

IV.A.

Connecticut State Board of Education Hartford

State Board of Education Meeting January 3, 2024

(Approved February 14, 2024)

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, January 3, 2024, 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://ct-n.com/ondemand.asp?id=22456>.

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Karen DuBois-Walton called the meeting to order at 9:38 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.
Donald F. Harris, Jr.
Yasmeen Galal, Student Member
Patricia M. Keavney-Maruca, Ex Officio
Martha Prou
Malia K. Sieve
Allan B. Taylor
Seth D. Zimmerman

Absent: Dr. Rai Kathuria (designee for Terrence Cheng, Ex Officio)
Kelli-Marie Vallieres, Ex Officio

Oath of Office

Attorney Michael P. McKeon, Commissioner of the Superior Court, administered the Oath of Office to newly-appointed member Seth D. Zimmerman. A copy of the Oath of Office is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.

Chair DuBois-Walton welcomed Board Member Zimmerman and asked him to introduce himself. Board Member Zimmerman shared that he is a professor of economics at Yale University School

of Management where he researches the economics of education and teaches education policy. He concluded by expressing that he was happy to join the Board and work to help improve education policy.

II. Public Participation

1. Dr. Lauren Carpenter, Director of Education Programs, at Albertus Magus College, an association of AACTE-CT, spoke on various topics related to the educator workforce. A copy of Dr. Carpenter's written statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
2. Tom Stringfellow, resident of Manchester spoke on various topics.
3. Flor Galindo read her remarks in Spanish.
4. Sara Swetzoff, followed and read the English translation of Flor Galindo's presentation. Ms. Galindo, a resident of Manchester, spoke on the challenges of language access to teachers and the services provided at the schools. She thanked the SDE for the new Parents Bill of Rights for EL/ML.

Chair DuBois-Walton expressed that the agenda would be taken slightly out of order to accommodate time constraints of educators and superintendents who were in attendance.

IV. Consideration of Minutes:

A. December 6, 2023, State Board of Education Meeting

Board Member Burr moved, Board Member Prou seconded, that the Board adopt the minutes of the December 6, 2023, State Board of Education Meeting.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

V. Report of the Chair

Chair DuBois-Walton highlighted the following:

- o Welcomed newly appointed Board Member Seth Zimmerman.
- o Congratulated Board Member Donald Harris on the recognition ceremony naming the Donald F. Harris, Jr. Gymnasium at Bloomfield High School.
- o She thanked Vice Chair Benham, and Board Members Clemons and Taylor for serving on the Killingly 10-4b Impartial Hearing Panel.
- o Thanked Vice Chair Benham for serving on NASBE and SERC Boards.
- o She highlighted the work of the Department on executing the "Right to Read" legislation.

Chair DuBois-Walton brought the agenda to IX.A., Consent Agenda.

Chair DuBois-Walton asked if there was anyone wishing to remove an item from Consent. Board Member Harris moved, Board Member Burr seconded, that the Board approve the following Consent agenda items: IX.A., Approval of Commissioner's Network Extension Year 5, Michael F. Wallace Middle School, Waterbury; IX.B., Approval of Commissioner's Network Extension Year 5, West Side Middle School, Waterbury; IX.C., Approval of Commissioner's Network Extension Year 5, North End Middle School, Waterbury; and IX.D., Approval of Commissioner's Network Extension Year 5, Derby Middle School, Derby.

A. Approval of Commissioner's Network Extension Year 5, 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 and final year commencing July 1, 2024, 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 Year 5, 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 and final year commencing July 1, 2024, 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 Year 5, 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 and final year commencing July 1, 2024, 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 Year 5, 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 and final year commencing July 1, 2024, 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, Clemons, DuBois-Walton, Exley, Harris, Prou, Sieve Taylor, Zimmerman
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	0
	Absent:	0

Motions carried unanimously.

The agenda was brought to XI., Items for Discussion: Recognition of the 2024 Teacher of the Year and 2024 Teacher of the Year Finalists.

XI. Items for Discussion

A. Recognition of the 2024 Teacher of the Year and 2024 Teacher of the Year Finalists

Chief Talent Officer Shuana Tucker and CSDE State Teacher of the Year Coordinator Mary Glassman presented to the Board. Ms. Glassman provided an overview of the Teacher of the Year process.

Chief Tucker and Ms. Glassman called each Connecticut Teacher of the Year Finalist to the table and read aloud the bios of each into the minutes of the meeting.

