

Connecticut State Board of Education Hartford

State Board of Education Meeting

June 5, 2024

(Approved September 4, 2024)

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State and posted on the agency's website, the members of the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") held a meeting on Wednesday, June 5, 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=23212>.

I. Call to Order

Vice Chairperson Erin Benham called the meeting to order at 9:39 a.m.

Present: Erin D. Benham, Vice Chairperson
Bonnie E. Burr
Connor Cowan, Student Member
Yasmeen Galal, Student Member
Donald F. Harris, Jr.
Kristen A. Record
Juan C. Salazar
Allan B. Taylor
Seth D. Zimmerman

Absent: Terrence Cheng, Ex Officio
Erik M. Clemons
Kelli-Marie Vallieres, Ex Officio

Vice Chair Benham announced the availability of an overflow room with a screen to watch the meeting.

II. Public Participation

1. Kate Trotta Pearce, a member of Decoding Dyslexia-CT, spoke on concerns regarding the Menu of Research-based universal Screening Reading Assessments used in K-3 (Menu). A copy of Ms. Pearce's written testimony is enclosed in the official file of the meeting.
2. Sarah Tyszką, a member of Decoding Dyslexia-CT, spoke on concerns regarding the Menu of Research-based universal Screening Reading Assessments used in K-3 (Menu). A copy of Ms. Tyszką's written testimony is enclosed in the official file of the meeting.
3. Victoria O'Brien, of Killingworth, spoke in support of agenda item VII.B., Approval of New Educator Preparation Program: University of New Haven, Speech and Language Pathology, and with approval of program, inquired on the granting of state certification of necessary

endorsements. A copy of Ms. O'Brien's written testimony is enclosed in the official file of the meeting.

4. Shannon Lugui, a sixth-grade math teacher at ISAAC, New London, spoke on the renewal of agenda item VII. E., Renewal of State Charter: Interdistrict School for Arts and Communication, New London.
5. Tom Stringfellow, resident of Manchester, spoke on various topics.
6. Dr. Leslie Torres-Rogriguez, superintendent and CEO of Hartford Public Schools, spoke on agenda item VII.A., Hartford Public Schools Financial Management.
7. Paul Foster, Deputy Superintendent, Hartford Public Schools, spoke on agenda item VII.A., Hartford Public Schools Financial Management.
8. A name was called. The person canceled the request to speak.

Public Participation was concluded.

III. Executive Session

There was no executive session held.

Vice Chair Benham asked the Board to take the agenda out of order to accommodate the long agenda and time constraints of guests.

Vice Chair Benham brought the agenda to IX., Consent Agenda.

IX. Consent

Vice Chair Benham asked if there was a Board member wishing to remove an item from Consent. Seeing none, she asked for a motion on agenda item IX.A. Board Member Burr moved, Board Member Harris seconded, that the State Board of Education approves the XI.A, Reappointment of Members of the Impartial Hearing Board Panel; XI.B., Approval of Proposed Contract for Whole School Management Services Between Capital Prep Harbor School, Inc. and Capital Louis Preparatory Schools Incorporated; and XI.C., Request for Finance Advisory Committee (FAC) Action.

A. Reappointment of Members of the Impartial Hearing Board Panel

Resolved, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Sections 10-186(b) of the Connecticut General Statutes, Sections 10-4-12 (f), 10-4-22(c)(3), 10-145d-611(h), 10-145d-612(h), and 10-145d-613(f) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, and other applicable provisions of law, hereby reappoints the following individuals to conduct hearings and render decisions as an impartial hearing board serving on behalf of the State Board for the period of September 1, 2024, through August 31, 2027:

Attorney Thomas C. McNeill, Jr.

