

Connecticut State Board of Education Hartford

State Board of Education Meeting

March 2, 2022

(Approved April 6, 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, March 2, 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/ywNjg9KWZ-I>.

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Karen DuBois-Walton called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Present: Karen DuBois-Walton, Chairperson
Erin D. Benham, Vice Chairperson
Natalie Bandura, Student Member
Rishabh Bhandari, Student Member
Bonnie E. Burr
Erik M. Clemons
Elwood Exley, Jr.
Donald F. Harris, Jr.
Dr. Kenneth Klucznik (designee for Terrence Cheng, Ex Officio)
Martha Prou
Awilda Reasco
Malia K. Sieve
Allan B. Taylor
Robert J. Trefry, Ex Officio
Kelli-Marie Vallieres, Ex Officio

Absent: None

II. Public Participation

1. Derell Wilson, IDCS staff and Councilman, Norwich City Council, spoke in support of agenda item VI.C., Renewal of State Charter – Integrated Day Charter School, Norwich.
2. Allie Martin, a parent of third and sixth graders at IDCS and IDCS board member, spoke in support of agenda item VI.C., Renewal of State Charter – Integrated Day Charter School, Norwich.

3. Julia Cronin, IDCS teacher, spoke in support of renewal of agenda item VI.C., Renewal of State Charter – Integrated Day Charter School, Norwich.
4. Tom Stringfellow of Manchester, spoke on several matters, including reading recommendations.

III. Executive Session

The Board did not meet in executive session.

IV. Consideration of Minutes of the February 2, 2022, State Board of Education

Vice Chair Benham moved, Board Member Harris seconded, that the Board adopt the State Board of Education minutes of February 2, 2022.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

V. Report of the Commissioner

Commissioner Russell-Tucker referenced her report in the Board's supplemental folders. She highlighted the following items:

- Changing of mask requirements and support and guidance to districts.
- Remote Learning Commission
 - Draft Remote Learning Standards Released
- Confirmation Hearing Executive Nominations Committee – 2/22/22
- Testified at the Public Health and Children Committee Joint Public Hearing - 2/25/22
- Agency Staff
 - Now a hybrid workforce
 - Staff members retiring from state service
- Working with CCSSO to internally deepen our agency culture
- Attended press conference with Governor Lamont regarding investments in indoor air quality
- Governor's Council on Women and Girls Webinar Panelist: Preserving Our History; Preparing for Our Future: A Conversation with Black Women Leaders in Education

VI. Items Requiring Action

A. The Condition of Education in Connecticut 2020-21

Chief Performance Officer Ajit Gopalakrishnan presented an overview and key highlights of the report to the Board.

The Board engaged in questions and answers.

Vice Chair Benham moved, Board Member Reasco seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-4(b) of the Connecticut General Statutes, receives *The Condition of Education in Connecticut* (2020-21) and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Opposed: 0

Abstained 0

Absent: 0

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Renewal of State Charter – New Beginnings Family Academy, Bridgeport

A panel consisting of Deputy Commissioner Desi Nesmith, Division Director Lisa Lamenzo, Turnaround Office, Board Chair Donald Foley, and Executive Director Ronelle Swagerty presented to the Board. Discussion ensued.

Vice Chair Benham moved, and Board Member Sieve seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (g) of Section 10-66bb of the Connecticut General Statutes, renews the charter of New Beginnings Family Academy from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2025, subject to the Commissioner's March 2, 2022, memorandum to the State Board of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Opposed: 0

Abstained 0

Absent: 0

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Renewal of State Charter – Integrated Day Charter School, Norwich

A panel consisting of Deputy Commissioner Desi Nesmith, Division Director Lisa Lamenzo, Turnaround Office, Board Chair Cheryl Blanchard, and Executive Director Dr. Ellen Retelle presented to the Board. Discussion ensued.

