

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

**The Legislation and Policy Development Committee
Wednesday, June 14, 2023, 8:45 a.m.**

Committee Members

Malia K. Sieve, Chair
Karen DuBois-Walton, Donald F. Harris, Bonnie E. Burr,
Martha Paluch Prou, Elwood Exley, Jr., and Valli Pendyala

Minutes

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education Legislation and Policy Development Committee met in person on June 14, 2023.

I. Call to Order

As Committee Chair Malia K. Sieve was unable to attend the meeting, Board Chair and Committee Member Karen DuBois-Walton served as Acting Committee Chair and called the meeting to order at 8:47. In addition to Dr. DuBois-Walton, also present at the meeting were Committee Members Donald F. Harris, Bonnie Burr, Elwood Exley, Jr., and Valli Pendyala. Also in attendance were the following individuals from the CSDE: Sinthia Sone-Moyano, Deputy Commissioner of Education; Shuana Tucker, Chief Talent Officer; Irene Parisi, Chief Academic Officer; Keith M. Norton, Chief Strategic Planning Officer; Michael P. McKeon, Director of Legal and Governmental Affairs; Sharon M.S. Fuller, Education Consultant, Talent Office; and Sonya Efiyanayi, Administrative Assistant, Communications Office.

Presenters:

Shuana Tucker, Chief Talent Officer, CSDE
Sharon M.S. Fuller, Education Consultant, Talent Office, CSDE

II. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Harris moved to approve the May 3, 2023, meeting minutes, and Ms. Burr seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Review and Discussion: Draft Framework for Educator and Leader Evaluation and Support

Dr. DuBois-Walton noted that in the wake of the recently closed legislative session, Dr. Tucker and Ms. Fuller had returned to follow up on their May 3, 2023, presentation on the proposed Connecticut Guidelines and for Educator and Leader Evaluations and Support 2023 [“CT Guidelines 2023”], the implementation of which is to begin in the 2024-25 School Year.

Dr. Tucker explained that two changes to the CT Guidelines 2023 had been necessitated by new legislative language that had been passed by the General Assembly during session, specifically the

definition of “teacher,” and the inclusion of language pertaining to the resolution of any disputes involving whether a district properly followed the evaluation procedures. Ms. Burr asked for clarification as to how teacher definition changed, and Attorney McKeon explained that the prior ninety-calendar-day employment requirement had been deleted and that the definition had been expanded to cover possessors of permits as well as those holding certificates.

Dr. DuBois-Walton asked about the timelines for the CT Guidelines 2023 rollout. Ms. Fuller noted that different districts are at different stages, adding that some districts have indicated that they are ready to implement the guidelines and asking whether they could pilot the new program during the 2023-2024 school year.

Dr. DuBois-Walton inquired about the process of designing the CT Guidelines 2023. Dr. Tucker answered that the Education Evaluation and Support Council worked collaboratively on the framework for these guidelines. Although there were sometimes disagreements, Council members, including all the relevant State stakeholders, maintained a good relationship, and Dr. Tucker expressed her belief that the guidelines were reflective of all the parties’ respective interests.

Ms. Sone-Moyano noted that she implemented the prior evaluation guidelines as a district administrator, and that the CT Guidelines 2023 provide for professional growth, thereby encouraging ongoing pedagogical improvement. She expressed her belief that these guidelines are very helpful in this regard.

In response to Dr. DuBois-Walton’s question, Ms. Fuller explained that some of the guidelines are mandatory and some are intended as discretionary, best practices. Dr. DuBois-Walton asked about the CSDE’s current capacity to review the district iterations of these guidelines. Dr. Tucker noted that the CSDE was currently interviewing candidates to assist Ms. Fuller in doing so and should have the appropriate staff in place by Spring 2024.

Mr. Harris noted that he had been through prior evaluation guidelines as a teacher, administrator, and local school board member and wished Ms. Fuller and Dr. Tucker well.

Ms. Fuller explained that the CSDE was preparing an in-service for Board members on the CT Guidelines 2023 and that CAFE had offered to assist in this endeavor. These guidelines could also serve as a model that school boards could employ to conduct performance assessments of Superintendents.

Dr. DuBois-Walton asked for clarification regarding how the new legislative language had affected the handling of disputes related to a district’s use of the evaluation process. Attorney McKeon explained that such disputes were now subject to the grievance provisions of the collective bargaining agreements between a school board and the relevant bargaining units.

The Committee unanimously voted to move the CT Guidelines 2023 to the full Board.

The meeting adjourned at 9:11.