Attorney Steven R. Rolnick

Attorney Frederic S. Ury

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

B. Approval of Proposed Contract for Whole School Management Services Between Capital Prep Harbor School, Inc. and Capital Preparatory Schools Incorporated

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 Capital Prep Harbor School, Inc. and Capital Preparatory Schools Incorporated and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

C. Request for Finance Advisory Committee (FAC) Action

Resolved, That the State Board of Education approves the request for Finance Advisory Committee action to transfer funds from the Aspiring Educators Diversity Scholarship Program account to the Vocational Agriculture account and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

MOTION:	In favor:	Benham, Burr, Harris, Record, Salazar, Taylor, Zimmerman
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	0
	Absent:	Clemons

Motions carried unanimously.

Vice Chair Benham then moved the agenda to item, XI., Items for Discussion A and B to accommodate all the students.

A. CT Center for Democracy Kid Governor Program

Commissioner Russell-Tucker provided an introduction for the CT Kid Governor Program.

Mr. Cofrancesco introduced the Connecticut Democracy, and he highlighted its civic programs and partnerships. He outlined the campaign and election process for the position of Kid Governor. He pointed out that the program is timed to coincide with election day in November to provide the fifth-graders the experience of voting in an authentic election. Mr. Cofrancesco concluded that the Kid Governor serves a one-year term beginning with an inauguration at the Old State House and with an Oath of Office administered by the Secretary of the State.

Cristiano Almeida, 2024 Connecticut Kid Governor, spoke on his campaign platform of promoting physical activity among students with his "Getting Fit 4 Fun" plan. He stated that the Kid Governor program is important because it allows students to understand the power of our voices and our votes.

Elena Tipton, 2016 Kid Governor, is a rising sophomore at UCONN, and interning with the CT Democracy Center. She spoke on her "*Campaign for Kindness*" and how she learned how powerful her voice was and still is as a young adult. She stated that the Kid Governor program taught that your voice holds value, and you are never too young to make change."

B. End-of-Year Presentation by the State Student Advisory Council on Education (SSACE)

Vice Chair Benham returned the agenda to XI.,B. under Items for Discussion, with the End-of-Year Presentation by the State Student Advisory Council on Education.

Commissioner Russell-Tucker highlighted that the theme of the morning was hearing from students with student voice.

State Student Advisory Council on Education (SSACE) End-of-Year Presentation

The SSACE students presented to the Board utilizing a PowerPoint that outlined their two segments of Enhancing Literacy Rates and Dual Enrollment Programs and policy recommendations. A copy of the presentation is in the official file of this meeting.

Enhancing Literacy Rates in the State of Connecticut:

- Charli Hughes – Woodland Regional High School
- Abigail Ambooken – South Windsor High School
- Yasmeen Galal - Woodland Regional High School (SBE Student Member)
- Cierra O'Sullivan – Thomaston High School
- Akhil Manasani – South Windsor High School
- Akiva Davis – William H. Hall High School
- James Roden – Pomperaug High School

This SSACE group presented on what can be done to assist in Connecticut's declining literacy rates and their solution of a Peer Mentorship program.

Dual Enrollment Programs

- Ariana Mohamed – New Britain High School
- Jessie Zheng – Amity Regional High School
- Grace Zembruski – Lyme-Old Lyme High School
- Eira Prakash – Farmington High School
- Tanner Elliott – Torrington High School

This SSACE group presented on dual enrollment programs with an overview, pros, and concerns of UConn's Early College Experience (ECE) and college classes taken in high school, and their Plan of Action.

The students concluded that their vision was for the State Department of Education to roll out the materials and then the districts train.

The Board members engaged in questions and discussion.

Vice Chair Benham thanked SSACE for the contribution of their time and presentation. She acknowledged the SSACE advisor Cheresse Odukwe, Director of Student Activities, Connecticut Association of Schools.

Vice Chair Benham brought the agenda back to agenda order with IV., Consideration of Minutes.

IV. Consideration of Minutes:

A. May 1, 2024, State Board of Education Meeting

Board Member Taylor moved, Board Member Zimmerman seconded, that the Board adopt the minutes of the May 1, 2024, State Board of Education Meeting.

VOTE ON

MOTION:	In favor:	Benham, Burr, Harris, Record, Salazar, Taylor, Zimmerman
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	0
	Absent:	Clemons

Motion carried unanimously.