2024 New Haven Teacher of the Year and Connecticut Teacher of the Year Finalist

Marco Cenabre is an English teacher in grades 10-12 at the New Haven Academy.

- Marco's philosophy of teaching is that "As teachers, we are all still students." He was able to provide the district's first ever long term paid professional development centered on anti-racist and culturally sustaining pedagogy.
- Marco is described as being a "warm demander" because he combines high expectations for all students with a deep concern for their development and well-being. He respects their ability to rise to the challenge of sophisticated work and provides the structure of support needed to meet lofty goals.
- As a district leader, Marco is engaged in equity initiatives at the local and national level and has been awarded numerous fellowships through The Yale Teachers Institute, The Abolitionist Teaching Network, The Ramsden Project and Social Emotional Learning (SEL) in Action. He is a Teacher-Organizer for the Anti-Racist Teaching and Learning Collective (ARTLC). Marco is a graduate of Saint John's University.

2024 Meriden Teacher of the Year and Connecticut Teacher of the Year Finalist

Angela Fragoso serves as a Teacher of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) at Orville H. Platt High School. She is fluent in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and French.

- In her nomination letter, her supervisors said, "Angela puts her students and their families at the very center of everything she does."

- Angela said she believes that "A classroom is no longer just a place where students come to learn; it's also a safe space where students are supported as individuals and a place that gives them a sense of belonging. With teacher guidance and encouragement, teachers have the potential to truly change the course of a student's life."
- "As I've grown professionally, I realize that many teachers plan and deliver their lessons well; but the superstars, those that leave a lasting impression on students' lives, are teachers that make students feel seen."
- "Throughout my elementary career, it has always been clear to me that I am not just working with a student in my classroom, I am working with a family and a community."
- To help teach students about financial literacy, Angela created a Path to College parent workshop for juniors and seniors. The workshop focuses on helping Spanish speaking parents better understand the college process, saving for college, and identifying college scholarships.

2024 East Granby Teacher of the Year and Connecticut Teacher of the Year Finalist

Olivia Petersen is a social studies teacher at East Granby Middle School. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Westfield State University. She is working toward her advanced graduate certificate in Social Justice Education Teacher for Diversity at UMASS Amherst. Olivia said she chose to teach history and social studies because she is passionate about social justice.

- Olivia said, "I see the classroom and school as a community of learners where every voice matters and should be heard. I emphasize with my students the importance of shared space and that all of us are in the same room."
- In nominating Olivia, her colleagues said that Olivia's dedication to her craft is unmatched. "Her positive energy is contagious, and she develops a relationship with each student. She ensures that all students have a voice and brings out the best in all our students."
- Mrs. Petersen guides her students with the goal that the content and skills they are learning are not just for their time in the classroom. They all know one of Mrs. Petersen's favorite mantras: Social Studies is for Life.

2024 Connecticut Teacher of the Year Kiana Foster-Mauro

Ms. Foster-Mauro was accompanied by Superintendent Cynthia Ritchie and Principal Jason Foster.

Kiana Foster-Mauro is an educator, activist, and lifelong learner. She is a fourth-grade teacher at Nathan Hale Arts Magnet School in New London and committed to empowering her students through culturally sustaining and human rights centered learning.

- Kiana believes teaching is a radical act that impacts minds and hearts. She has designed and led lessons that empower, center joy, and tackle critical and relevant topics. Kiana has

said, "The world needs more people who come alive. It is up to us to provide our students with the time, space, and tools to discover what makes them come alive."

- Foster-Mauro has presented at conferences, nationally and locally. She has been a member of the National Association for Multicultural Education since 2018 and was recently accepted to present on facilitating critical conversations around current events, identity, human rights, and mental health.
- Kiana is a graduate of the University of Connecticut where she served on the executive board of Leadership in Diversity, a student-led organization dedicated to diversifying education. Outside of the classroom, she extends her commitment to education, diversity, and community as a dance teacher at The Dance Extension and company advisor to the Community Dance Ensemble.
- Kiana believes, "Learning is magic in its rawest form and teachers are magic personified. To witness the innate brilliance within children, to recognize their curiosity and tenacity are keys to a better world and to dedicate one's life to empowering minds and hearts, that is magic."

Ms. Foster-Mauro stated that it was an honor to be named Connecticut's Teacher of the Year. She thanked Mr. Jason Foster, and Dr. Cythnia Richie for being present and for their continuous support throughout this journey.

