

# Connecticut State Board of Education Hartford

## State Board of Education Meeting January 19, 2022

*(Approved February 2, 2022)*

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") held a meeting on Wednesday, January 19, 2022, 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 at the meeting. The meeting was live streamed: [https://youtu.be/rAyxss\\_PnAM](https://youtu.be/rAyxss_PnAM).

### **I. Call to Order**

Acting Chairperson Allan Taylor, called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m.

Present: Allan B. Taylor, Acting Chairperson  
Erin D. Benham, Vice Chairperson  
Rishabh Bhandari, Student Member  
Bonnie E. Burr  
Erik M. Clemons  
Karen DuBois-Walton  
Donald F. Harris, Jr.  
Awilda Reasco  
Malia K. Sieve  
Robert J. Trefry, Ex Officio

Absent: Natalie Bandura, Student Member  
Elwood Exley, Jr.  
Dr. Ken Klucznik (designee for Terrence Cheng, Ex Officio)  
Martha Paluch Prou  
Kelli-Marie Vallieres, Ex Officio

### **II. Public Participation**

1. Dr. Stephen Hegedus, President, AACTE-CT Chapter and Dean of Education, Southern Connecticut State University, spoke on AACTE-CT and CSDE; recruitment and retention of a diverse educator workforce; proposals to on how to offset the costs that student teachers face in preparing to be a teacher; and support of agenda item IX.B., Continuing Approval of Educator Preparation Provider, Southern Connecticut State University.

2. Morgan Campbell, read comments on behalf of Christina Steiner, against the mask mandate, the need for children to stop wearing masks, and parental rights for making well-being decisions.
3. Genesis Alfonso, spoke against the mask mandate and interruption of social interaction, and the right for parents to choose whether to wear a mask.
4. Patricia Tavalozzi, spoke on the quarantine and mask recommendations, the wearing of N95 masks, and on local district control.
5. Kristen Ritchie, spoke against mask wearing mandate, the need for air quality and ventilation in schools, and for medical parental decision making.
6. Chari Norton, read comments on behalf of Christina Corvello on her resilience with the pandemic as an unvaccinated teacher, and the need for communication.
7. Susan Zabonhonski, spoke on mask and vaccine mandate decisions to be made at the local level.
8. Paul Campbell, spoke on parental rights to mask their kids.
9. Lauren Vernalia, spoke against mask wearing, and the mental health crisis of children.
10. Michael Edwards, spoke against mask mandate.
11. Meagan Jones, read a statement on behalf of a teacher, regarding the interactions of her vaccinated and unvaccinated students, and being the voice of her voiceless students.
12. Tom Stringfellow, spoke on Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, Pearl Harbor, Native American history, and presented book recommendations.
13. Britt Lynch, spoke on allowing the decision on masking students to the individual districts, or individual families.
14. Meredith Nielson, spoke against masking of school children, advocating for local district control and decision-making.
15. Jacqueline Flynn, spoke on ending the mask mandate for children, school peer pressure on vaccinations, and respect for parental and local district choice.

### **III. Executive Session**

Acting Chairperson Taylor requested a motion to go into Executive Session for the Discussion of Preliminary Draft Document Pertaining to CSDE Organizational Structure.

On a motion by Vice Chair Benham, seconded by Board Member Sieve, the Board voted unanimously to move into executive session at 10:37 a.m. for Discussion of Preliminary Draft Document Pertaining to CSDE Organizational Structure. Present in executive session were Board Members Erin Benham, Rishabh Bhandari, Bonnie Burr, Erik Clemons, Karen DuBois-Walton, Donald Harris, Awilda Reasco, Malia Sieve, Allan Taylor, and Robert Trefry. Also, present for executive session were Commissioner Charlene Russell-Tucker, Deputy Commissioner Desi Nesmith, Chief of Staff/Legislative Liaison Laura Stefon, Legal Director Michael McKeon, and Staff Assistant Aldith Dewar.

Executive session ended at 11:23 a.m. A ten-minute recess followed before reconvening the meeting.