V. Report of the Chair

Vice Chair Benham highlighted the following:

- The August Retreat has been rescheduled to August 21, 2024.
- Killingly Update. Attorney McKeon confirmed with Vice Chair Benham that the next hearing date was scheduled for June 14, 2024.
- Attended the Educators Rising – CT Grows Its Own: Planting the Seeds for Future Educators held at St. Joseph University.
 - Noted that the Ed Rising program has expanded from one pilot district to 28 districts.
 - Highlighted consideration of Ed Rising submitting a proposal for the NASBE convention.

VI. Report of the Commissioner and Agency Update

The Commissioner noted that she would highlight a few items from her written report in the Board's Supplemental Folders that are connected to the Board's Five-year plan priorities.

- Hosted the Commissioner's Educator Roundtable where discussion centered on teacher voice strategies for student success, supporting and strengthening the teaching profession.
- Launched the Commissioner's Superintendent Advisory Panel to inform and support education policy discussions and decisions.
- Engaged Yale School of Public Health (YSPH) to provide consultation to local education agencies (LEAs) on school policies and practices related to school environmental health and infectious disease prevention and mitigation that support optimal school learning environments.
 - The Commissioner invited Division Director John Frassinelli, School Health, Child Nutrition and Family Services, to the table to explain the importance of the YSPH resource to the districts.
 - Mr. Frassinelli informed that the YSPH has a team of epidemiologists that will go to the schools and do a walk through, look at HVAC systems, provide information on things that need to be changed, and provide indoor air quality recommendations to the districts.

- The Center for Literacy Research and Reading Success released its K-3 Literacy Plan.
- Launched webinar series “Infinite Possibilities: Doing This Together” spotlighting districts and charter schools sharing their experiences of adopting the approved K-3 programs.
- Joined Major General Evon at Our Community Salutes – CT High School Enlistee Recognition Ceremony.
- Presented keynote address at Quinnipiac University’s School of Education and School of Nursing Undergraduate and Graduate Commencement Ceremony

2024 Legislative Session Update.

The Commissioner invited Chief of Staff and Legislative Liaison Laura Stefon to present on legislative bills. Ms. Stefon highlighted four selected bills of interest to the Board. She presented an overview on legislative process starting with the Legislation Policy and Development Committee to the full Board.

SHOUTOUTS:

- CSDE Meet and Greet - CSDE 5th Floor Beach Party!
- Quinnipiac University Commencement Ceremony
- CACTPS/CACAPS Joint Meeting
- Teacher Leader Fellowship Academy Institute
- Commissioner’s Educator Roundtable
- Our Community Salutes – CT High School Enlistee Recognition Ceremony
- Dalio Education’s CT Opportunity Project 2024 Grantee Convening
- Meriden Lion’s Club Scholarship Awards
- Educators Rising – CT Grows Its Own: Planting the Seeds for Future Educators
- Commissioner’s Superintendent Advisory Panel
- Lieutenant Governor’s Computing Challenge

The Commissioner ended the Report of the Commissioner and Agency Update.

Vice Chair Benham brought the agenda back to agenda to VII., Items Requiring Action.

VII. Items Requiring Action

A. Hartford Public Schools Financial Management

Vice Chair Benham asked for a motion on agenda item VII.A. Board Member Harris moved, and Board Member Taylor seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-223e(e)(2) of the Connecticut General Statutes, directs the Commissioner of Education to take the necessary action to implement, on behalf of the State Board, the powers set forth in Section 10-223e to ensure the stability of fiscal operations of Hartford Public Schools.

The Commissioner referenced and highlighted pages 2 and 3 on the history and background on the proposed budget and concerns and issues of the Hartford Public Schools’ ability to fulfill its statutory obligations as identified.

Legal Director Mike McKeon presented the statutory authority provided for this resolution. He noted the delineation of different levels of performance of different schools and districts. The statute provides the State Board of Education with a substantial array of remedies.

The Commissioner invited Chief Performance Officer Ajit Gopalakrishnan to the table to speak on fiscal drawdowns and on the June 30, 2024, payment deadline for state grants.

