

# **Connecticut State Board of Education**

## **Hartford**

### **State Board of Education Meeting**

**January 15, 2025**  
(Approved March 5, 2025)

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, January 15, 2025, 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/yp\\_cEssRn-s](https://youtu.be/yp_cEssRn-s).

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

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

Present: Erin D. Benham, Vice Chairperson  
Sreenidi Bala, Student Member  
Bonnie E. Burr\*  
Dr. Aynsley Diamond (designee for Terrence Cheng, Ex Officio)  
Donald F. Harris, Jr.  
Kristen A. Record  
Juan C. Salazar  
Allan B. Taylor  
Seth D. Zimmerman

Absent: Christine Benz, Ex Officio  
Sophia Messina, Student Member  
Kelli-Marie Vallieres, Ex Officio

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

1. Judy Bannon, member of the North Branford Board of Education, represented herself as a retired elementary school teacher, spoke on Public Act 23-208, and shared her concerns regarding the ability to request early kindergarten entrance and the diverse assessment guidance among the districts. A copy of Ms. Bannon's written statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
2. Elizabeth Sked, Education Issues Specialist, CEA, spoke on CEA's opposition to the approval of new charter schools. A copy of Ms. Sked's written statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
3. John Corcoran, President of the Stamford Education Association, expressed his concerns regarding agenda items VII.C., Consideration of Granting Initial Certificate for a State Charter to Olam Public Charter School, Stamford, and VII.E., Consideration of Granting Initial Certificate for a State Charter to Stamford Big Picture Learning Academy, Stamford. A copy of Mr. Corcoran's written statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.

4. Dr. Tamu Lucero, Superintendent, Stamford Public Schools, spoke in support of agenda item VII.E., Consideration of Granting Initial Certificate for a State Charter to Stamford Big Picture Learning Academy, Stamford.
5. Maria Kokiasmenos, J.D., member of the PROUD Board of Directors, spoke in support of agenda item VII.D., Consideration of Granting Initial Certificate for a State Charter to PROUD Academy, Ansonia.

\*[Board Member Bonnie Burr joined the meeting at approximately at 9:59 a.m.]

6. Reverend Dr. Stephen G. Ray, Jr., pastor of the United Church on the Green, New Haven, spoke in support of agenda item VII.D., Consideration of Granting Initial Certificate for a State Charter to PROUD Academy, Ansonia.
7. Robert Rader, Chair, PROUD Academy Board of Directors, spoke in support of agenda item VII.D., Consideration of Granting Initial Certificate for a State Charter to PROUD Academy, Ansonia. A copy of Mr. Rader's written statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
8. Lori Rhodes, spoke in support of agenda item VII.E., Consideration of Granting Initial Certificate for a State Charter to Stamford Big Picture Learning Academy, Stamford.
9. Pastor Carlos Martinez, Ebenezer Jesus Mi Salvador Church, Waterbury, spoke in support of Taino CoLab Waterbury Charter School, for agenda item VII.F., Consideration of Granting Initial Certificate for a State Charter to Taino CoLab - New Haven Charter School, New Haven; and Taino CoLab Waterbury Charter School, Waterbury. A copy of Pastor Martinez's written testimony is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
10. Ramona Santelises, President of the Dominican American Coalition of Connecticut (DACCT), spoke in support of agenda item VII.F., Consideration of Granting Initial Certificate for a State Charter to Taino CoLab - New Haven Charter School, New Haven; and Taino CoLab Waterbury Charter School, Waterbury. A copy of Ms. Santelises' written statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
11. Jose Albarenga, spoke in support of agenda item VII.F., Consideration of Granting Initial Certificate for a State Charter to Taino CoLab - New Haven Charter School, New Haven; and Taino CoLab Waterbury Charter School, Waterbury. A copy of Mr. Albarenga's written testimony is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
12. Jacqueline Oliver, a Bridgeport parent, shared her concerns and experiences with Bridgeport Public Schools regarding her child and the shortage of certified special education educators and special needs services.

Vice Chair Benham requested that Ms. Oliver meet with the Deputy Commissioner.

13. Caroline Lindsay, a Bridgeport parent, shared her concerns and experiences with Bridgeport Public Schools regarding her children and the shortage of certified special education educators and special needs services.

Vice Chair Benham requested that Ms. Ms. Lindsay meet with the Deputy Commissioner.

