

# Connecticut State Board of Education

## Hartford

### State Board of Education Meeting October 12, 2022

(Approved November 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, October 12, 2022, in the media center at Edison Middle School, 1355 North Broad Street, Meriden, Connecticut. Public access to the school allowed for public attendance at the meeting.

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

Chairperson Karen DuBois-Walton called the meeting to order at 5:12 p.m.

Present: Karen DuBois-Walton, Chairperson  
Erin D. Benham, Vice Chairperson  
Bonnie E. Burr  
Erik M. Clemons\*  
Elwood Exley, Jr.  
Donald F. Harris, Jr.  
Patricia M. Keavney-Maruca, Ex Officio  
Valli Pendyala, Student Member  
Martha Prou  
Awilda Reasco  
Malia K. Sieve  
Allan B. Taylor\*  
Prajna Tickoo

Absent: Dr. Rai Kathuria (designee for Terrence Cheng, Ex Officio)  
Kelli-Marie Vallieres, Ex Officio

Chairperson Karen DuBois-Walton thanked Principal Erin Lyons-Barton and Superintendent Mark Benigni for welcoming the State Board of Education to Meriden and to the Edison Middle School.

Principal Lyons-Barton introduced Choral Director Kendra Henderson and the chorus of students.

#### Performance by the Chorus

The chorus performed two songs for the Board.

Board Member Allan B. Taylor arrived at approximately 5:18 p.m.

Chair DuBois-Walton thanked the chorus for the musical selections and had the students introduce themselves.

Chair DuBois-Walton welcomed Patricia Keavney-Maruca, Chairperson of the CTECS Advisory Board to the State Board of Education as an Ex Officio member.

## **II. Public Participation**

1. Louis Rosado Burch, Connecticut Education Association (CEA), spoke on CEA's opposition to the CSDE's release of Remote Learning and Dual Instruction Guidance.

## **III. Executive Session**

The Board did not meet in executive session.

## **IV. Consideration of the September 7, 2022, Minutes of the State Board of Education**

Board Member Harris moved, Board Member Burr seconded, that the Board adopt the minutes of the September 7, 2022, State Board of Education Meeting.

### **VOTE ON**

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Chair DuBois-Walton asked for the Board's approval to move agenda Discussion item XI.A., African American/Black and Puerto Rican/Latino Course of Studies District Implementation Showcase, forward on the agenda. The Board unanimously agreed.

## **XI. Items for Discussion**

### **A. African American/Black and Puerto Rican/Latino Course of Studies District Implementation Showcase**

A panel consisting of Chief Academic Officer Irene Parisi, Social Studies Consultant Stephen Armstrong, and Ingrid Canady, Executive Director, State Education Resource Center (SERC), presented on the 2022-2023 CSDE/SERC professional development training series that navigated the course studies.

- o Maryam Wardak, supervisor of social studies for the Capital Region Education Council (CREC), described professional development for the teachers and the implementation of the curriculum across their district, and highlighted that CREC has incorporated the course as a graduation requirement.

Daisha Brabham, a teacher at Windsor High School, presented that her first unit focused on language, the power of words to empower. The course opens a new world and there is a power in trusting educators with resources and giving students resources.

- Denise Moller, a social studies and history teacher at The Bridge Academy, Bridgeport, stated that the course was the most humbling, rewarding course she has ever taught. It's a more inclusive and thus more accurate teaching of our history.

Hiroimi Lozano, a graduate at The Bridge Academy, Bridgeport, stated that she "will be forever grateful" to be among the first students at the school who participated in the piloted curriculum.

Board Member Erik M. Clemons arrived at approximately 5:55 p.m.

Altimatou Kao, a graduate from The Bridge Academy, Bridgeport, shared that her own knowledge of Black history and culture had greatly expanded due to the course. The class has influenced the trajectory of her college study.

Chair DuBois-Walton thanked all the panelists for their presentations.

The Board engaged in a period of discussion.