Deputy Commissioner Charles Hewes, Legal Director Mike McKeon, and Chief Performance Officer Ajit Gopalakrishnan presented to the Board.

The Commissioner informed the Board of the three-prong approach action plan if the resolution was passed by the Board.

The Board members engaged in questions and answers.

Vice Chair Benham read aloud the entire VII.A. resolution for clarification of the resolution before requesting the vote on the resolution.

VOTE ON

MOTION: In favor: Benham, Burr, Harris, Record, Salazar, Taylor, Zimmerman
 Opposed: 0
 Abstained 0
 Absent: Clemons

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of New Educator Preparation Program: University of New Haven, Speech and Language Pathology

Vice Chair Benham asked for a motion on agenda item VII.B. Board Member Zimmerman 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 program approval to the University of New Haven Speech and Language Pathology Program for the period June 5, 2024, through June 4, 2026, with an onsite visit during the 2025-2026 academic year, and continuous focused monitoring of the new program by the Connecticut State Department of Education, for the purpose of recommending candidates for the Connecticut initial educator certificate in the following endorsement areas and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

<u>Program</u>	<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>Program Level</u>	<u>Program Type</u>
Speech/Language Pathology	PK-12	Advanced	Graduate

Education Consultant Lauren Tafrate, with University of New Haven representative Jacqui Brown, Ed.D., Program Director, Speech-Language Pathology, presented to the Board.

VOTE ON

MOTION: In favor: Benham, Burr, Harris, Record, Salazar, Taylor, Zimmerman
 Opposed: 0
 Abstained 0
 Absent: Clemons

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Approval of Commissioner’s Network Turnaround Plan: Great Oaks Charter School, Bridgeport

Vice Chair Benham asked for a motion on agenda item VII.C. Board Member Burr moved, and Board Member Taylor seconded, that, pursuant to Section 10-223h of the Connecticut General Statutes, the State Board of Education adopts and approves the Turnaround Plan for Great Oaks Charter School in Bridgeport, subject to the conditions noted in the Commissioner of Education’s June 5, 2024, Executive Summary to the State Board of Education, 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.

Chief Academic Officer Irene Parisi, Bureau Chief, Jennifer Webb, Turnaround Office, with school representatives John Scalice, Executive Director, Denise Linares, middle school principal, and Chris Pellegrino, high school principal, presented to the Board.

VOTE ON

MOTION: In favor: Benham, Burr, Record, Salazar, Taylor, Zimmerman
 Opposed: 0
 Abstained 0
 Absent: Clemons, Harris

Motion carried unanimously.

D. Approval of Commissioner’s Network Turnaround Plan: Canton Middle School, Canton

Vice Chair Benham asked for a motion on agenda item VII.D. Board Member Salazar moved, and Board Member Burr seconded, that, pursuant to Section 10-223h of the Connecticut General Statutes, the State Board of Education adopts and approves the Turnaround Plan for Canton Middle School in Canton, subject to the conditions noted in the Commissioner of Education’s June 5, 2024, Executive Summary to the State Board of Education, 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.

Chief Academic Officer Irene Parisi, Bureau Chief, Jennifer Webb, Turnaround Office, with school representatives Superintendent Jordan E. Grossman, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent John M. Bishop, and Principal Jeffrey Moore, Canton Middle School, presented to the Board.

VOTE ON

MOTION: In favor: Benham, Burr, Record, Salazar, Zimmerman
 Opposed: 0
 Abstained 0
 Absent: Clemons, Harris, Taylor

Motion carried unanimously.

E. Renewal of State Charter: Interdistrict School for Arts and Communication, New London

Vice Chair Benham asked for a motion on agenda item VII.E. Board Member Zimmerman moved, and Board Member Salazar seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (g) of Section 10-66bb of the Connecticut General Statutes, renews the charter of Interdistrict School for Arts and Communication from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2027, subject to the conditions and recommendations set forth in the Commissioner’s June 5, 2024, memorandum to the State Board of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Deputy Commissioner Charles Hewes, Chief Academic Officer Irene Parisi with school representatives Executive Director Nicholas Spera, Principal William Linski, Associate Principal Tanya Collins, and Chairperson Richard Muckle, Board of Directors, presented to the Board.

