

Connecticut State Board of Education

Hartford

State Board of Education Meeting May 3, 2023

(Approved June 14, 2023)

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, May 3, 2023, 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 can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/k2bPfpS8IqU>.

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Karen DuBois-Walton called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

Present: Karen DuBois-Walton, Chairperson
Erin D. Benham, Vice Chairperson
Bonnie E. Burr
Elwood Exley, Jr.
Donald F. Harris, Jr.
Patricia M. Keavney-Maruca, Ex Officio
Valli Pendyala, Student Member
Allan B. Taylor
Praja Tickoo, Student Member

Absent: Erik M. Clemons
Martha Prou
Awilda Reasco
Malia K. Sieve
Dr. Rai Kathuria (designee for Terrence Cheng, Ex Officio)
Kelli-Marie Vallieres, Ex Officio

II. Public Participation

1. Tom Stringfellow, resident of Manchester spoke on various topics.

III. Executive Session

The Board did not meet in executive session.

Chair DuBois-Walton announced that the agenda items will be taken out of order to accommodate the time constraints of guests. The agenda was brought to IX.A., Consent Agenda.

IX. Consent Agenda

Chair DuBois-Walton asked if there was anyone wishing to remove an item from Consent. Board Member Taylor clarified that he was not removing an item, but had a question on the one-year extensions. Chief Academic Officer Irene Parisi was invited to the table to provide a response.

Chair DuBois-Walton called for a motion on the Consent agenda. Vice Chair Benham moved, Board Member Harris seconded, that the Board approve the following Consent agenda items: IX.A., Approval of Commissioner's Network Extension for Hartford Public High School, Hartford; IX.B., Approval of Commissioner's Network Extension for Michael F. Wallace Middle School, Waterbury; IX.C., Approval of Commissioner's Network Extension for North End Middle School, Waterbury; IX.D., Approval of Commissioner's Network Extension for West Side Middle School, Waterbury; and IX.E., Approval of Commissioner's Network Extension for Derby Middle School, Derby.

A. Approval of Commissioner's Network Extension for Hartford Public High School, Hartford

Resolved, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-223h of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the continued participation of Hartford Public High School, Hartford, in the Commissioner's Network for an additional year commencing July 1, 2023, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action, including, but not limited to, expending such funds as may be necessary to execute and implement the foregoing.

B. Approval of Commissioner's Network Extension for Michael F. Wallace Middle School, Waterbury

Resolved, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-223h of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the continued participation of Michael F. Wallace Middle School, Waterbury, in the Commissioner's Network for an additional year commencing July 1, 2023, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action, including, but not limited to, expending such funds as may be necessary to execute and implement the foregoing.

C. Approval of Commissioner's Network Extension for North End Middle School, Waterbury

Resolved, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-223h of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the continued participation of North End Middle School, Waterbury, in the Commissioner's Network for an additional year commencing July 1, 2023, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action, including, but not limited to, expending such funds as may be necessary to execute and implement the foregoing.

D. Approval of Commissioner's Network Extension for West Side Middle School, Waterbury

Resolved, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-223h of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the continued participation of West Side Middle

School, Waterbury, in the Commissioner’s Network for an additional year commencing July 1, 2023, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action, including, but not limited to, expending such funds as may be necessary to execute and implement the foregoing.

E. Approval of Commissioner’s Network Extension for Derby Middle School, Derby

Resolved, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-223h of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the continued participation of Derby Middle School, Derby, in the Commissioner’s Network for an additional year commencing July 1, 2023, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action, including, but not limited to, expending such funds as may be necessary to execute and implement the foregoing.

VOTE ON

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

Motions carried unanimously.

IV. Consideration of Minutes:

A. April 5, 2023, State Board of Education Meeting

Vice Chair Benham moved, Board Member Burr seconded, that the Board adopt the minutes of the April 5, 2023, State Board of Education Meeting.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

B. April 19, 2023, Special State Board of Education Meeting

Board Member Harris moved, Vice Chair Benham seconded, that the Board adopt the minutes of the April 19, 2023, Special State Board of Education Meeting.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

VII. Items Requiring Action

Chair DuBois-Walton transitioned the agenda to bid farewell to Student Member Praja Tickoo and thank him for his services. She shared that Praja will be absent from the June 14th meeting to attend his high school graduation.

B. Recognition in Honor of Praja Tickoo

Chair DuBois-Walton entertained a motion for the Resolution in Honor of Praja Tickoo be added to the agenda, Vice Chair Benham moved, and Board Member Harris seconded, that the motion as read into the record of the minutes by Chair DuBois-Walton as follows:

Whereas, Section 10-1 of the Connecticut General Statutes provides for the appointment of two student members to the Connecticut State Board of Education; and

Whereas, Governor Ned Lamont appointed Praja Tickoo of New Canaan to the State Board of Education for a one-year term commencing July 7, 2022; and

Whereas, During his tenure, Mr. Tickoo served with distinction and has contributed greatly to the Board's discussions of education policy issues;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That the State Board of Education extends to Praja Tickoo its appreciation for his commitment to educational excellence and equity in Connecticut public schools and success with his future endeavors.

Approved unanimously this third day of May, Two Thousand Twenty-Three.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Chair DuBois-Walton read a card from Praja Tickoo into the record of the minutes:

Dear Board members and team at the Connecticut Department of Education,

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work alongside such dedicated individuals who are committed to improving education in our state. Your passion and expertise have left a lasting impact on me and I will carry this lesson I have learned from each one of you into the future. Thank you for all that you do and making this an unforgettable experience. With appreciation, Praja Tickoo.

