

**Connecticut State Board of Education  
Hartford**

Academic Standards and Assessment Committee Meeting

**Tuesday, October 17, 2023**  
**450 Columbus Blvd**  
**Plaza North, Hearing Room J**  
**Hartford, CT**

**Draft Minutes**

**I. Call to Order**

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, Committee Chairperson Erik Clemons called the meeting to order at 9:41 a.m.

Committee

Members Present: Erik M. Clemons  
Erin D. Benham  
Allan B. Taylor  
Martha Paluch Prou

Committee

Member Absent: Kelli-Marie Vallieres (Ex-Officio)

Staff Present:

Irene Parisi  
Leslie Navarrete  
Paul Castiglione  
Dr. Ronald Michaels  
Jennifer Michalek

Guests Present: N/A

**II. Approval of Minutes**

Committee Chairperson Erick Clemons called for the approval of the meeting minutes for the May 15, 2023, Academic Standards and Assessment Committee meeting; Erin Benham, moved, Allan Taylor seconded, that the committee approved the meeting minutes of the May 15,2023, Academic Standards and Assessment Committee meeting.

Vote: In Favor: Clemons, Benham, Taylor, Paluch Prou  
Abstained: 0  
Opposed: 0  
Absent: 0

**III. Update on K-2 Model Science and K-8 Computer Science**

Chairperson Erik Clemons recognized the meeting's agenda item and yielded the floor to Irene Parisi, Chief Academic Officer, CSDE.

Ms. Parisi provided an overview of the work to date of the K-8 model curricula, including the K-2 model science curricula. She noted that by January 1, 2024, the K-8 model curricula need to be released, per legislation. Ms. Parisi introduced Dr. Ronald Michaels, Education Consultant, CSDE, to provide an overview of the timeline and development process of the K-2 model science curricula and its progress. Dr. Michaels reported to the Committee that the K-2 model science curricula is on track to be completed close to Thanksgiving, November. He added that K-2 has less assessments and is constantly being updated. He went on to provide an overview of the process the CSDE deployed to develop the units with Paul Castiglione, Durational Project Manager, leading this initiative. Mr. Castiglione digitalizes the curricula to GoOpenCT, Connecticut's digital library of model curricula, and there are several reviews after the curricula is digitalized. Cheryl Tokarski, STEM Project Manager, provided a STEM lens to elevate the K-2 model science curricula. Additionally, resources for multilingual learners are being compiled for educators like in the mathematics curricula, which was needed. Dr. Michaels is in the process of adding resources for multilingual learners for Grades 3-5 science units.

Dr. Michaels also informed the Committee that the CSDE plans to execute outreach efforts to show how the model science curricula works and anticipates the CSDE providing educators with professional development opportunities on model science curricula.

### **K-8 Computer Science**

Ms. Parisi introduced Jennifer Michalek, Education Consultant, CSDE, to provide an overview of the timeline and development process of the K-8 model computer science curricula and its progress.

Ms. Michalek explained to the Committee that the K-8 knowledge of computer science differs between school districts. She went on to inform the Committee that the K-8 model computer science curricula was reviewed by Code.org, a computer science education innovation nonprofit, and they gave positive reviews. Additionally, Ms. Michalek reached out to Massachusetts and Tennessee State Department of Education to assist in the development of the CSDE K-8 model computer science curricula. She added that artificial intelligence cannot exist without the knowledge of computer science as result this model curricula is important work. There are challenges in the school districts that make it challenging to ensure equity in the teaching and learning of computer science, such as not every district has a computer science educator. While it is a huge undertaking, Ms. Michalek reported to the Committee that is necessary work to achieve equity.

Ms. Parisi added that all the new model curricula will all be connected to the CT Learning Hub.

Chairperson Erik Clemons opened the floor to questions and comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:39 a.m.

Prepared by: Leslie Navarrete