

**Connecticut State Board of Education**  
**Hartford**

**The Legislation and Policy Development Committee**  
Wednesday, March 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 April 6, 2022)*

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Board of Education Legislation and Policy Development Committee met in person on March 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, Bonnie E. Burr, Martha Paluch Prou, Elwood Exley, Jr., and Robert Trefry. In addition, the following were also in attendance: Michael McKeon, Director of Legal and Governmental Affairs; Irene Parisi, Chief Academic Officer; and Sonya Efiayayi, Secretary, CSDE.

**Presenters:**

Irene Parisi, Chief Academic Officer, CSDE  
Michael P. McKeon, Director of Legal and Governmental Affairs, CSDE

**II. Review and Discussion**

The Committee approved the minutes from the February 2, 2022 regular LPDC meeting. Ms. Sieve noted that the minutes of the December 14, 2021 special meeting would be considered at the LPDC's April 2022 regular meeting. At Ms. Sieve's request, Attorney McKeon discussed the cancellation of the February 24, 2022 special meeting and further reviewed the reasoning for not moving forward at this juncture with a proposed resolution pertaining to Open Choice funding. The Committee discussed revisiting this issue going forward.

Irene Parisi, the CSDE's Chief Academic Officer, gave a presentation on the Remote Learning Standards which had recently been finalized by the Remote Learning Committee in accordance with Section 16(b) of Public Act 21-46 and Section 10-16 of the Connecticut General Statutes. The Committee discussed the manner and form in which remote learning would possibly be offered, beginning with the 2022-2023 school year.

Attorney McKeon then finished a presentation on the background, parameters, and substance of the racial imbalance laws that Attorney Anastasio – who was unable to be present – had started at the Committee's February 2, 2022 meeting. There was extensive discussion by the Committee regarding the process and length of time taken by the school districts to effectuate

plans intended to balance racial imbalances in some of their schools. Committee members expressed frustration about the limited options available to the State Board of Education to address persistent racial imbalances. Attorney McKeon explained the Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-4b complaint process, and the Committee discussed whether there were funding penalties or other possible remedies. The Committee will give further consideration to possible legislative proposals to address this. In the interim, after reviewing the most recent racial-balancing timeline submitted by the Fairfield Board of Education – and in light of the significant period of time Fairfield has already taken -- the Committee agreed that the CSDE would communicate its concerns to the Fairfield Board regarding the length of the additional time Fairfield is now proposing.

**V. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

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