hardships to persist and succeed in adult education; and

WHEREAS, These individuals exemplify the spirit and determination necessary to achieve a goal and serve as role models to all adult and young learners in our communities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Connecticut State Board of Education recognizes the following individuals for their accomplishments in this major adult education endeavor:

Fathima Anis	Farmington Adult Education
Malgorzata Augustowska	Manchester Adult Education
Carol Bennett	EASTCONN
Angel Freeman	Naugatuck Adult Education
Maria Lazaro	EASTCONN
Chaimae Mamjoud	Middletown Adult Education
No Nguyen	East Hartford Adult Education
Anthony Rongetti	Danbury Adult Education

and directs the Acting Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

MOTION: In favor: Benham, Burr, Clemons, Exley, Harris, López, Reasco,
Sieve, Taylor
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: DuBois-Walton, Prou

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Recognition of GED Scholar Award Winner

Acting Chair Taylor read the resolution aloud into the record of the minutes.

Board Member Burr moved, Board Member Reasco seconded, that the Board approve the following Consent agenda item: IX.B.:

WHEREAS, Matthew Piazza, of Litchfield, has demonstrated exceptional skill and proficiency in the four subject areas of the high school equivalency examination by attaining a total score of 763 on the GED® tests in 2020; and

WHEREAS, He is the Connecticut resident with the highest total score on the GED® tests; and

WHEREAS, He has brought honor to himself, to the State Board of Education, and the State of Connecticut; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Connecticut State Board of Education honors Matthew Piazza with great appreciation for his accomplishments in a major adult education endeavor and directs the Acting Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

MOTION: In favor: Benham, Burr, Clemons, Exley, Harris, López, Reasco,
Sieve, Taylor
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: DuBois-Walton, Prou

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Recognition of Career and Technical Education Student Organizations

Board Member Benham explained that IX.C. was being pulled for recognition of the names being read aloud.

Acting Chair Taylor read the resolution aloud into the record of the minutes.

Board Member Benham moved, Board Member Sieve seconded, that the Board approve the following Consent agenda item: IX.C.:

WHEREAS, Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) are a co-curricular, integral part of the local, state and national career and technical education programs;

WHEREAS, The development of individual student leadership skills is the keystone of these organizations; and

WHEREAS, all CTSO chapters were asked to identify an outstanding service project; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Connecticut State Board of Education recognizes the following CTSO Outstanding Service Award Recipients:

- Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA), New Fairfield High School, New Fairfield;
- Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Trumbull High School, Trumbull;
- Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), South Windsor High School, South Windsor;
- FFA (formerly known as Future Farmers of America), Lyman Hall High School, Wallingford;
- Future Health Professionals (HOSA), Stratford High School, Stratford;
- SkillsUSA, Oliver Wolcott Technical High School, Torrington;
- Technology Student Association (TSA), Killingly High School, Dayville;

and directs the Acting Commissioner to take the necessary action.

I. Receipt of Report on Racial Imbalance

Board Member López stated that the report was very clear and showed progress. She requested that Fairfield be invited to provide the Board with an update on what they are doing.

Board Member López moved, Board Member Sieve seconded, that the Board approve the following Consent agenda item: IX.I.:

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Sections 10-226a and 10-226b of the Connecticut General Statutes, accepts the Racial Imbalance Report for the 2019-20 school year, and directs the Acting Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

MOTION:	In favor:	Benham, Burr, Clemons, Exley, Harris, López, Reasco, Sieve, Taylor
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	0
	Absent:	DuBois-Walton, Prou

Motion carried unanimously.

X. Items for Discussion

A. Agency Update

Acting Commissioner Russell-Tucker introduced and described subject matters that would be presented under the Agency Updates.

Summer Enrichment

Director of Innovation and Partnerships Chris Soto provided an update on the \$11 million in the American Rescue Plan that was set aside specifically for summer enrichment. He reported on the number of Expansion grants and Innovation grants that were awarded and highlighted that all awardees must have staff complete two hours of social-emotional learning. Mr. Soto announced a website (www.summerct.org) was created to help families know about the opportunities that were now available in their communities.

ARP ESSER Plan Update (American Rescue Plan Update)

Fellow Tanya Budler reviewed the ARP ESSER timeline. She highlighted June 7, 2021, as the deadline for the State Department of Education to file its state plan with the U.S. Department of Education. Ms. Budler thanked the Board for its May 19, 2021, meeting, which was followed with two stakeholder focus group sessions. Ms. Budler shared a summary of takeaways of the public feedback.

Chief Financial Officer Kathy Demsey stated that from each of the ESSER funding, the federal law is to reserve 10 percent of the funds at the state level for state activities. She summarized the CSDE ARP ESSER funding priority buckets to utilize the state-level funding.

SBE 5-Year Comprehensive Plan

Chief Strategic Planning Officer Keith Norton provided an update on the SBE 5-Year Comprehensive Plan. He highlighted that Dr. Richard Lemons, CT Center for School Change, had generated extensive notes from the March Retreat. Mr. Norton provided an overview of the next steps for the second phase of preparing for stakeholder engagement through the use of

focus groups and surveys. The analyzing and summary of focus group findings and surveys will be presented to the Board at the Retreat in August.