## **V. Report of the Chair**

Chair DuBois-Walton highlighted Board Member activities as follows:

- She welcomed Patricia M. Keavney-Maruca.
- Announcement of the 2023 Anne Marie Murphy Paraeducator of the Year – September 27, 2022.
- Announcement of the 2023 Teacher of the Year – October 6, 2022.
- Board member sign-ups for 2022-2023 Charter Renewal Public Hearings.
- Engaged with the Commissioner on the Special Education's CT-SEDS implementation and working with the vendor.

## **VI. Report of the Commissioner and Agency Update**

The Commissioner thanked Principal Lyons-Barton, Superintendent Benigni, and Assistant Principal Pina for hosting the State Board of Education meeting. She referenced her written report and highlighted the following items:

- Agency Staffing – posting of positions, including two Deputy Commissioner positions.
- CSDE Affirmative Action Plan Approved.
- Convened CSDE Back-to-School Staff Meeting Showcase.
- Accolades on the CDSE's EdSight Data Portal
- Welcome Remarks at the Special Education Back-to-School Meeting
- Speaker at the FAFSA Challenge Kick-Off Event and Announcement of Awardees with Governor Lamont
- Keynote speaker at the CT Association of Independent Schools Fall Governance Conference.
- Greenwich – Bureau of Investigations & Professional Practices is looking into the allegations.
- Killingly – Working with the Attorney General's Office.

### Special Education Office – CT-SEDS Launch: Training and Technical Assistance

Division Director Bryan Klimkiewicz and Jim McGlynn, Public Consulting Group (PCG), presented on the CT-SEDS Project. Mr. Klimkiewicz gave an overview of the launch and the implementation challenges. Mr. Klimkiewicz and Mr. McGlynn reported on the PCG and CSDE's recovery response to the implementation challenges.

### Enrollment Trends by Grade

Chief Performance Officer Ajit Gopalakrishnan presented slides to show the trends on the enrollment data for October 2022. Mr. Gopalakrishnan reported that there was a drop in enrollment in 2020-21 and the biggest declines were in PK and K. He concluded that the 2022-23 enrollment data is being collected.

### Research Collaborative Projects Update

Commissioner Russell-Tucker presented on the COVID-19 Education Research Collaborative Projects that are state level investments coordinated through UCONN:

- Summer Enrichment (2021 and 2022).
- Remote Learning Audit.
- Learner Engagement and Attendance Program (LEAP) – Quantitative Data.
- Behavioral Health Pilot in seven districts.

### School Health, Nutrition and Family Services Update

Division Director John Frassinelli provided the report. He highlighted the following:

- Child Nutrition Programs
  - CT Grown for CT Kids Week to connect schools to farmers
  - School Meals Assistance – SMART Funds – Congress did not continue
  - SNAP – CT increase up to 200% of the federal poverty level
  - School Safety – Guidelines for Storage and Administration of Opioid Antagonists in Schools
  - Mental Health Grant Programs

### **Congratulations!**

The Commissioner highlighted:

- 2023 CT Teacher of the Year  
**Carolyn Kielma**, Science Teacher, Bristol Eastern High School, Bristol, CT
- 2023 Anne Marie Murphy Paraeducator of the Year  
**Don Askew**, Maloney High School, Meriden, CT
- **CT Four National Blue Ribbon Schools of Distinction:**
  - Booth Hill School, Trumbull
  - E.O. Smith High School in Regional School District 19
  - Great Plain School, Danbury CT
  - Whiting Lane School, West Hartford, CT

- **2021-22 Connecticut FAFSA Challenge Winners:**
  - Governor’s Award for Growth
    - Bridgeport Military Academy, Bridgeport
    - Bassick High School, Bridgeport
    - Bristol Eastern High School, Bristol
  - Commissioner’s Award for Overall FAFSA Completion:
    - Ansonia High School, Ansonia
    - Torrington High School, Torrington
    - Enfield High School, Enfield

**Shoutouts!**

- Platt Technical High School Ribbon-cutting ceremony on October 4, 2022.
- Visited Wooster Middle School in Stratford.