Board Member Sieve moved, Board Member Reasco seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (g) of Section 10-66bb of the Connecticut General Statutes, renews the charter of Integrated Day Charter School from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2027, subject to the Commissioner’s March 2, 2022, memorandum to the State Board of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

D. Renewal of State Charter – Side By Side Charter School, Norwalk

A panel consisting of Deputy Commissioner Desi Nesmith, Division Director Lisa Lamenzo, Turnaround Office, Board Chair Larry Cafero, and Executive Director Matthew Nittoly presented to the Board. Discussion ensued.

Board Member Sieve moved, Board Member Prou seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (g) of Section 10-66bb of the Connecticut General Statutes, renews the charter of Side By Side Charter School from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2027, subject to the Commissioner’s March 2, 2022, memorandum to the State Board of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

VII. Report of the Chair

Chair DuBois-Walton stated that it was an honor to assume the role of Chair for the State Board of Education. She acknowledged former Chair Taylor for his years serving as Chair and his continued service on the Board.

She then highlighted the Board Member activities as follows:

- Vice Chair Benham attended the Educator Evaluation and Support Committee Meeting
- Board Member Donald Harris presided over the charter school public hearing for Explorations Charter School in Winsted on February 9th.
- Chair DuBois-Walton joined Governor Lamont and Commissioner Russell-Tucker in Wethersfield for the Governor's announcement on new grant program investing in HVAC needs in schools on March 1st
- CT Remote Learning Commission
- NASBE Legislative Conference 2022, Washington, DC – several members attending
- Student Application 2022-2023 period for submission deadline was March 23 , 2022.

Chair DuBois-Walton requested that Agenda item X.A., Teacher Leader Fellowship Academy Presentation, be heard out of Agenda order. The Board members agreed.

X. Items for Discussion

A. Teacher Leader Fellowship Academy Presentation

Betty J. Sternberg, Ph.D., Director, Teacher Leader Fellowship Academy (TLFA). Dr. Sternberg thanked Commissioner Russell-Tucker for the invitation to present to the Board. She highlighted the importance of the TLFA's mission: (i) to support teachers as leaders; and (ii) to support administrators in creating a climate and culture that enable teachers as leaders. She then presented on the importance of teacher leadership in the context of policy and how to attract and retain high quality teachers. Dr. Sternberg highlighted the Teacher Leadership Competencies.

Nine TLFA Fellows taking part in the TLFA program presented to the Board.

1. Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

Jennifer L. Norman CTECS English Language Arts Instructor 20 years in education	Grace Braniff Stratford Public Schools High School English Teacher 19 years in education	Julia Darcy Bristol Public Schools Grade 5 Mathematics Teacher 15 years in education
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2. Equity

Dr. Nadine Mills CTECS Mathematics Instructor (Grades 9-12) 23 years in education	Anthea Grotton Tolland Public Schools Kindergarten Teacher 21 years in education	Tawana Graham-Douglas Plainville Community School Dir. Of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment 24 years in education
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3. Leadership

Sarhanna Smith
Bridgeport Public Schools
Principal
28 years in education

Georgina Rivera
Bristol Public Schools
School Administrator
24 years in education

Dr. Maureen Brummett
Newington Public Schools
Superintendent of Schools
36 years in education

Dr. Sternberg concluded with the TLFA's professional development programs.

VIII. Financial Matters

Chief Financial Officer Kathy Demsey reported that the Governor had announced his proposed Midterm Fiscal 2023 Budget. She highlighted key points of the budget for the board.

IX. Consent Agenda

Chair DuBois-Walton asked for a motion on the Consent agenda. Board Member Burr moved, Board Member Harris seconded, that the Board approve the following Consent agenda items: IX.A., Approval of the 2022-23 Concussion and Head Injury Annual Review for Coaches, and IX.B., Extending the Flexibilities for Implementing the *Connecticut Guidelines for Educator Evaluation 2017* for the 2021-22 School Year into the 2022-23 School Year.