VOTE ON

MOTION: In favor: Benham, Burr, Harris, Record, Salazar, Taylor, Zimmerman
Opposed: 0
Abstained 0
Absent: Clemons

Motion carried unanimously.

F. Renewal of State Charter – Explorations Charter School, Winsted

Vice Chair Benham asked for a motion on agenda item VII.F. Board Member Burr moved, and Board Member Salazar seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (g) of Section 10-66bb of the Connecticut General Statutes, renews the charter of Explorations Charter School from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2026, subject to the conditions and recommendations set forth in the Commissioner’s June 5, 2024, memorandum to the State Board of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Deputy Commissioner Charles Hewes, Chief Academic Officer Irene Parisi with school representatives Executive Director Jill Johnson, Principal Joe White, and Chairperson Robert Peterson, Board of Directors, presented to the Board.

VOTE ON

MOTION: In favor: Benham, Burr, Harris, Record, Salazar, Taylor, Zimmerman
Opposed: 0
Abstained 0
Absent: Clemons

Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chair Benham recessed the meeting for lunch at 1:23 p.m.

Vice Chair Benham reconvened the meeting at 2:07 p.m.

The following members were present:

Present: Erin D. Benham, Vice Chairperson
 Bonnie E. Burr
 Connor Cowan, Student Member
 Yasmeen Galal, Student Member
 Donald F. Harris, Jr.
 Kristen A. Record
 Juan C. Salazar
 Allan B. Taylor

Absent: Terrence Cheng, Ex Officio
 Erik M. Clemons
 Kelli-Marie Vallieres, Ex Officio
 Seth D. Zimmerman

G. State Board of Education Appointment to the Connecticut Advisory Council for Administrator Professional Standards (CACAPS)

Vice Chair Benham asked for a motion on agenda item VII.G. Board Member Harris moved, and Board Member Taylor seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (b) of Section 10-144e of the Connecticut General Statutes, appoints the following individual to serve on the Connecticut Advisory Council for Administrator Professional Standards for a two-year term effective from September 1, 2024, and ending August 31, 2026, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Name	Affiliation	Representation	Term Ending
Maria Campos Harlow	Executive Director at the United Way of Meriden and Wallingford	Business and Industry	August 31, 2026

Education Consultant Sharon Fuller presented to the Board, and provided an update that highlighted the rebuilding of the membership.

VOTE ON

MOTION: In favor: Benham, Burr, Harris, Record, Salazar, Taylor
 Opposed: 0
 Abstained: 0
 Absent: Clemons, Zimmerman

Motion carried unanimously.

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

Vice Chair Benham asked for a motion on agenda item VII.H. Board Member Burr moved, and Board Member Harris seconded, that the State Board of Education, 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 beginning September 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2027, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Name	Affiliation	Representation	Term Ending
Dr. Mel L. Horton	Sacred Heart University	Dean of the Isabelle Farrington College of Education and Human Development	Sept. 30, 2027

Education Consultant Sharon Fuller presented to the Board, and provided an update that highlighted work on the rebuilding of the membership and noted that this appointment would fill one of the three remaining vacancies.

VOTE ON

MOTION: In favor: Benham, Burr, Harris, Record, Salazar, Taylor
 Opposed: 0
 Abstained: 0
 Absent: Clemons, Zimmerman

Motion carried unanimously.

I. Receipt of Racial Imbalance Report

Vice Chair Benham asked for a motion on agenda item VII.I. Board Member Burr moved, and Board Member Harris 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 2023-24 school year.

Legal Director Mike McKeon and Staff Attorney Laura Anastasio presented to the Board.

VOTE ON

MOTION: In favor: Benham, Burr, Harris, Record, Salazar, Taylor
 Opposed: 0
 Abstained: 0
 Absent: Clemons, Zimmerman

Motion carried unanimously.