Chair DuBois-Walton further requested the indulgence of the Board to move the agenda to XI. Items for Discussion.

XI. Items for Discussion

A. Connecticut Educators Rising 2023 State Competition

Chief Talent Officer Shuana Tucker, and a team from the Consolidated School District of New Britain team consisting of Leader Teacher Advisor Eileen Marquez and students Aya Modni and Isaias Rodriguez Sanchez, presented on the statewide grow-your-own program known as Educators Rising.

Dr. Tucker highlighted the EdRising three-year growth accomplishments with districts and student enrollments; the Connecticut Educators Rising Statewide Competition held on March 23, 2023, that was sponsored by Central Connecticut State University; and the delegation of 26 Connecticut students who will compete at the National Competition in Orlando, Florida in June.

The Board members engaged in discussion.

V. Report of the Commissioner and Agency Update

The Commissioner referenced her written report and highlighted the following:

- The month of May had several noteworthy recognitions:
 - National Mental Health Awareness Month
 - May 26th is declared by Governor Lamont as *Get Outside and Play for Children's Mental Health Day*
 - CT DOT Celebrates National Bike Month
 - National Teacher Appreciation Day - May 2, 2023
 - Teacher Appreciation Week - May 8-12, 2023

Commissioner Russell-Tucker: *On behalf of the Department and the Board, we are grateful for all Educators who make a positive impact on the lives of our students every day and their dedication and hard work is certainly appreciated, and we are working to add to those ranks.*

- Launching of the PK-12 School Staff Appreciation Digital Backpack
- The appointment of Sinthia Sone-Moyano as the Deputy Commissioner for Educational Supports and Wellness
- Modernizing Certification Regulations
- CSDE All Staff virtual meeting in April
- Meet and Greet hosted by CSDE Colleagues on the Fifth Floor
- Invitation to First Annual Connecticut Office of Workforce Strategies Summit
- Joined the national teacher of year finalists, including CT's Carolyn Kielma, for the CCSSO's Washington Week following the International Summit on the Teaching Profession

Feature Presentation: Right to Read

Dr. Melissa K. Wlodarczyk Hickey, Director of the Center for Literacy Research and Reading Success presented on the "Right to Read" legislation that charged the CSDE with establishing the Center with the purpose being that "every Connecticut student has the right to read at or above grade level by the end of third grade." She provided legislative updates including the Center, in consultation with the Reading Leadership Implementation Council, will review and approve reading curricula programs, Connecticut's K-3 literacy strategy, CSDE Literacy Professional

Learning supports, and CSDE’s American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Grant funding to local and regional boards of education.

The Board engaged in questions and answers.

The Commissioner highlighted the following Shoutouts!

Shoutouts!

- McKinley Elementary School Tour
- Office of Workforce Strategies Summit; Career Pathways: The Student Perspective
- CCSSO National Teacher of the Year Washington Week: International Summit on the Teaching Profession
- SERC Ribbon Cutting at its new Waterbury location
- Dr. Megan Alubicki-Flick, CSDE Multilingual Learner Consultant, delivered a TedTalk on the importance of multilingualism in education
- CSDE Meet and Greet
- Teacher Appreciation Week – May 8-12, 2023

VII. Items Requiring Action (continued)

A. Receipt of Racial Imbalance Report

Legal Director Mike McKeon and Staff Attorney Laura Anastasio presented to the Board. Attorney Anastasio provided a definition of racial imbalance and an update on the amendment that was due from the Hamden Board of Education. She noted boards of education will be invited to present at the Legislation and Policy Development Committee meetings.

Chair DuBois-Walton called for a motion on agenda item VII.A., Receipt of Racial Imbalance Report. Vice Chair Benham moved, and Board Member Taylor seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Sections 10-226a and 10-226b of the Connecticut General Statutes, accepts the Racial Imbalance Report for the 2022-23 school year, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

X. Financial Matters

There was no financial report.

X. Committee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessment

The committee met on April 17, 2023. The next meeting will be on May 15, 2023.

B. Accountability and Support

Committee Chair Benham reported that the committee met on April 19, 2023, and will next meet on May 17, 2023.

C. Finance, Audit, and Budget

Committee Chair Harris reported that several interviews were conducted for the position of Director of Internal Audit, and two candidates will be called back for second interviews. He noted that Board Member Bonnie Burr would represent the committee for the callback interviews.

D. Legislation and Policy Development

In the absence of Committee Chair Sieve, Chair DuBois-Walton reported that the committee met this morning. She noted that Hamden Board of Education was postponed to a future meeting. The committee was presented with the draft framework for Educator and Leader Evaluation and Support.

E. Connecticut Technical Education and Career System Board

Chairperson Patricia Keavney-Maruca reported on CTECS Leadership Board's outreach activities: Pratt & Whitney for undergrad aviation programs with partnership with Vinal Tech; and (ii) through the Office of Senator Jan Hochadel, the meeting with Middlesex Hospital to create pathways into EMTs and CNA programs. She praised freshmen carpenters at Vinal Tech for creating a replica of the *Tomb of the Unknown Soldier*. The search for a new superintendent continues.

F. NASBE

Board Member Exley reported that he attended the NASBE Government Affairs Committee meeting on May 2, 2023.

G. SERC

Vice Chair Benham referenced the SERC report placed in the Supplemental Folders. She highlighted the Ribbon Cutting and Open House held on April 27, 2023, and the *Dismantling Systemic Racism: 2023 Conference on Race, Education & Success* that is being held on Friday, May, 5, 2023, at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford.

Chair DuBois-Walton asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting, Board Member Harris moved, Vice Chair Benham seconded.

Chair DuBois-Walton adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

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