A. Approval of the 2022-23 Concussion and Head Injury Annual Review for Coaches

Resolved, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Subsection (b)(2) of Section 10-149b of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the 2022-23 Concussion and Head Injury Annual Review for Coaches, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

B. Extending the Flexibilities for Implementing the *Connecticut Guidelines for Educator Evaluation 2017* for the 2021-22 School Year into the 2022-23 School Year

Resolved, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-151d of the CT General Statutes, approves extending the Flexibilities for Implementing the *CT Guidelines for Educator Evaluation 2017* for the 2021-22 school year into the 2022-23 school year, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Motions carried unanimously.

X. Items for Discussion (continued)

B. Final Report of the Ansonia-Derby Temporary Regional School Study Committee

Legal Director Mike McKeon and Staff Attorney Matthew Venhorst presented the report to the Board. Attorney Venhorst provided a brief overview of the regionalization process pursuant to Connecticut General Statute 10-39, that authorizes two or more school districts to join in the establishment of a regional school district. The communities of Ansonia and Derby formed such a Committee with the charge to study the advisability of regionalization and to prepare and submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the respective towns and the State Board of Education.

The Committee did not make a formal finding as to the advisability of regionalization. Attorney Venhorst noted that on February 6, 2022, the Committee was disbanded by operation of law based on the amount of time that had lapsed since the Committee's inception.

C. Agency Update

CT Standards for Remote Learning

Chief Academic Officer Irene Parisi presented an update. She announced that the CT Standards for Remote Learning were released on February 22, 2022. An informational webinar for districts was hosted on March 1, 2022.

Academic Update

Chief Academic Officer Irene Parisi presented an update. She reported on the following Academic matters:

- February was CTE Awareness Month
- Connecticut Pathways System Institute
- Computer Science Professional Learning Action Network (CS Plan).
- The Lt. Governor's Computing Challenge
- Red, White and Blue Program
- Seal of Biliteracy

Turnaround Office Update

Division Director Lisa Lamenzo presented an update on the Winter NetStat Session that was held on February 25, 2022.

COVID-19 Health & Safety Update

Division Director John Frassinelli provided the following updates:

- Vaccinations for Ages 5-11 Years and Ages 12-17 Years
- Project COVID DeteCT
- Behavioral Health Pilot
- Guidance Update

Test Kit Distribution

Director of Communications, Eric Scoville provided an update on distribution and delivery of the rapid test kits.

Status of Executive Orders

Legal Director Mike McKeon provided an update on Special Act 2022-1 that extended in full or in part eleven Executive Orders.

Child Nutrition Programs

Division Director John Frassinelli reported that 100-million meals have been served.

XI. Committee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessment

Committee Chair Erik Clemons reported that the committee will be meeting on March 8, 2022.

B. Accountability and Support

Committee Chair Benham reported that the committee met on February 10, 2022. East Hartford Public Schools showcased best practices. The next meeting will on April 14, 2022.

C. Finance, Audit, and Budget

Committee Chair Harris reported that the committee will be meeting on March 16, 2022.

D. Legislation and Policy Development

Committee Chair Sieve reported that the committee met this morning. Chief Academic Officer Irene Parisi presented on the Remote Learning Standards. The committee did a reflection on Racial Imbalance based the presentations of West Hartford, Fairfield, and Greenwich.

E. Connecticut Technical Education and Career System Board

Interim Superintendent Dr. Ellen Solek reported on the high number of student applications; and the continuation of work to develop a Strategic Operating Plan. She then highlighted that CTECS was being recognized through Kaynor Tech for a 15.7% FAFSA increase for February; and Oliver Wolcott Tech's culinary program was recognized for their efforts to specialize historic recipes from the early 1900s African American authors of recipe books.

F. NASBE

Board Member Exley highlighted the NASBE Legislative Conference 2022.

G. SERC

Committee Member Benham referenced her SERC report in the Supplemental Folders. She highlighted ongoing Professional Development and webinar series with a focus on special education. She noted having an update on African American/Black and Puerto Rican/Latino Course of Studies with guests from the pilot program to present at a future meeting.

Chair DuBois-Walton adjourned the meeting at 1:20 p.m.

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