J. Recognition of the Connecticut Association for Adult and Continuing Education Student Award Winners

Vice Chair Benham asked for a motion on agenda item VII.J. Board Member Harris moved, and Board Member Taylor seconded, the following:

Whereas, adult education exemplifies the concept of lifelong learning with nearly ten thousand Connecticut residents in adult basic education/secondary

school completion programs and nearly twelve thousand Connecticut residents in English as a Second Language (ESL) and U.S. citizenship preparation programs; and

Whereas, the Connecticut Association for Adult and Continuing Education (CAACE), through its CAACE Student Award, recognized five individuals who have overcome numerous obstacles and hardships to persist and succeed in adult education; and

Whereas, these individuals exemplify the spirit and determination necessary to achieve a goal and serve as role models to all adult and young learners in our communities; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Connecticut State Board of Education recognizes the following individuals for their accomplishments in this major adult education endeavor:

- Stone Dixon, Middletown Adult Education
- Krislia Griman, EASTCONN Adult Education
- Iryna Hzhesiak, Family Center Literacy Volunteer of Stamford/Greenwich
- Eric O'Connell, Middletown Adult Education
- Emuna Patterson, Manchester Adult Education

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Chief Academic Officer Irene Parisi presented to the Board.

VOTE ON

MOTION: In favor: Benham, Burr, Harris, Record, Salazar, Taylor
 Opposed: 0
 Abstained 0
 Absent: Clemons, Zimmerman

Motion carried unanimously.

K. Recognition of GED Scholar Award Winner

Vice Chair Benham asked for a motion on agenda item VII.K. Board Member Burr moved, and Board Member Salazar seconded, the following:

Whereas, Justin Stevens of Enfield has demonstrated exceptional skill and proficiency in the four subject areas of the high school equivalency examination by attaining a total score of 775 on the GED® tests in 2023; and

Whereas, he is the Connecticut resident with the highest total score on the GED® tests; and

Whereas, he has brought honor to himself, to the State Board of Education, and the State of Connecticut; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Connecticut State Board of Education honors Justin Stevens with great appreciation for his accomplishments in a major adult education endeavor and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Chief Academic Officer Irene Parisi presented to the Board.

VOTE ON

MOTION: In favor: Benham, Burr, Harris, Record, Salazar, Taylor
 Opposed: 0
 Abstained 0
 Absent: Clemons, Zimmerman

Motion carried unanimously.

L. Recognition of Career and Technical Education Student Organizations

Vice Chair Benham asked for a motion on agenda item VII.L. Board Member Burr moved, and Board Member Salazar seconded, the following:

Whereas, Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) are a co-curricular, integral part of the local, state, and national career and technical education programs; and

Whereas, the development of individual student leadership skills is the keystone of these organizations; and

Whereas, all CTSO chapters were asked to identify an outstanding service project; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Connecticut State Board of Education recognizes the following CTSO Outstanding Service Award Recipients:

- Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA), Southington High School;
- Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Newington High School;
- Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), Windsor High School;
- FFA (formerly known as Future Farmers of America), The Sound School; and
- Future Health Professionals (HOSA), Central High School;

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Chief Academic Officer Irene Parisi presented to the Board.

M. Recognition in Honor of Connor Cowan

Vice Chair Benham entertained a motion on agenda item VII.M., for the Resolution in Honor of Connor Cowan. Board Member Taylor moved, and Board Member Harris seconded, the motion as read into the record of the minutes by Vice Chair Benham 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 Connor Cowan of Fairfield to the State Board of Education for a one-year term commencing July 1, 2023; and

Whereas, During his tenure, Mr. Cowan 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 Connor Cowan its appreciation for his commitment to educational excellence and equity in Connecticut public schools and best wishes for success in his future endeavors.

Approved unanimously this fifth day of June, Two Thousand Twenty-Four.

VOTE ON

MOTION:	In favor:	Benham, Burr, Harris, Record, Salazar, Taylor
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	0
	Absent:	Clemons, Zimmerman

Motion carried unanimously.

