

# Connecticut State Board of Education

## Hartford

### State Board of Education Meeting October 4, 2023

#### DRAFT

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 4, 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: [2023-State-Board-of-Education-Meetings](#)

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

Chairperson Karen DuBois-Walton called the meeting to order at 9:39 a.m.

Present: Karen DuBois-Walton, Chairperson  
Erin D. Benham, Vice Chairperson  
Bonnie E. Burr  
Erik M. Clemons  
Connor Cowan, Student Member  
Elwood Exley, Jr.  
Yasmeen Galal, Student Member  
Donald F. Harris, Jr.  
Dr. Rai Kathuria (designee for Terrence Cheng, Ex Officio)  
Patricia M. Keavney-Maruca, Ex Officio  
Martha Prou  
Malia K. Sieve  
Allan B. Taylor

Absent: Kelli-Marie Vallieres, Ex Officio

#### **II. Public Participation**

1. Caroline Calhoun, Education Consultant with EdAdvance, spoke in favor of agenda item VII.B., Adoption of the Connecticut Elementary and Secondary Social Studies Standards.
2. Anthony Roy, Connecticut Council of Social Studies Representative and Director of Connecticut Social Studies Standards Project, spoke in favor of agenda item VII.B., Adoption of the Connecticut Elementary and Secondary Social Studies Standards.
3. Kasey Dunn, Teaching & Learning Specialist, spoke in favor of agenda item VII.B., Adoption of the Connecticut Elementary and Secondary Social Studies Standards.
4. Mary Hanna, Resident of Norwalk and New Canaan District K-8 Social Studies Coordinator, spoke in favor of agenda item VII.B., Adoption of the Connecticut Elementary and Secondary Social Studies Standards.

5. Lauren Francese, Social Studies coordinator of Westport Public Schools, spoke in favor of agenda item VII.B., Adoption of the Connecticut Elementary and Secondary Social Studies Standards.
6. Jennifer Vinneau, project associate, spoke in favor of agenda item VII.B., Adoption of the Connecticut Elementary and Secondary Social Studies Standards.
7. Dr. Jason Mancini, Executive Director of the Connecticut Humanities Council, spoke in favor of agenda item VII.B., Adoption of the Connecticut Elementary and Secondary Social Studies Standards.
8. Annabelle Luo, Senior at Staples Public High School in Westport, CT, spoke in favor of agenda item VII.B., Adoption of the Connecticut Elementary and Secondary Social Studies Standards.
9. Allison Norda, Social Studies Teacher at Fairfield Warde High School, spoke in favor of agenda item VII.B., Adoption of the Connecticut Elementary and Secondary Social Studies Standards.
10. Jennifer Heikkila-Diaz, professional learning coordinator Connecticut Council for Social Studies, spoke in favor of agenda item VII.B., Adoption of the Connecticut Elementary and Secondary Social Studies Standards.
11. Thomas Stringfellow, resident of Manchester, spoke on various topics.
12. Randa Elbin, Associate Professor at University of St Joseph, spoke in favor of agenda item VII.B., Adoption of the Connecticut Elementary and Secondary Social Studies Standards.

### **III. Executive Session**

### **IV. Consideration of Minutes**

#### **A. September 6, 2023, State Board of Education Meeting**

Board Member Keavney-Maruca moved, and Board Member Sieve seconded that the Board adopt the minutes of the September 6, 2023, State Board of Education Meeting with the revision raised by Chair DuBois-Walton.

#### **VOTE ON**

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

Motion carried unanimously.



Chair Dubois-Walton transitioned to item IX. Consent Agenda.

## **IX. Consent Agenda**

Vice Chair Benham asked if there was anyone wishing to remove an item from item IX. Consent Agenda.

Chair Dubois-Walton asked for a motion on item IX. Consent Agenda.

Board Member Burr moved, Board Member Prou seconded, that the Board approve the following Consent Agenda items: IX.A. Continuing Approval of Charter Oak State College Educator Preparation Program; IX.B. Approval of 2023-2024 Annual Audit Plan; IX.C. Approval of Proposed Contract for Whole School Management Services Between Booker T. Washington Academy, Inc. and Elevate Charter Schools, Inc.

### **A. Continuing Approval of Charter Oak State College Educator Preparation Program**

**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 approval to Charter Oak State College (COSC), Early Childhood Education, Alternate Route to Certification (ECE ARC) Program, for the period December 1, 2023, through November 30, 2030, with annual progress monitoring conducted using program key assessment performance data, for the purpose of certifying graduates from COSC ECE ARC, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

### **B. Approval of 2023-2024 Annual Audit Plan**

**Resolved,** That the State Board of Education adopts the Annual Audit Plan for the period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

### **C. Approval of Proposed Contract for Whole School Management Services Between Booker T. Washington Academy, Inc. and Elevate Charter Schools, Inc.**

**Resolved,** That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-66tt of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the contract for whole school management services between Booker T. Washington Academy, Inc. and Elevate Charter Schools, Inc. and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

The Commissioner highlighted the following:

- CSDE is undergoing transition as CFO Kathy Demsey moves on to OPM.
- Department's Affirmative Action Plan has been approved.
- She attended CABE & CSDE meeting and provided feedback on the SBE plan.
- Attended Ending Achievement Gap meeting with Lt. Governor Bysiewicz and highlighted EdSight.
- DEI symposium with SERC brought together superintendents with their DEI leaders to provide strategies to collaborate.
- The Hunt Institute Webinar where she spoke of the work we are doing in CT.

