

**Connecticut State Board of Education
Hartford**

Accountability and Support Committee

Thursday, April 14, 2022
450 Columbus Plaza North Meeting Room J
Hartford, Connecticut.

**Minutes
(Approved on May 19, 2022)**

I. Call to Order

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, in the absence of Committee Chairperson Erin D. Benham, Committee member Malia K. Sieve was the Chairperson Pro Temp and called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Committee

Members Present: Malia K. Sieve
Elwood Exley, Jr

Committee

Member Absent: Erin D. Benham, Chairperson
Karen Dubois-Walton
Donald F. Harris, Jr.

Staff Present:

Lisa Lamenzo
Irene Parisi
Leslie Navarrete
Margaret Hughes

Guests Present:

Cynthia Ritchie, Superintendent, New London Public Schools
Jennifer Hills, Assistant Superintendent, New London Public Schools

II. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the February 10, 2022, Accountability and Support meeting was tabled as there was no quorum.

Vote: In Favor: 0
Abstained: 0
Opposed: 0
Absent: 0

III. Alliance District Showcase of Best Practices, East Hartford Public Schools

Irene Parisi, Chief Academic Officer, provided an overview of the purpose for the Alliance District Showcase of Best Practices. She highlighted the work and efforts of New London Public Schools with early childhood programming. Ms. Parisi welcomed Ms. Cynthia Ritchie, Superintendent of New London Public Schools, and Ms. Jennifer Hills, Assistant Superintendent, New London Public Schools.

New London Public Schools shared highlights of their ongoing efforts to strengthen, sustain, and expand the district's multi-faceted early childhood programming that began with the co-establishment of the birth to 8 early childhood center with the City of New London during the COVID pandemic. The district also shared their vision and plan for supporting early childhood programming, including their focus in operations and instruction. Additionally, the district spoke in detail about their ongoing partnership with the City of New London to support families, students, and the community by providing shared services, such as IT literacy, mental health support, human services and meeting basic needs.

New London Public Schools noted their success in establishing a preschool program with an aligned common curriculum and assessment practices, and the capability to grow teacher capacity and cultivate parent engagement. They went on to spotlight their K/1 multi-aged, multi-session model whereby they revamped the school calendar so that it aligns with the district calendar. This maneuver was well received by staff and parent, according to the district.

The district explained the next steps on continuing to strengthen, sustain, and expand the district's multi-faceted early childhood programming.

Sieve, Chairperson Pro Tem, opened the floor for questions and comments. The committee commended Ms. Cynthia Ritchie and her team for their commitment to early childhood programming.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Prepared by: Leslie Navarrete