14. Attorney Kathryn Meyer, Director, Yale Child Study Center Medical-Legal Partnership Project, and Staff Attorney Llana Ofgang, Education Success Project, Center for Children's Advocacy, spoke on the legal rights of students with disabilities and the challenges with the shortage of certified special education educators, paraeducators, and related service providers in the Bridgeport school district. A copy of the written testimony is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
16. Attorney Sarah Eagan, Executive Director, Center for Children's Advocacy, spoke on the legal rights of students with disabilities and the challenges related to the shortage of certified special education educators, paraeducators, and related service providers statewide, as well as investing in sustainable solutions. A copy of Attorney Eagan's written testimony is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
17. Iris Vizcarrondo, a parent, spoke in support of agenda item VII.F., Consideration of Granting Initial Certificate for a State Charter to Taino CoLab - New Haven Charter School, New Haven; and Taino CoLab Waterbury Charter School, Waterbury. A copy of Ms. Vizcarrondo's written statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
18. Joel Cooper, spoke in support of the approval for agenda item VII.F., Consideration of Granting Initial Certificate for a State Charter to Taino CoLab - New Haven Charter School, New Haven; and Taino CoLab Waterbury Charter School, Waterbury. A copy of Mr. Cooper's written statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
19. Faith Keeton, Waterbury, spoke in support for the approval of agenda item VII.F., Consideration of Granting Initial Certificate for a State Charter to Taino CoLab - New Haven Charter School, New Haven; and Taino CoLab Waterbury Charter School, Waterbury. A copy of Ms. Keeton's written statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
20. Tashieanna O'Connor, spoke in support of Taino CoLab Waterbury Charter School, for agenda item VII.F., Consideration of Granting Initial Certificate for a State Charter to Taino CoLab - New Haven Charter School, New Haven; and Taino CoLab Waterbury Charter School, Waterbury. A copy of Ms. O'Connor's written statement is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
21. Alder Angel Hubbard, New Haven, spoke in support for the approval of agenda item VII.F., Consideration of Granting Initial Certificate for a State Charter to Taino CoLab - New Haven Charter School, New Haven; and Taino CoLab Waterbury Charter School, Waterbury. A copy of Alder Hubbard's written testimony is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
22. Alder José Crespo, New Haven, spoke in support of agenda item VII.F., Consideration of Granting Initial Certificate for a State Charter to Taino CoLab - New Haven Charter School, New Haven; and Taino CoLab Waterbury Charter School, Waterbury.
23. Attorney Andrew Feinstein, Feinstein Education Law Group, LLC., spoke regarding excess cost reimbursements of special education costs to districts, the issues of staff shortages, and the role of the State Board.
24. Reverend Abraham Hernandez, spoke in support of agenda item VII.F., Consideration of Granting Initial Certificate for a State Charter to Taino CoLab - New Haven Charter School, New Haven; and Taino CoLab Waterbury Charter School, Waterbury. A copy of Reverend Hernandez's written testimony is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.

25. John Rose, Hartford, spoke in support for approval of agenda item VII.D., Consideration of Granting Initial Certificate for a State Charter to PROUD Academy, Ansonia.
26. Tomas Reyes Jr., spoke in support of agenda item VII.F., Consideration of Granting Initial Certificate for a State Charter to Taino CoLab - New Haven Charter School, New Haven; and Taino CoLab Waterbury Charter School, Waterbury.
27. Rosa Toledo, spoke in support of Taino CoLab Waterbury Charter School, for agenda item VII.F., Consideration of Granting Initial Certificate for a State Charter to Taino CoLab - New Haven Charter School, New Haven; and Taino CoLab Waterbury Charter School, Waterbury.
28. Jessica Haxhi, Supervisor of World Languages for New Haven Public Schools, spoke in support of agenda item VII.B., Adoption of the Connecticut K-12 World Language Standards.
29. Attorney Steven Hernández, Executive Director, ConnCAN, spoke in support of agenda items VII.D., Consideration of Granting Initial Certificate for a State Charter to PROUD Academy, Ansonia., and VII.F., Consideration of Granting Initial Certificate for a State Charter to Taino CoLab - New Haven Charter School, New Haven; and Taino CoLab Waterbury Charter School, Waterbury.

Public Participation ended.

### **III. Executive Session**

There was no executive session held.

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

#### **A. December 4, 2024, State Board of Education Meeting**

Board Member Taylor moved, Board Member Harris seconded, that the Board adopt the minutes of the December 4, 2024, State Board of Education Meeting.

#### **VOTE ON**

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

Motion carried unanimously.