- Community for Education Funding invited her to talk about resources.
- Attended Dual Credit Expansion Grant Press Event with Governor Lamont.

### **Dual Credit Program**

Chief Performance Officer Ajit Gopalakrishnan and district leader teams from Ansonia - Superintendent Joseph DiBacco and Assistant Superintendent Steve Bergin; Clinton – Superintendent Maryann O'Donnell; and Coventry – Superintendent David Petrone and Director of Teaching and Learning Michelle Mullaly, presented on the program. The Commissioner thanked everyone and elaborated that CSDE is awarding \$3.8M of ARP/ESSER funds to 83 applicants representing 89 school districts across Connecticut to help expand dual credit offerings in high schools. Board members engaged in questions, answers, and comments.

### **Release of Attendance and Assessment Results**

Chief Performance Officer Ajit Gopalakrishnan presented showing that attendance numbers are getting better and that LEAP improves attendance. Achievement shows some improvement but has not yet caught up to pre-pandemic levels. He also mentioned the EdSight Portal's Pandemic Recovery Dashboard. Board members engaged in questions, answers, and comments.

### **New Kindergarten Entry Age**

Chief Academic Officer Irene Parisi gave an update on this legislation and noted the next steps that are being implemented.

### **Shoutouts**

- CT Kids Cabinet announced by the Governor. The CSDE is one of the 10 agencies that will be a part of the cabinet led by the DCF Commissioner.
- CT FASFA Challenge event was attended by the Commissioner and celebrated an increase in participation.
- Voice4Change Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at Derby High School Pavilion was attended by Deputy Commissioner Sone-Moyano. Deputy Commissioner Sone-Moyano shared her experience.
- National Blue Ribbon Schools – Four Connecticut schools were named for overall academic excellence.
- Red, White, and Blue Schools program was launched with the Secretary of State to recognize when schools go above and beyond the minimum teaching requirements in civics and government.
- Over 90 leaders attended the Alliance District Symposium.

Chair Dubois-Walton transitioned to item VII.A. and stated a roll call vote will be held.

## **VII. Items Requiring Action**

### **A. Investigation Report – In the Matter of CS, Certification Action**

Legal Director Mike McKeon, Nancy Pugliese, Chief of the Bureau of Investigations and Professional Practice, and Attorney Louis Todisco reported on this item.

Chair Dubois-Walton called for a motion for a roll call vote to accept the resolution. Vice Chair Benham moved, Board Member Prou seconded.

**Resolved**, That pursuant to its authority under Section 10-145b(i) of the Connecticut General Statutes and Sections 10-145d-612 of the Regulations for Connecticut State Agencies, based upon the evidence included in the written report of the Commissioner entitled In the Matter of CS, Certification Action, the State Board of Education:

- Formally accepts this report;
- Determines by a roll-call vote that the educator certificate held by Charles Schaub shall be revoked;
- Certifies that each member has read the written report of the Commissioner;
- Bases this determination upon its conclusion that the evidence supports a finding of misconduct sufficient to revoke the certificate and adopts the evidence and conclusions outlined in the written report of the Commissioner; and
- Directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

***Roll Call Vote***

<b>Board Member</b>	<b><u>In Favor</u></b>	<b><u>Opposed</u></b>	<b><u>Abstained</u></b>	<b><u>Absent</u></b>
Erin D. Benham, Vice Chairperson	X			
Bonnie E. Burr	X			
Erik M. Clemons	X			
Karen DuBois-Walton, Chairperson	X			
Elwood Exley, Jr.	X			
Donald F. Harris, Jr.	X			
Martha Paluch Prou	X			
Malia K. Sieve	X			
Allan B. Taylor	X			

Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Dubois-Walton transitioned to item VIII.A.

**VIII. Financial Matters**

**A. Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget Reduction Options**

Chief Financial Officer Kathy Demsey thanked everyone for her time with the Department. She explained the proposed Budget Reduction Options.

Chair Dubois-Walton, called for a vote.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**X. Committee Reports**

**A. Academic Standards and Assessment**

Committee Chair Clemons reported that the committee will meet on Tuesday, October 17, 2023.

**B. Accountability and Support**

Committee Chair Benham reported that there are district visits coming up that board members are invited to attend.

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

Committee Chair Harris reported that Nora Chapman is fully retired and there is now an interim director while they interview for a permanent replacement.

**D. Legislation and Policy Development**

Committee Chair Sieve reported that the committee discussed West Hartford's racial imbalance plan, the Parental Bill of Rights and firearms safety guidance. The November meeting will be a continuance of the firearms safety guidelines and the development of a policy statement around policy brought before the committee.

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

Chairperson Patricia Keavney-Maruca reported that there were 102 new hires. Their Culinary Arts program was featured on WFSB. The CTECS student workforce applications are now open.

**F. NASBE**

Board Member Elwood Exley reported that this is his last report as his term as Northeastern Area Director and NASBE Board Member ends later this month. His term as Vice Chair of the Government Affairs Committee, which can have one SBE member per state, is also ending.

**G. SERC**

Vice Chair Benham stated that her report was enclosed in their meeting file.

Chairperson Dubois-Walton asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting, Board Member Sieve moved, Board Member Prou seconded.

Chairperson Dubois-Walton adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_

Charlene M. Russell-Tucker, Secretary  
State Board of Education