

# Connecticut State Board Of Education Hartford

## State Board of Education Retreat August 4, 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") held a Retreat on Wednesday, August 4, 2021, in Plaza North Meeting Room C and D of the State Office Building, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, Connecticut. Public access to the building allowed for public attendance at the meeting.

### I. Call to Order

Acting Commissioner Charlene Russell-Tucker, Secretary to the Board, called the Retreat to order at 9:30 a.m.

Present: Erin D. Benham, newly elected Vice Chairperson  
Bonnie E. Burr  
Erik M. Clemons  
Karen DuBois-Walton  
Elwood Exley, Jr.  
Donald F. Harris, Jr.  
Awilda Reasco  
Malia K. Sieve  
Robert J. Trefry, Ex Officio  
Vallieres, Kelli-Marie. Ex Officio

Absent: Dr. Jane Gates, (designee for Terrence Cheng)  
Estela López, former Vice Chairperson  
Martha Paluch Prou  
Allan B. Taylor, Acting Chairperson

Acting Commissioner Charlene Russell-Tucker welcomed the Board members and thanked them for their work that has informed the efforts of the Department. She introduced retreat facilitator, Dr. Robert Hull, President and CEO of the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE).

Chief Strategic Planning Officer Keith Norton, Office of Strategic Planning and Partnerships, introduced Dr. Richard Lemons, Executive Director of the Connecticut Center for School Change (CCSC), who is serving as the facilitator in developing the Board's 5-Year Comprehensive Plan.

Dr. Lemons led the Board through a presentation on "Stakeholder Feedback and Survey Results." He started the session by outlining the objectives for the retreat:

- To share and discuss feedback from stakeholders.
- To identify goal areas for the strategic plan.
- To clarify the next steps for the strategic planning process.

Dr. Lemons highlighted some of the emerging patterns and trends from stakeholders:

- Commitment to ensuring each and every child graduates ready for what is beyond high school.
- For schools to support social-emotional development.
- Additional stakeholder suggestions on several priorities for education.

The Board members engaged in questions, comments, and discussions throughout Dr. Lemons' presentation.

The Board recessed for lunch at 12:25 p.m. and reconvened at 1:15 p.m.

Present:       \*Estela López, former Vice Chairperson  
Erin D. Benham, newly elected Vice Chairperson  
Bonnie E. Burr  
Erik M. Clemons  
Karen DuBois-Walton  
Elwood Exley, Jr.  
Donald F. Harris, Jr.  
Awilda Reasco  
Malia K. Sieve  
Robert J. Trefry, Ex Officio  
Vallieres, Kelli-Marie. Ex Officio

Absent:        Dr. Jane Gates, (designee for Terrence Cheng)  
Martha Paluch Prou  
Allan B. Taylor, Acting Chairperson

\*[Estela López, former Vice Chairperson arrived during the lunch recess.]

Dr. Hull led the Board through a slide presentation on "Building Capacity for Effective Leadership and Governance." He started the session by outlining the NASBE objectives for the retreat.

#### Leadership Voice

Dr. Hull presented to the Board on effective boardsmanship and focused his comments on "leadership voice" as individual members of the Board, and the power of the collective voice of the Board as a whole. Discussion ensued regarding the structures necessary for an effective governance body that remains focused on learning standards, including the relationship between the policy setting role of the Board and the leadership role and support structures provided by the Department.

Self-Reflection Survey

Prior to the date of the retreat, Dr. Hull sent the members of the State Board of Education a survey that covered the matters outlined below. Dr. Hull reviewed the outcomes of the survey with the Board.

- Mission and Goals
- State Board Agenda
- Board Operations
- Stakeholder Engagement

Discussion ensued regarding the takeaways from the survey, actions to be taken, and long-term planning for board operations.

Acting Commissioner Russell-Tucker thanked Dr. Hull for his attendance and presentation.

The Retreat adjourned at 3:26 p.m.

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