Learning Models of Districts

Deputy Commissioner Desi Nesmith reported that the period of May 24 -May 28, 2021, over 86 percent of districts were now operating in a predominately fully in-person model. Zero percent of districts were predominately remote. 100 percent of Connecticut districts have offered some in-person instruction to at least some of their students during the 2020-21 school year. Deputy Commissioner Nesmith commended the Performance Office for the phenomenal job setting up the Learning Model as well as the weekly collection, and the attendance rate model that provided us with significant data during the pandemic.

School Health and Safety Update

Legal Director Jessa Mirtle reported that school districts received the most recent guidance for summer school and enrichment opportunities. School districts have also been informed about the updated guidance for sports. She concluded that there was a continuing mandate that masks be worn. This is supported by the Governor's executive order as well as per the Department of Public Health.

Division Director John Frassinelli provided an update on vaccinations and programs. He stated that the Department of Public Health has been working with districts to set up vaccine clinics. He shared that the Department of Public Health received \$107 million dollars to do school-based testing that is ongoing.

Professional Learning Opportunities for Families and Districts

Division Director John Frassinelli presented on the webinar: Relationships of Trust: Families and Educators Reflect on Home Visiting, which was held on May 27, 2021. He shared that this was one of the webinar series in which staff speak directly with families and highlighted the initiative around teacher home visiting.

Statewide Digital Curricula Partnership

Deputy Commissioner Desi Nesmith highlighted the recent roll out of two supplemental resources of Apex Learning and Defined Learning to provide additional resources to districts.

Shoutout!

CSDE and RESC Alliance – Blended Learning Partnership

Chief Academic Officer Irene Parisi shared that the CSDE partnered with the RESC Alliance to launch the Connecticut Plan for Reimaging Connecticut classrooms. The program was to put special learning in the hands of teachers to promote blended learning in the classrooms regardless of location and at no cost to districts.

Shoutout!

Chief Academic Officer Irene Parisi highlighted three supports from the Turnaround Office:

- Spring NetStat Session – Leading with Persistence, May 14, 2021.
- Commissioner’s Network Principal Cohort Learning Series: CSDE and Turnaround Office and Education Elements conducting a four-session series between May-August for principals and assistant principals on effective team habits.
- CSDE Talent Office and CSDE Charter School Office: Charter School Leaders and Hiring Managers: Champions of Talent Development, May 4, 2021.

Recognition of Carole Dibble: Teacher Leader in Residence

Division Director Lisa Lamenzo spoke on the recognition of Carole Dibble, CSDE Turnaround Office, Teacher Leader in Residence (West Hartford) for the past two years. Ms. Lamenzo stated that the Turnaround Office was appreciative of Ms. Dibble’s tremendous service to the department.

Acting Commissioner Russell-Tucker presented a Certificate of Recognition to Ms. Dibble.

Legislative Update

Chief of Staff/Legislative Liaison Laura Stefon reported that negotiations were currently in process and that the legislative session concludes on June 9th. She shared two bills that would create new entities within the Department: (i) one creates a new Center for Literacy Research and Reading Success within the Department; and (ii) the other would create an Office of Dyslexia and Reading Disabilities. Ms. Stefon concluded with the status of the Agency bill.

XI. Committee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessment

Committee Chair Clemons reported that the next committee meeting will be held on June 8, 2021.

B. Accountability and Support

Committee Chair López reported that the committee met on May 18, 2021. Great Oaks Charter School, Bridgeport, The Bridge Academy, Bridgeport, and Interdistrict School for Arts and Communication (ISAAC), New London, presented to the committee.

C. Finance, Audit, and Budget

Committee Chair Taylor reported that the committee did not meet.

D. Legislation and Policy Development

Committee Chair Benham reported that the committee did not meet.

E. Connecticut Technical Education and Career System Board

Superintendent Wihbey shared an update on the CTECS Board meeting and highlighted two significant partnerships and two student celebrations.

- The board has finalized an Agreement with Three Rivers Community College in connection with Grasso Tech students.
- Lt. Governor Bysiewicz joined several board members in opening up our new afternoon program for LEA students at Vinal Tech in Middletown.
- Two Platt Tech students in the sustainable architecture program participated in a national competition called SpaceNet.
- Vinal Tech students in the Criminal Justice and Protective Services program will receive state and federal recognition for their work during the COVID-19 pandemic.

F. NASBE

Board Member Exley reported that the Government Affairs Committee held a meeting. He highlighted that Connecticut's leadership with the African American, Black, Latino and Puerto Rican Curriculum was of interest.

Board Member Benham reported that the Whole Child Policy Study Group of NASBE held its last monthly meeting.

On May 20, 2021, NASBE hosted a webinar: *Accelerating Learning in Connecticut and Missouri* to present on the collaborative approach to coordinating summer accelerated learning plans and preparing for the next school year. The Connecticut presenter panelists were: (i) **Director of Innovation and Partnerships** Chris Soto, and (ii) Vice Chairperson López.

G. SERC

Board Member Benham highlighted the collaborations of SERC's services with the CSDE.

Acting Chairperson Taylor adjourned the meeting at 12:26 p.m.

Prepared by: _____
Charlene M. Russell-Tucker, Secretary
State Board of Education