

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

The Legislation and Policy Development Committee

Wednesday, February 2, 2022, 8:30 a.m.

Committee Members

Malia K. Sieve, Chair
Donald F. Harris, Bonnie E. Burr, Karen Dubois-Walton, Robert Trefry
Martha Paluch Prou and Elwood Exley, Jr.

Minutes

(Approved February 2, 2022)

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Board of Education Legislation and Policy Development Committee met in person on February 2, 2022.

I. Call to Order

Committee Chair Malia K. Sieve called the meeting to order. Also present were Committee Members Karen Dubois-Walton, Donald F. Harris, Martha Paluch Prou, and Robert Trefry, as well as Rishabh Bhandari, Student Board Member and Natalie Bandura, Student Board Member. In addition, the following were also in attendance: Erin D. Benham, Vice-Chairperson, State Board of Education; Kathy Demsey, Chief Financial Officer; Michael McKeon, Director of Legal and Governmental Affairs; Irene Parisi, Chief Academic Officer; Keith Norton, Chief Strategic Planning Officer; Laura Anastasio, Attorney, Legal and Governmental Affairs Office.

Presenters:

Kathy Demsey, Chief Financial Officer, CSDE
Laura Anastasio, Attorney, Legal and Governmental Affairs Office, CSDE

II. Review and Discussion: Proposed School Funding Formula

Ms. Sieve and Ms. Benham began the discussion by noting that in 2019, the State Board of Education [“the Board”] had drafted a resolution in support of Open Choice. Ms. Demsey then started her presentation on school funding mechanisms for Connecticut public schools, providing both an historical overview and a discussion of the current processes. Ms. Demsey noted that ECS drives the bulk of school funding, adding that over a period of approximately ten years there was a shift to “full funding” as a means of addressing the equitable distribution of State education funds. Ms. Demsey also noted changes in the manner in which students in various choice programs are treated for purposes of determining resident student counts and ECS allocations. Committee members expressed concerns that the treatment of expenditures and reimbursements for special education students could have the unintended result of limiting the number of Open Choice possibilities for such students. Ms. Benham and the Committee considered the possibility of the full Board setting forth an articulation of this concern to be shared with the legislature.

The Committee then heard from Attorney Anastasio regarding Connecticut’s racial imbalance law. Attorney Anastasio began reviewing a PowerPoint pertaining to this law. Due to limited time, it was decided that the presentation would continue at the Committee’s March 2022 meeting.

III. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

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