On a motion by Board Member Burr, seconded by Board Member Reasco, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn its executive session and reconvene in public session at 11:33 a.m.

Present: Allan B. Taylor, Acting Chairperson  
Erin D. Benham, Vice Chairperson  
Rishabh Bhandari, Student Member  
Bonnie E. Burr  
Erik M. Clemons  
Karen DuBois-Walton  
Donald F. Harris, Jr.  
Awilda Reasco  
Malia K. Sieve  
Robert J. Trefry, Ex Officio

Absent: Natalie Bandura, Student Member  
Elwood Exley, Jr.  
Dr. Ken Klucznik (designee for Terrence Cheng, Ex Officio)  
Martha Paluch Prou  
Kelli-Marie Vallieres, Ex Officio

Acting Chair Taylor requested a motion for the minutes of December 1, 2021.

### **IV. Consideration of Minutes of the State Board of Education**

Board Member Harris moved, Board Member Clemons seconded, that the Board adopt the State Board of Education minutes of December 1, 2021.



Motion carried unanimously.

**B. Report on Agricultural Science and Technology Education Graduates Five Years After Graduation**

Vice Chair Benham moved, Board Member DuBois-Walton seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-65a (b) of the Connecticut General Statutes, receives the Report on Agricultural Science and Technology Education Graduates Five Years after Graduation.

Chief Academic Officer Irene Parisi and Reading/Literacy Director Dr. Melissa Hickey presented before the Board.

Board Member Burr followed up with questions and recommendations.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**VII. Report of the Chair**

Acting Chair Taylor did not provide a report.

**VIII. Financial Matters**

No financial matters were presented.

**IX. Consent Agenda**

Acting Chairperson Taylor asked for a motion for the Consent agenda. Vice Chair Benham requested to remove agenda items, IX.C., 2020-2021 Annual Report from the Connecticut Advisory Council for Administrator Professional Standards; and IX.D., 2020-2021 Annual Report from the Connecticut Advisory Council for Teacher Professional Standards, from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

Board Member DuBois-Walton moved, Board Member Sieve seconded, that the Board approve the following Consent agenda items: IX.A., Continuing Approval of Educator Preparation Provider, Fairfield University; and IX.B., Continuing Approval of Educator Preparation Provider, Southern Connecticut State University.

**A. Continuing Approval of Educator Preparation Provider, Fairfield University**

**Resolved**, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-145d-9(g)(1)(A) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, grants full continuing approval to Fairfield University for the period January 19, 2022, through March 31, 2029, with annual monitoring conducted using program data from the Connecticut Educator Preparation Provider (EPP) Data Dashboard and Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) annual report, until Fairfield University’s 2028 CAEP site visit, for the purpose of certifying graduates from Fairfield University in the following areas:

<u>Program</u>	<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>Program Level</u>	<u>Program Type</u>
Elementary Education	K-6*	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Secondary Grades:			
English	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
History/Social Studies	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Mathematics	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Biology	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Chemistry	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Spanish	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Physics	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
General Science	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
French	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
German	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Italian	7-12	Initial	Graduate
Latin	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
TESOL	K-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Special Education	K-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
School Counselor	PK-12	Advanced	Graduate
School Psychologist	PK-12	Advanced	Graduate
Remedial Reading/ Remedial Language Arts	1-12	Advanced	Graduate

\*Pursuant to Public Act 12-63, amended by Public Act 13-122 (Section 11), on or after July 1, 2017, an endorsement for elementary education will be issued for Grades 1-6 only to in-state graduates.

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

**B. Continuing Approval of Educator Preparation Provider, Southern Connecticut State University**

**Resolved**, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-145d-9(g)(1)(A) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, grants full continuing approval to Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) for the period January 19, 2022, through

March 31, 2029, with annual monitoring conducted using program data from the Connecticut Educator Preparation Provider (EPP) Data Dashboard and Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) annual report, until SCSU's 2028 CAEP site visit, for the purpose of certifying graduates from SCSU in the following areas:

