

# Connecticut State Board of Education Hartford

## Academic Standards and Assessment Committee Meeting

**Monday, March 20, 2023**

450 Columbus Blvd.

Plaza North, Hearing Room J

Hartford, Connecticut

### **Minutes**

**(Approved on April 17, 2023)**

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

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, Committee Chairperson Erik Clemons called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

##### Committee

Members Present: Erik M. Clemons  
Allan B. Taylor

##### Committee

Member Absent: Martha Paluch Prou  
Erin D. Benham  
Awilda Reasco  
Kelli-Marie Vallieres (Ex-Officio)

##### Staff Present:

Irene Parisi  
Dr. Joanne White  
Dr. Megan Alubicki Flick  
Dr. Ron Michaels  
Cheryl Tokarski  
Stephen Armstrong  
Nicole Jones  
Suzanne Loud (via Microsoft Teams)  
Jennifer Michalek (via Microsoft Teams)  
Leslie Navarrete

Guests Present: N/A

#### **II. Approval of Minutes**

Due to the Committee not establishing a quorum, Chair Erik M. Clemons tabled the approval of the draft minutes of the January 9, 2023, Academic Standards and Assessment Committee meeting.

#### **III. The CSDE K-8 Model Curricula Project Update**

Irene Parisi, Chief Academic Officer, provided an overview of the work to date that the Academic Office and its consultants have carried out with respect to the CSDE curricula and model curricula which Public Act 21-2, Jss Section 374 (a) charged the CSDE to develop by January 1, 2023. Ms. Parisi noted that the CSDE requested a one year extension (January 1, 2024) and the legislature granted the CSDE's request. Ms. Parisi also highlighted the recent publication of the CSDE's K-12 Curricula Design Principles Handbook, a guidance tool for instruction in the classroom. Moreover, the handbook calls for curriculum leadership teams to be established in the school level to guide the work.

### **Mathematics and Financial Literacy Curricula Update**

Ms. Parisi introduced Jennifer Michalek, Education Consultant, CSDE, to provide the timeline and development process of the mathematics model curricula and its progress. Ms. Michalek reported to the Committee that the CSDE recently released the Grades 6-8 mathematics model curricula units. Additionally, she reported that the mathematics model curricula that the CSDE is developing is setting the foundation in the elementary school level for the connection between mathematics and financial literacy and the curricula are tied to IBS vocabulary from the SBAC.

Ms. Parisi introduced Suzanne Loud, Education Consultant, CSDE, to provide the timeline and development process of the financial literacy model curricula and its progress. Ms. Loud went on to state to the Committee that the RFP with Connecticut Department of Banking helped jump start the work with the financial literacy model curricula. She added that the financial literacy model curricula are student-centered and align to the CSDE K-12 Universal Curricula Design Principals so as to ensure the curriculum is flexible and relatable.

Chair Clemons opened the floor to questions and comments from the Committee. The Committee thanked Ms. Michalek and Ms. Loud for their update.

### **Science Curricula Update**

Ms. Parisi introduced Dr. Ronald Michaels, Education Consultant, CSDE, to provide the timeline and development process of the 6-8 model science curricula and its progress. In his overview, he noted that before building the curricula, a statewide need assessment survey was completed under the advisement of a committee with diverse stakeholders, including but not limited to science teachers and administrators, the RESC Alliance, and higher education institutions. Additionally, Dr. Michaels mentioned that the state adopted OpenSciEd, a national model, is intertwined with the 6-8 model science curricula on GoOpenCT, making the science curriculum consistent, accessible, and equitable. The 6-8 model science curricula on GoOpenCT are also closely aligned to the state summative assessments and three tier assessments.

Chair Clemons opened the floor to questions and comments from the Committee. The Committee thanked Dr. Michaels for his update.

### **Social Studies Curriculum Update**

Ms. Parisi introduced Nicole Jones, Humanities & Arts Project Manager, CSDE, and Stephen Armstrong, Education Consultant, CSDE, to provide the timeline and development process of the social studies curricula and its progress. Ms. Jones and Mr. Armstrong shared with the Committee that they are currently working on revising social studies curriculum standards. With respect to Public Act 21-2, Jss Section 374 (a), both believe that the best approach to achieve the deliverables of the legislation is to approach them with a human rights lens. Additionally, Ms. Jones and Mr. Armstrong reported to the Committee that they are working closely with the 5 Connecticut Native American tribes to develop an accessible and equitable Native American studies model curriculum. In regards with the Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and other sexual orientations and gender identities studies model curriculum, Ms. Jones and Mr. Armstrong are working closely with History UnErased, a non-profit organization that specializes in the mentioned content, and are enlisting the assistance of State Representative Jeff Currey Co-Chair of the CT General Assembly Education Committee, and other advocates and experts.

Chair Clemons opened the floor to questions and comments from the Committee. The Committee thanked Ms. Jones and Mr. Armstrong for their update.

**Update on Multilingual learners/English learners (MLs/ELs)**

Ms. Parisi introduced Dr. Megan Alubicki Flick, Education Consultant, CSDE, to provide an overview of the work to date with MLs/ELs. In her overview, she noted that in 2015 standards for MLs/ELs passed and to assist school districts she has been working on developing accessible support and resources. Historically, support and resources for MLs/ELs weren't readily accessible, but now Dr. Alubicki Flick has curated a collection of resources for support, particularly for mathematics, to meet the needs of teachers immediately.

Chair Clemons opened the floor to questions and comments. The Committee thanked Dr. Alubicki Flick for her update.

**English Language Arts Update**

Ms. Parisi introduced Dr. Joanne White, Education Consultant, CSDE, to provide an overview of the work to date with English language arts (ELA). In her overview, she noted that she is currently developing and finalizing ELA units with the CSDE development team of 15 experts. She reported to the Committee that she reached out to about 60 experts to form the CSDE development team for ELA, 30 out of the 60 confirmed, and 15 experts compose the CSDE development team for ELA. Dr. White also highlighted that the recent publication of the CSDE K–12 Curricula Design Principles Handbook, a guidance tool for instruction in the classroom, has been used to build support and resources for ELA.

Chair Clemons opened the floor to questions and comments. The Committee thanked Dr. White for her update.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:41 p.m.

Prepared by: Leslie Navarrete