

**Connecticut State Board of Education  
Finance, Audit and Budget Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, August 26, 2025  
10:00 a.m.- 11:00 a.m.  
450 Columbus Boulevard  
Hartford, Connecticut 06103  
First Floor Plaza North – Meeting Room A**

**Approved  
(approved on 11/18/25)**

Member Present: Mr. Donald Harris, Jr., Chair  
Via TEAMS: Ms. Bonnie Burr  
Mr. Roger Persson, Chief of Fiscal and Administrative Services  
Ms. Jessica Brunetti, Chief of Fiscal and Administrative Services

Others Present: Keith Norton, Acting Director for Office of Internal Audits  
Justin Cleary, Associate Accounts Examiner  
Kerrian Denham, Administrative Assistant, Office of Internal Audits  
Cassandra Wolcott, Administrative Assistant, Fiscal and Administrative Services

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by Donald Harris and seconded by Bonnie Burr.

**I. Approval of Minutes – June 3, 2025**

A motion was made by Bonnie Burr, seconded by Donald Harris. The minutes were unanimously accepted.

**II. Office of Internal of Internal Audit (OIA) – Status of Current Activity**

Keith Norton attended in the capacity of acting director of the internal audit office, presented the 2025 – 2026 Audit Plan. Bonnie Burr made a motion to move forward seconded by Donald Harris. The plan was unanimously approved by the Committee. The plan will be presented to the Board at the October 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Justin shared the accomplishments of the department over the last three months. Tasks that have been completed, as well as in progress and upcoming projects.

**III. Financial Matters (Mr. Roger Persson and Jessica Brunetti)**

Jessica and Roger updated the Committee on the budget passing details:

- 3.5 billion was approved in state funding.
- 46 legislative earmarks – recipients to be determined.
- 40 million additional excess cost funding.
- 30 million new special education and development funds.

The following expansion options were approved:

- 5 million high dosage tutoring in the 2nd year.
- 9 million towards quality special education incentives
- 7 million for LEAP - not be continuing under state funding.
- 6 million dual credits
- 2 million master class - in both fiscal years.
- Office of Dyslexia – separate new line item in the budget – includes staffing
- Rose City – new line item: Adult Education program facility
- Positions: six new positions and one durational position approved.

Additional updates:

- A Rate Calculation Unit for Special Education apps and providers will be established. The law states we should have a preliminary rate by January – however we most likely not have the Unit staffed by that time due to lengthy HR processes.
- Fiscal year 2023 – 2024 report to Auditors of Public Accounts submitted for approval.
- Funds received for some grants that were on hold, but unsure if we will receive funding for 2027, contingency plans being put in place
- ARP ESSER Liquidation extensions are now moving forward.

At 10:25am, a motion was made by Bonnie Burr to adjourn the Finance, Audit and Department Matters Committee meeting and seconded by Donald Harris. The meeting unanimously adjourned.

Recorded by Kerrian Denham, Administrative Assistant - Office of Internal Audit