### **V. Report of the Chair**

Vice Chair Benham highlighted the following:

- Thanked the Board members for presiding over the charter school public hearings within a limited time frame.
- Attended with Board Member Donald Harris, *A Discussion about Education: The Past, the Present, the Future*, hosted by Senator Douglas McCrory and Commissioner Russell-Tucker at Windsor High School on January 14, 2025.

- Highlighted the CAPSS 2025 Legislative Proposals
- Highlighted the CAPSS Priorities for Connecticut, Public Education: Looking Forward
- Announced a Special State Board meeting scheduled for Wednesday, January 22, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.
- Referenced the Governor Lamont's 2026-2027 State of the State Address and his support and advocacy of the LEAP Program, increasing the teacher workforce and referenced the cell phone policy was also mentioned in Governor's address.

Vice Chair Benham asked for a motion to move agenda item XI.A., Recognition of the 2025 Teacher of the Year and 2025 Teacher of the Year Finalists, to accommodate the teachers and superintendents attending the meeting. Board Member Record moved, and Board Member Taylor seconded, that agenda item XI.A. be moved on the agenda.

## **XI. Items for Discussion**

### **A. Recognition of the 2025 Teacher of the Year and 2025 Teacher of the Year Finalists**

Education Consultant Mary Glassman presented the TOY district nomination process, and was joined by each teacher and their superintendent at the table for the reading of their bios.

Vice Chair Benham read aloud the bios of each teacher into the minutes of the meeting as follows:

#### 2025 Connecticut Teacher of the Year finalist

- **Jeffrey Helming:** Anna Reynolds Elementary School (Newington)  
Superintendent: Dr. Maureen Brummett, Newington Public Schools  
Jeffrey teaches second grade at Anna Reynolds Elementary School in Newington. Jeffrey has 24 years of teaching experience. In Newington, Jeffrey is known for his passion for teaching writing. Realizing that motivating young students to write can be challenging, Jeffrey created the Reynolds Writers Contest. Over the years, the contest has included two published collections of student writing with each child creating their own hardcover book. Student writers are celebrated at school events and many students have gone on to receive recognition from the University of Connecticut's Student Writing Contest. In his Teacher of the Year message, Jeffrey said "Every day, teachers have an impact on their students' lives, piquing interests, and challenging minds. When we work together, taking on collective goals with, and for, our students and communities, amazing things happen."

#### 2025 Connecticut Teacher of the Year finalist

- **Yasmin Ithier-Vicenty:** West Middle School (Hartford)  
Superintendent: Dr. Leslie Torres-Rodriguez, Hartford Public Schools  
Yasmin is a second grade teacher at West Middle School in Hartford. Yasmin has been teaching for 8 years. Yasmin is involved in her school community and developed a weekly elementary style radio station called "Hawk Nation Station," which was named after the school mascot. The goal of each weekly program is to get students involved and participating in the school community. On the program, students share some of their favorite school events from the past week and give shoutouts to teachers and classmates. Students regularly ask to participate in the weekly radio program. Yasmin also works to bring students into the community through local field trips and brings the community to the students by inviting high school athletes to share their experiences through sports. She also finds ways to

incorporate families into the classroom by inviting them to share their experiences and traditions.

2025 Connecticut Teacher of the Year finalist

- **Damayanti Rane-Castrodad:** Winthrop STEM elementary Magnet School (New London)  
Superintendent: Dr. Cynthia Ritchie, New London Public Schools  
Damayanti is a fifth grade teacher at Winthrop STEM Elementary Magnet School in New London and has been teaching for three years. She believes in crafting immersive and culturally sustaining learning opportunities that uphold students' self-love, belonging, social awareness and empathy while elevating their academic success. She designs curriculum to highlight various cultural groups. Damayanti recently initiated a partnership between her students and the University of Connecticut to support their annual HuskyThon fundraiser to benefit Connecticut Children's Medical Center. To raise funds, the Grade 5 students created a "Character Day" where students bring their favorite storybook character to life and also started a recycling can drive. Students then participated in a campus tour at UConn to attend the fundraiser and to talk about career choices and college readiness, which helped students visualize themselves on a college campus. Damayanti is also a coach for Girls on The Run, which focuses on teaching life skills such as self-esteem, positive friendships and problem solving.