<b>Program</b>	<b>Grades</b>	<b>Certification</b>	<b>Program Type</b>
Art Education	PK-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Comprehensive Special Education	K-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Early Childhood	Nursery-3	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Elementary Education	K-6*	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Elementary/Bilingual Dual	K-6*	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Elementary/Special Education Dual	K-6*	Initial	Undergraduate
Physical Education	PK-12	Initial	Undergraduate
Secondary Education:			
Biology	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Chemistry	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Earth Science	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
English	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
French	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
German	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Italian	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
History/Social Studies	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Mathematics	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Physics	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Spanish	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Remedial Reading/Language Arts	1-12	Advanced	Graduate
School Counseling	PK-12	Advanced	Graduate
School Library Media	PK-12	Advanced	Graduate
School Psychologist	PK-12	Advanced	Graduate
Speech and Language Pathology	PK-12	Advanced	Graduate
Reading/Language Arts Consultant	PK-12	Advanced	Graduate
Intermediate Administration	PK-12	Advanced	Graduate
Superintendent of Schools	PK-12	Advanced	Graduate

\*Pursuant to Public Act 12-63, amended by Public Act 13-122 (Section 11), on or after July 1, 2017, an endorsement for elementary education will be issued for Grades 1-6 only to in-state graduates.

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

**VOTE ON**

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

Motions carried unanimously.

**C. 2020-2021 Annual Report from the Connecticut Advisory Council for Administrator Professional Standards**

Board Member DuBois-Walton moved, Vice Chair Benham seconded, that the Board approve the following Consent agenda items: IX.C., 2020-2021 Annual Report from the Connecticut Advisory Council for Administrator Professional Standards; and IX.D., 2020-2021 Annual Report from the Connecticut Advisory Council for Teacher Professional Standards.

Chief Talent Officer Shuana Tucker and Education Consultant Sharon Fuller, who serves as liaison to the Councils presented an update. Ms. Fuller highlighted that the two Councils share the commonality of challenges with their membership roster and shared goals.

Vice Chair Benham referenced that the two Councils are by statute, and requested that the purpose of the Councils should be reviewed. Vice Chair Benham recommended combining the two Councils.

**Resolved:** That the State Board of Education receives the 2020-2021 Annual Report of the Connecticut Advisory Council for Administrator Professional Standards, submitted in accordance with the requirements of subsection (e) of Section 10-144e of the Connecticut General Statutes, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

**D. 2020-2021 Annual Report from the Connecticut Advisory Council for Teacher Professional Standards**

**Resolved:** That the State Board of Education receives the 2020-2021 Annual Report of the Connecticut Advisory Council for Teacher Professional Standards, submitted in accordance with the requirements of subsection (e) of Section 10-144d of the Connecticut General Statutes, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motions carried unanimously.

**X. Items for Discussion**



## **A. Agency Update**

Commissioner Russell-Tucker provided a summary of agency activities.

### Health and Safety Updates

Division Director John Frassinelli highlighted that in conjunction with DPH, updated guidance for schools was provided on December 31, 2021.

- He provided a Vaccination update for Ages 5-11 Years and Ages 12-17 Years.
- He acknowledged the work of Ajit Gopalakrishnan and Eric Scoville with prioritization of Test Kit and Mask Distributions for both public and private schools.

[Board Member DuBois-Walton left the meeting at approximately 12:11 p.m.]

### Child Nutrition Programs

Division Director John Frassinelli reported on the high number of meals being served.

### American rescue Plan – Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY) State Plan

Division Director John Frassinelli reported that Funds will focus on McKinney-Vento eligible students with identification of students experiencing homelessness or unstable housing with the provision of wrap around services, and ensuring full participation and engagement in schools.

### SBE 5-Year Plan

Chief Strategic Officer Keith Norton presented an update. EdAdvance will be spearheading the Plan development. Mr. Norton concluded that he will be coming back to the Board in February to introduce the EdAdvance person who will lead the project.

### Special Education Update

Division Director Bryan Klimkiewicz provided an update on the progress of the CT-SEDS and Special Education Data Application and Collection (SEDAC) process. He provided an update on ESSER II/ARP IDEA Application Review. Director Klimkiewicz highlighted the webpage for the State Performance Plan (SPP) and Annual Performance Report (APR) to show an overview of the process.

