

Connecticut State Board Of Education Hartford

Minutes Special State Board of Education Meeting August 19, 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 Thursday, August 19, 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 to the meeting.

I. Call to Order

Acting Chairperson Allan Taylor called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m.

Staff Assistant to the Board, Aldith Dewar, took an attendance roll call.

Present: Allan B. Taylor, Acting Chairperson
Erin D. Benham, Vice Chairperson
Bonnie E. Burr
Elwood Exley, Jr.
Donald F. Harris, Jr.
Estela López (via telephone)
Malia K. Sieve
Robert J. Trefry, Ex Officio
Vallieres, Kelli-Marie. Ex Officio

Absent: Erik M. Clemons
Karen DuBois-Walton
Dr. Jane Gates, (designee for Terrence Cheng)
Martha Paluch Prou
Awilda Reasco

II. Executive Session

Acting Chairperson Taylor requested a motion to go into Executive Session for the consideration of agenda item III., Recommendation of Candidate for Commissioner of Education.

On a motion by Vice Chairperson Benham, seconded by Board Member Sieve, the Board voted unanimously to move into executive session at 10:40 a.m. to discuss a personnel matter. Present in executive session were Board Members Erin Benham, Bonnie Burr, Elwood Exley, Donald Harris, Estela López (via telephone), Malia Sieve, Allan Taylor, Robert Trefry, and Kelli-Marie Vallieres. Also present for executive session were Chief of Staff Laura Stefan, and Staff Assistant Aldith Dewar.

On a motion by Vice Chairperson Benham, seconded by Board Member Burr, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn its executive session and reconvene in public session at 10:54 a.m.

Present: Allan B. Taylor, Acting Chairperson
Erin D. Benham, Vice Chairperson
Bonnie E. Burr
Elwood Exley
Donald F. Harris, Jr.
Estela López (via telephone)
Malia K. Sieve
Robert J. Trefry, Ex Officio
Kelli-Marie Vallieres, Ex Officio

Absent: Erik M. Clemons
Karen DuBois-Walton
Jane Gates, designee for Terrence Cheng, Ex Officio
Martha Paluch Prou
Awilda Reasco

III. Recommendation of Candidate for Commissioner of Education

Acting Chairperson Taylor requested a motion for agenda item III.

Board Member Sieve moved, Board Member Burr seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-3a of the Connecticut General Statutes, recommends to the Governor the appointment of Charlene M. Russell-Tucker as Commissioner of Education, for a period coterminous with the term of the Governor, and directs the Acting Chairperson to take the necessary action.

Prior to the Board vote, Board members requested to make public comment in support of the resolution.

1. Donald F. Harris, Jr.: He indicated that the Acting Commissioner hit the ground running and noted that she was the first African American woman to be named permanent Commissioner of Education. He thanked the Governor for his nomination of Charlene Russell-Tucker.
2. Erin D. Benham: Stated that Charlene did not miss a beat, and thanked her for her leadership.
3. Robert J. Trefry: Charlene Russell-Tucker has handled the interim (Acting) position well.
4. Bonnie E. Burr: Agriscience has expressed appreciation of Charlene Russell-Tucker's leadership.

5. Estela López: I cannot say enough for in support of Charlene Russell-Tucker's leadership.

The Honorable Governor Ned Lamont arrived at the meeting at approximately 10:59 a.m. Governor Lamont stated that the appointment of Charlene Russell-Tucker as Commissioner of the Connecticut State Department of Education was well-deserved and that she is the leader Connecticut needs.

Staff Assistant Aldith Dewar took a roll call vote.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Board Member Erik Clemons requested that the minutes reflect that had he been present at the meeting, he would have voted "yes" in support of the resolution.

Governor Lamont administered the Oath of Office to Charlene M. Russell-Tucker.

Commissioner Russell-Tucker stated that she was humbled to be given the opportunity to continue to lead at the Connecticut State Department of Education and join forces with educators and stakeholders to build a nation-leading education system that is resilient to the challenges we face.

Vice Chairperson Benham moved, Board Member Harris seconded, that the meeting be adjourned.

Acting Chairperson Allan Taylor adjourned the meeting at 11:06 a.m.

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