2025 Connecticut Teacher of the Year Award Honoree

- **Julia Miller: Metropolitan** Business Academy (New Haven)  
Superintendent: Dr. Madeline Negrón, New Haven Public Schools  
The 2025 Connecticut Teacher of the Year is Julia Miller, a high school Social Studies teacher at Metropolitan Business Academy in New Haven. Julia has been teaching for 18 years and is a native of New Haven and a proud New Haven public school parent. Julia is committed to the practices of antiracist education and project-based learning. As a longtime Civics teacher, Julia's goal for her students is for them to become informed and active community members who feel empowered to make change.

In addition to teaching Civics at Metropolitan, Julia also teaches in the Academy of Law, Leadership & Political Science. She co-designed and co-teaches an innovative course entitled Youth Justice in Practice (YJP). Grounded in the theories of restorative and transformative justice, YJP is the senior capstone class in the law pathway. As part of YJP, students run the Metro Youth Justice Panel, a student-led restorative justice initiative in the school that aims to repair harm, provide accountability, and support students who make mistakes in the building.

Julia also helped launch another new initiative in her district: a "Grow Your Own" model to nurture the next generation of New Haven Public **School** teachers. Over the last two years, Julia has supported the development of a new Education and Leadership Pathway. Last year, she ran an after-school program for aspiring educators, which included her teaching Quinnipiac University's Intro to Public Education course to her high school students for dual credit. She was part of a small group of curriculum writers who crafted an Early College Experience course entitled Seminar in Education through a collaboration with Southern Connecticut State University, a course she is now teaching at her school. Julia currently serves as one of two district Teacher Leaders with the national organization Educators Rising.

Vice Chair Benham thanked the teachers and expressed that their bios are the work that our teachers do.

Commissioner Russell-Tucker expressed her appreciation to the teachers and stated that they are remarkable educators whose work transforms lives and are the champions for each student who walks into the classroom.

Vice Chair Benham asked for a motion to move agenda to VI., Report of the Commissioner and Agency Updater. Board Member Burr moved, and Board Member Salazar seconded, that the agenda be moved to VI.

## **V. Report of the Commissioner and Agency Update**

The Commissioner referred to her report in the Supplemental Folders.

- Presented updated information on the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) grants to 35 districts.
- Highlighted the CSDE released the first legislative report from the Family and Community Engagement in Education Council, also known as the Commissioner's Roundtable for Family and Community Engagement.

### Launch of Model K-12 Digital Citizenship Curriculum

Chief Academic Officer Irene Parisi presented on the launch of the comprehensive K-12 Model Digital Citizenship Curriculum, designed in partnership with Common Sense Education, providing high-quality standards-aligned resources to foster how students and educators engage to navigate digital literacy with technology.

### CSDE's Cell Phone and Personal Technology Guidance

Commissioner Russell-Tucker shared that a survey had been conducted on personal technology use policies. She noted that data showed that personal technology policies are working and having an impact.

### Dual Enrollment Update

Commissioner Russell-Tucker provided an update that dual credit enrollment is increasing with more students earning college credits by high school graduation.

## **CSDE SHOUTOUTS!**

- ❖ Kim Traverso, CSDE School Counselor, Social-Emotional Learning Consultant, presented at the U.S. Department of Education's MTSS Summit.
- ❖ CSDE Deputy Commissioners Sinthia Sone-Moyano and Charles Hewes, and Special Education Division Director Bryan Klimkiewicz toured Lighthouse School in Niantic with the Paraeducator Advisory Council.
- ❖ Bradley School in Derby hosted a Family Literacy Night.
- ❖ CSDE Holiday Gathering.
- ❖ Amanda Pickett, School Climate and Culture consultant, attended a Student Equity Symposium hosted by Central Connecticut State University and Farmington High School.
- ❖ CSDE Director of the Center for Literacy Research and Reading Success, Dr. Melissa Hickey, did an interview with The Right to Read Advocate.
- ❖ Commissioner Russell-Tucker and Senator Doug McCrory, in partnership with SERC, hosted a Community Forum at Windsor High School.

Update on Hartford Public Schools Fiscal Operations

The Commissioner referenced her commitment to keep the Board updated on its authorized action at the June 5, 2024, meeting concerning Hartford Public Schools Financial Management and summarized the three-prong approach: (i) Magnet School Assessment: Optimizing Funds Utilization; (ii) Special Education Services Assessment and Enhancement; and (iii) Improvement of Financial Systems. She invited Chief Strategic Planning Officer Keith Norton, Deputy Commissioner Dr. Charles Hewes, Special Education Division Director Bryan Klimkiewicz, and Director of Internal Audit Monique Coates to present to the Board.