**VII. Items Requiring Action**

**A. 180-Day School Year Modification Request – New Haven Public Schools**

Board Member Burr moved, Board Member Harris seconded, that in accordance with Section 10-15 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the State Board of Education grants the New Haven Board of Education’s retroactive request to permit the shortening of the 2021-2022 school year by one day, for a total of 179 days of actual school sessions -- but only upon the mandatory condition that during the 2022-2023 school year, New Haven shall provide no fewer than 181 days of actual school sessions to all students enrolled within the New Haven Public Schools -- and further directs the Commissioner to inform the New Haven Board of Education of the State Board of Education’s decision.

Legal Director Mike McKeon presented the circumstances to the Board.

The Board engaged in questions and answers.

**VOTE ON**

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**VIII. Financial Matters**

**A. Fiscal Year 2023-24 and Fiscal Year 2024-25 Biennial Budget Options**

Board member Clemons moved, and Board member Prou seconded, that the State Board of Education approves the Fiscal Year 2023-24 and Fiscal Year 2024-25 Biennial Budget Options, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Chief Financial Officer Kathy Demsey presented the reduction, reallocation, and expansion options of the biennial budget.

VOTE ON

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

**VII. Consent Agenda**

**A. Continuing Approval of Eastern Connecticut State University Educator Preparation Programs**

Chair DuBois-Walton called for a motion on the Consent agenda. Board Member Harris moved, Board Member Sieve seconded, that the Board approve the following Consent agenda item: IX.A., Continuing Approval of Eastern Connecticut State University Educator Preparation Programs.

**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 Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU) for the period October 12, 2022, through October 31, 2029, until ECSU’s 2028 CAEP site visit, for the purpose of certifying graduates from ECSU in the following areas:

<b>Program</b>	<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>Program Level</b>	<b>Program Type</b>
Early Childhood Education	N- 3	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Elementary Education	K-6*	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
English	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
History and Social Studies	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Mathematics	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate/Graduate
Biology	7-12	Initial	Graduate
Earth Science	7-12	Initial	Graduate
Physical Education	PK-12	Initial	Undergraduate

\*Pursuant to section 10-145d (f) of the Connecticut General Statutes, 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.

**X. Committee Reports**

**A. Academic Standards and Assessment**

Committee Chair Clemons reported that the committee met on September 13, 2022.

**B. Accountability and Support**

Committee Chair Benham reported that the committee will be meeting on October 19, 2022.

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

Committee Chair Harris reported on the status of a committee meeting date and staffing.

**D. Legislation and Policy Development**

Committee Chair Sieve reported that the committee met earlier this evening and Chief Irene Parisi presented on a Mathematics Equity Position Statement, and the committee continued on policy-related issues to explore.

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

CTECS Chairperson Patricia Keavney-Maruca reported on (i) the staffing capacity challenges; (ii) the new CTECS Advisory Board's first meeting; and (iii) the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new Platt Technical High School.

**F. NASBE**

Board Member Exley reported that Board Member Allan Taylor joined the NASBE Mathematics Study Group initiative with CSDE Education Consultant Jennifer Michalek. He announced that student member Valli Pendyala will be participating on a NASBE webinar on State Actions to Develop Youth-Adult Partnerships. Board Member Exley concluded with the upcoming NASBE Annual Conference 2022, and that Chair DuBois-Walton, Vice Chair Benham, Commissioner Russell-Tucker and Chief Performance Officer Gopalakrishnan will be presenting at the conference.

**G. SERC**

Committee Member Benham referenced her SERC report in the Supplemental Folders. She highlighted the showcase on the African American/Black and Puerto Rican/Latino Course of Studies shows the work that SERC is accomplishing.

Chair DuBois-Walton asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting, Board Member Sieve moved, Board Member Prou seconded, that the meeting be adjourned.

Chair DuBois-Walton adjourned the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

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