### Comments on SB-948

Chief Financial Officer Kathy Demsey presented as follows:

- As part of Public Act 21-2, there was a requirement that the Office of Fiscal Analysis conduct an independent modeling of an education funding proposal that had been brought out under Senate Bill 948.
- The funding model would change how the education cost sharing (ECS) grant funding would be distributed for state charter schools, magnet schools, regional agricultural science and technology centers, and the open choice program.
- The report was submitted to the legislature on January 14<sup>th</sup>, with comments from the Department on what the potential impacts would be.

#### Talent Office Update - NextGen Program and Educators Rising

Chief Talent Officer Shuana Tucker provided updates from the Talent Office.

- In December, the CSDE celebrated a partnership with the University of St. Joseph and East Hartford Public Schools to launch a NextGen program within East Hartford. They will be placing students within their EPP programs.
- Continuing work in East Hartford with EdRising, focused on males and cultivating their interest in the field of education. The East Hartford pilot site has five young men; the New Britain pilot site has six young men from the Male Initiative Educator Network.
- This fall, 75 EPP students were placed in eight districts.

#### Talent Office Update – Staff Shortages

- Several certification flexibilities that have been provided to districts.
- Chief Tucker provided the data on BA/BS waivers to be hired as substitutes, long-term substitute permits, emergency certification endorsements, and candidates enrolled in educator preparation programs.
- Working with fellow agencies to ensure processing of DCF and background checks at a more rapid speed.
- Communication with two substitute vendors within the state that work to fill positions within districts.
- Districts taking advantage of the Governor’s executive order to recruit retired teachers.

#### Computer Science Education Week

- Chief Academic Irene Parisi and Education Consultant Jennifer Michalek visited Webster Hill Elementary School in West Hartford.
- The Commissioner visited Discovery Interdistrict Magnet School in Bridgeport with Governor Lamont and other official to close out Computer Science Education Week.

#### Performance Matters Forum

- Chief Performance Officer Ajit Gopalakrishnan provided an overview
- In-person professional learning event at the CT Convention Center
- All sessions featured curated roundtable discussions led by districts/partners
- Attended by over 320 Participants

#### CSDE/SBE Site Visits

- Wexler Grant Community School, New Haven

#### Recognition

Andover Elementary School Ornaments at National Christmas Tree Display

## **XI. Committee Reports**

### **A. Academic Standards and Assessment**

Committee Chair Clemons reported that the committee met on January 11, 2022.

### **B. Accountability and Support**

Committee Chair Benham reported that the committee met on December 16, 2021, to review the Toolkit. The committee is tentatively scheduled to meet on February 10, 2022.

**C. Finance, Audit, and Budget**

No report was presented.

**D. Legislation and Policy Development**

Committee Chair Sieve reported that the committee held a special meeting on December 14, 2021, to review the legislative proposals that were presented to the Board.

**E. Connecticut Technical Education and Career System Board**

CTECS Superintendent Ellen Solek provided an update. CTECS continues to work on the Strategic Plan, and has created a draft report of the CTECS Separation to be presented to the Board in February. Application rates are at an all-time high; last year approximately 850; this year 4,739. CTECS rolled out Seal of Biliteracy for all schools.

**F. NASBE**

Vice Chair Benham reported on behalf of Board Member Exley. A Roundtable was held last week and a Legislative Conference will be held in March, in Washington, DC. NASBE will be holding roundtables for chairs and vice chairs with Secretary Cardona.

**G. SERC**

Committee Member Benham referenced her SERC report in the Supplemental Folders. She highlighted the African American/Black and Puerto Rican/Latino Course of Studies' List of Initial Implementers for 2021-2022, participating in CSDE/SERC training series.

**H. CT Remote Learning Commission**

Board Member Benham provided an update on behalf of Board Member Karen DuBois-Walton. The Commission met on January 10, 2022, and reviewed learning from the previous presentations of other state's virtual school models. Two work groups began work: (i) Research and Design, and (ii) Focus Group Development.

Acting Chairperson Taylor adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

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