

Connecticut State Board of Education Hartford

Minutes of the Academic Standards and Assessment Committee
Meeting Tuesday, January 11, 2022

(Approved on March 8, 2022)

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State and posted on the agency's website, the Academic Standards and Assessment Committee (hereinafter "Committee") met in-person on Tuesday, January 11, 2022, in Plaza North Hearing Room C of the State Office Building, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, Connecticut.

Committee Chair Erik Clemons called the meeting to order at 9:42 a.m.

Present: Erik M. Clemons, Chair
Erin D. Benham
Allan B. Taylor

Absent: Martha Paluch Prou
Awilda Reasco

Staff Present: Ajit Gopalakrishnan, Chief Performance Officer
Irene Parisi, Chief Academic Officer

Guest Staff: Dr. Melissa K. Wlodarczyk Hickey, Reading/Literacy Director

1. Introductions

Members and guests introduced themselves at the start of the meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes from September 14, 2021 Meeting

Erin D. Benham moved and Allan B. Taylor seconded the motion for the approval of September 14, 2021 minutes. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

3. State Board Position Statement on the Science of Reading

Irene Parisi, Chief Academic Officer, CSDE, and Dr. Melissa Wlodarczyk Hickey, Reading/Literacy Director, CSDE, presented to the Committee the State Board Position Statement on the Science of Reading draft (Draft) pursuant to PA 21-2 with a background overview of science of reading. They explained that the intent of State Board Position Statement on the Science of Reading is to align reading instruction to the science of reading to ensure all students are reading on grade level by third grade. Ajit Gopalakrishnan, Chief Performance Officer, CSDE, added that assessment practices must also align to the science of reading. Dr. Wlodarczyk Hickey stated a reading assessment list should be available for review by March 2022. She also added that the State Board Position Statement on the Science of Reading draft was shared with UConn, LiteracyHow, and Hill for Literacy for feedback and now with the Committee.

Ms. Parisi cited the Public Act contains many deliverables, including a tiered tool kit for families and communication requirements.

Chair Erik Clemons opened the floor for discussion. Discussion regarding the State Board Position Statement on the Science of Reading and the 2008 State Board Position Statement on English Language Arts Education occurred.

The Committee recommended:

- the State Board Position Statement on the Science of Reading and the State Board Position Statement on English Language Arts Education stay as separate documents;
- a reference to literacy environment be included as a systemic practice to align reading instruction to the science of reading collaboratively with districts across the state;
- school, family, and student responsibilities be expanded in the Draft; and
- revising the State Board Position Statement on English Language Arts Education.

Next steps were discussed with the Committee. Irene Parisi, Chief Academic Officer, CSDE, and Dr. Melissa Wlodarczyk Hickey, Reading/Literacy Director, CSDE, would like to come back in front of the Committee to present the final draft in March, if time permits. The Committee agreed and commended their efforts.

4. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn Allan B. Taylor, seconded by Erin D. Benham. The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Prepared by: Leslie Navarrete