Chair DuBois-Walton congratulated the Finalists and the 2024 Teacher of the Year and stated that it was a pleasure to have them come before the board.

Commissioner Russell-Tucker stated that it was great to start the New Year celebrating educators. She thanked the teachers for what they do every day.

Introduction of Connecticut Educators Rising Student Cabinet and Representatives Officers.

Chief Talent Officer Dr. Shuana Tucker requested a moment to recognize and celebrate future educators from the Educators Rising Program. She shared that in December the Connecticut Statewide Educators Rising Program installed an inaugural class of officers for the program. Three of the six officers were in attendance.

Chair DuBois-Walton invited the EdRising students to the table.

1. Vice President of Engagement: **Alivia Afable**, Waterbury Public Schools.
 - Ms. Afable stated that EdRising has offered her incredible opportunities to further her path to a career in education. EdRising program has grown immensely, providing not only necessary concepts, but clinical experience also, giving high school students incredibly valuable skills that many acquire at the college-level.
2. Vice President of Communications: **Mimi Colon**, New Britain Public Schools.
 - Ms. Colon stated that EdRising has created a pathway that she did not know she had before. The opportunities that EdRising has given her, has made her sure that she wants to

become an educator. New Britain EdRising is doing a great job but just because we are doing great, doesn't mean we can't do better.

3. Connecticut Representative at Large, Isaias Rodriguez, New Britain Public Schools.
 - o Mr. Rodriguez started with EdRising as a Freshman. He said the program has shown him that he has a passion for changing the culture of education.

Commissioner Russell-Tucker thanked the EdRising students for changing the face of education.

VI. Report of the Commissioner and Agency Update

The Commissioner opened by welcoming everyone to the first Board meeting of 2024 and welcomed new Board Member Seth Zimmerman. She highlighted work and efforts that are in alignment with the State Board Plan.

Priority: Ensuring Equitable Access to Education

- Participated in the CT Education Certification Council meeting
- Provided comments at Board of Regents meeting regarding CCSU's proposed 3+2 B.S. to M.S. in Special Education program
- Joined Governor Lamont and Shellye Davis, President of Hartford Federation of Paraeducators at Milner Middle School to observe paraeducators fostering student success in the classroom
- Engaged in discussion with USDA on Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer program

Commissioner Russell-Tucker requested that Division Director John Frassinelli, School Health, Nutrition, and Family Services present on the summer EBT program. He stated it was similar to the Pandemic EBT program and provides benefits for each eligible child for three months during the summer.

Priority: Creating Opportunities for Students to Explore Multiple Career Pathway Options

- Provided remarks at New Britain High School to highlight the Connecticut Automatic Admissions Program with Governor Lamont and Chancellor Cheng

The Commissioner requested that Chief Performance Officer Ajit Gopalakrishnan join the discussion and respond to questions on the Automatic Admissions Program.

Agency Update

The Commissioner noted in the Board's Supplemental Folder was a copy of the Proficiency on the Smarter Balance Grade 3 English Language Arts (ELA) Assessment in 2022—23 for Districts that sought a Reading Waiver.

K-3 Reading Waiver Update

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Charles Hewes and Director of the Center for Literacy Research and Reading Success Dr. Melissa Hickey presented. They provided an in-depth overview on the following:

- “Right to Read” Legislation Timeline
- Purpose of the Waiver process
- The Waiver Review Process
- The Reviewers: PCG (Public Consulting Group)
- Addressed Waiver Myths vs. Waiver Facts
- Waiver Outcomes and Results
- Additions to Connecticut’s Approved K-3 Reading Curriculum Models or Programs
- Bright Spots
- Next Steps

The Board engaged in discussion.

The Commissioner referenced her written report in the Board’s Supplemental Folders. She highlighted the following Shoutouts.

SHOUTOUTS:

- Milner School Visit
- Automatic Admissions Program
- CSDE Annual Holiday Open House

VII. Items Requiring Action

A. Approval of New Educator Preparation Program: Sacred Heart University, Master of Arts in Teaching Initial Certification Program

Chair DuBois-Walton asked for a motion for agenda item VII.A. Board Member Burr moved, and Board Member Harris seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-145d-9(g)(3)(A) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, grants full approval for the period January 3, 2024, through March 31, 2026, to Sacred Heart University (SHU), with annual progress monitoring conducted using Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) annual report data in conjunction with the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) Review Committee until Sacred Heart University’s Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) spring 2025 site visit, for the purpose of certifying graduates from Sacred Heart University in the following new certification area and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action:

Program	Grades	Certification	Program Type
Comprehensive Special Education	PK-12	Initial	Graduate

Chief Talent Officer Shuana Tucker presented to the Board. Also at the table was Dr. Mel Horton, Interim Dean (Isabelle Farrington College of Education & Human Development), and Dr. Sally Drew, Associate Professor & Special Education Program Director (Teacher Education).