N. Recognition in Honor of Yasmeen Galal

Vice Chair Benham entertained a motion on agenda item VII.N., for the Resolution in Honor of Yasmeen Galal. Board Member Burr moved, and Board Member Taylor seconded, the motion as read into the record of the minutes by Vice Chair Benham 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 Yasmeen Galal of Prospect to the State Board of Education for a one-year term commencing July 1, 2023; and

Whereas, During her tenure, Ms. Galal 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 Yasmeen Galal its appreciation for her commitment to educational excellence and equity in Connecticut public schools and best wishes for success in her future endeavors.

Approved unanimously this fifth day of June, Two Thousand Twenty-Four.

VOTE ON

MOTION: In favor: Benham, Burr, Harris, Record, Salazar, Taylor
Opposed: 0
Abstained 0
Absent: Clemons, Zimmerman

Motion carried unanimously.

O. Adoption of 2025 Meeting Schedule

Vice Chair Benham asked for a motion on agenda item VII.O. Board Member Harris moved, and Board Member Salazar seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 1-225 of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the 2025 schedule of regular meeting dates, as follows:

- January 15, 2025
- March 5, 2025
- April 2, 2025
- May 7, 2025
- June 11, 2025
- July 2, 2025 (Tentative)
- August 6, 2025 (Retreat)
- September 3, 2025
- October 1, 2025 (evening meeting)
- November 5, 2025
- December 3, 2025

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Vice Chair Benham noted and explained the reasoning for not holding a February 2025 meeting.

VOTE ON

MOTION: In favor: Benham, Burr, Harris, Record, Salazar, Taylor
Opposed: 0
Abstained 0
Absent: Clemons, Zimmerman

Motion carried unanimously.

P. Approval of State Board of Education 2024 Committee

Vice Chair Benham asked for a motion on agenda item VII.O. Board Member Salazar moved, and Board Member Burr seconded,

That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Article II, Section 4, of its Bylaws, approves the following assignments to the State Board of Education standing committees:

Academic Standards and Assessment Committee

Erik M. Clemons, Chair
Erin D. Benham
Juan C. Salazar
Allan B. Taylor

Accountability and Support Committee

Erin D. Benham, Chair
Donald F. Harris, Jr.
Kristen A. Record
Allan B. Taylor
Seth D. Zimmerman

Finance, Audit, and Budget Committee

Donald F. Harris, Jr., Chair
Bonnie E. Burr
Juan C. Salazar

Legislation and Policy Development Committee

Bonnie E. Burr, Chair
Erik M. Clemons
Kristen A. Record
Seth D. Zimmerman

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

MOTION: In favor: Benham, Burr, Harris, Record, Salazar, Taylor
 Opposed: 0
 Abstained 0
 Absent: Clemons, Zimmerman

Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. Financial Matters

There were no matters to report.

X. Committee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessment

The committee will not be meeting on June 11, 2024.

B. Accountability and Support

Committee Chair Benham reported that the committee will meet on June 13, 2024, and Board Member Harris will be chairing the meeting.

C. Finance, Audit, and Budget

Committee Chair Harris reported that the committee held a meeting on June 4, 2024, and voted to forward the draft 2024-2025 Audit Plan to the full Board.

D. Legislation and Policy Development

The committee did not meet. Chair Burr noted that she looked forward to working with Mike McKeon and Laura Stefon. She welcomed the members of the committee.

E. Connecticut Technical Education and Career System Board

Chairperson Patricia Keavney-Maruca was absent to attend the CTECS Advisory Board meeting that conflicted with today's meeting. There was no report.

F. NASBE

Vice Chair Benham encouraged participation in the NASBE Office Hours, one-hour meetings.

G. SERC

Vice Chair Benham referenced her written report. She highlighted and noted two references of the utilization of SERC's resources from today's meeting.

Vice Chair Benham asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting, Board Member Burr moved, Board Member Salazar seconded, that the meeting be adjourned.

Vice Chair Benham adjourned the meeting at 2:51 p.m.

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