VOTE ON

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

Abstained 0
Absent: Zimmerman

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Connecticut Advisory Council for Teacher Professional Standards (CACTPS) Annual Reports 2021-22 and 2022-23

Chair DuBois-Walton asked for a motion for agenda item VII.B. Board Member Sieve moved, and Board Member Prou seconded, that the State Board of Education receives the 2021-22 and 2022-23 Annual Reports of the Connecticut Advisory Council for Teacher Professional Standards, submitted in accordance with the requirements of subsection (e) of Section 10-144d of the Connecticut General Statutes, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Chief Talent Officer Shuana Tucker and Education Consultant Sharon Fuller presented to the Board. Ms. Fuller provided an overview. CACTPS continues to focus on issues relevant to teachers in the teaching profession. Retention, certification, and possible legislation that may impact teachers are high priorities.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

C. State Board of Education Appointment to the Connecticut Advisory Council for Teacher Professional Standards (CACTPS)

Chair DuBois-Walton asked for a motion for agenda item VII.C. Board Member Harris moved, and Vice Chair Benham seconded, that the State Board of Education (SBE), pursuant to subsection (b) of Section 10-144d of the Connecticut General Statutes, appoints the following individual to serve on the Connecticut Advisory Council for Teacher Professional Standards for a three-year term retroactively effective from October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2026, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Name	Affiliation	Representation	Term Ending
Dianna R. Wentzell, Ed.D.	University of Saint Joseph	Teacher Preparation Program	Sept. 30, 2026

VOTE ON

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

Abstained 0
Absent: 0

Motion carried unanimously.

D. Approval of Legislative Proposals

Chair DuBois-Walton asked for a motion for agenda item VII.D. Board Member Burr moved, and Vice Chair Benham seconded that the State Board of Education adopts these 2024 Legislative Proposals and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Chief of Staff/Legislative Liaison Laura Stefon introduced the agency's 2024 Legislative Proposals.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

E. Adoption of the Parent Bill of Rights for English Learners/Multilingual Learners

Chair DuBois-Walton asked for a motion for agenda item VII.E. Vice Chair Benham moved, and Board Member Sieve seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 17 of Public Act 23-150, adopts the Parent Bill of Rights for English Learners/Multilingual Learners.

Chief Academic Officer Irene Parisi and Dr. Megan Alubicki Flick presented to the Board. Dr. Flick acknowledged the English Language Learners Student and Parent Success Coalition that is comprised of multiple groups. She highlighted that the SBE and CSDE are deeply committed to equity and access, and this new resource will help to affirm that commitment.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. Financial Matters

Chair DuBois-Walton stated that there were no financial matters.

X. Committee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessment

Committee Chair Clemons reported that the committee met on December 12, 2023. Dr. Parisi and Mr. Armstrong provided a great report on the progress of the Social Studies Model Curricula.

B. Accountability and Support

Committee Chair Benham reported that the committee will meet on January 17, 2024.

C. Finance, Audit, and Budget

Committee Chair Harris reported that they are still moving through the interview process for a director. The next quarterly meeting will be held on February 29, 2024.

D. Legislation and Policy Development

Committee Chair Sieve reported that the committee met this morning. They had a lively discussion with Greenwich Public Schools around their racial imbalance from about 1999. She reported that Greenwich had met with the committee three times with no real progress; and will next meet with the full Board. They finalized the approval of the Legislative Proposals. Mr. McKeon guided on the different policy protections for religious freedoms.

E. Connecticut Technical Education and Career System Board

Chairperson Patricia Keavney-Maruca reported that the CTECS Board met on December 20, 2023, and had a presentation by the Chorus of Prince Tech. Ten CTECS students made history and landed their first internship program with the Department of Transportation. Windham Tech High School held a grand opening for its state-of-the-art virtual reality lab.

F. NASBE

Vice Chair Benham reported on NASBE will resume meetings this month and she will report next month.

G. SERC

Vice Chair Benham reported that SERC will resume meetings this month and she will report next month.

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

Chair DuBois-Walton adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

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