Special Education Presentation – Guest Presenter

Nate Levenson, President of New Solutions K-12, presented preliminary findings, initial thoughts and recommendations, and next steps related to their review of special education in Hartford Public Schools.

The Board members engaged in questions and answers.

Rate Setting for Outplaced Special Education Services

Chief Performance Officer Ajit Gopalakrishnan presented on setting rates for outplaced special education services. He pointed out the challenges and unpredictability for districts and noted CSDE's engagement with CCERC to better understand the pros and cons of rate setting.

The Board members engaged in questions.

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

**VII. Items Requiring Action**

**A. Approval of New Educator Preparation Program: Southern Connecticut State University, Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages, Undergraduate Level**

Vice Chair Benham asked for a motion on agenda item VII.A. Board Member Harris moved, and Board Member Zimmerman seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-145d-9(g)(2)(A) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, grants full approval for the period January 15, 2025, through March 31, 2029, to Southern Connecticut State University, 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 Southern Connecticut State University's CAEP Spring 2028 site visit, for the purpose of certifying graduates from Southern Connecticut State University in the following new certification area and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action:

Program	Grade Level	Program Level	Program Type
TESOL	PK-12	Initial	Undergraduate

Deputy Commissioner Sinthia Sone-Moyano, Education Consultant Lauren Tafrate, together with Dr. Christopher Trombly, Interim Dean, Southern Connecticut State University presented.

**VOTE ON**

<b>MOTION:</b>	In favor:	Benham, Burr, Harris, Record, Salazar, Taylor, Zimmerman
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained	0



Absent: 0

Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chair Benham requested a motion to move the agenda to Action item VII.C. Board Member Salazar moved, and Board Member Burr seconded, with all members voting unanimously in agreement.

Commissioner Russell-Tucker invited Legal Director Mike McKeon to provide an overview of the two-step statutory approval process for granting an initial certificate for charter schools, starting with the Board's role in determining approval to grant an initial certificate, and the legislature's role in the allocation of funding for approved schools.

Deputy Commissioner Charles Hewes provided an overview of the rigorous application process of the five applications that were before the Board.

**C. Consideration of Granting Initial Certificate for a State Charter to Olam Public Charter School, Stamford**

Board Member Harris, moved, and Board Member Salazar seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-66bb of the Connecticut General Statutes, accepts the Commissioner of Education's recommendation and grants an initial certificate of approval for a state charter to OLAM Public Charter School in Stamford, Connecticut, subject to the conditions set forth in the Commissioner of Education's January 15, 2025, memorandum to the State Board of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Deputy Commissioner Charles Hewes, Chief Turnaround Officer Melissa Jenkins, together with OLAM school officials, Valerie Khaytina, Chief External Officer, Hebrew Public Charter Schools for Global Citizens, and Emily Fernandez, Chief External Officer, Hebrew Public Charter Schools for Global Citizens, presented.

Board Members engaged in questions and answers.

[Dr. Aynsley Diamond, designee for Terrence Cheng, Ex Officio, left the meeting at approximately 1:00 p.m.]

**VOTE ON**

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**D. Consideration of Granting Initial Certificate for a State Charter to PROUD Academy, Ansonia**

Board Member Salazar moved, and Board Member Taylor seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-66bb of the Connecticut General Statutes, accepts the Commissioner of Education's recommendation and grants an initial certificate of approval for a state charter to PROUD Academy in Ansonia, Connecticut subject to the conditions set forth in

the Commissioner of Education's January 15, 2025, memorandum to the State Board of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Deputy Commissioner Charles Hewes, Chief Turnaround Officer Melissa Jenkins, together with school officials, Patty Nicolari, Founder and Interim Executive Director PROUD Academy, Inc., and Robert Rader, Chairperson, PROUD Academy Board of Directors, presented.

Board members engaged in discussion.

**VOTE ON**

<b>MOTION:</b>	In favor:	Benham, Burr, Harris, Record, Salazar, Taylor, Zimmerman
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained	0
	Absent:	0

Motion carried unanimously.

[Board Member Juan Salazar left the meeting at approximately 1:18 p.m.]

**E. Consideration of Granting Initial Certificate for a State Charter to Stamford Big Picture Learning Academy, Stamford**

Vice Chair Benham requested a motion for agenda item VII.E. Board Member Taylor moved, and Board Member Zimmerman seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-66bb of the Connecticut General Statutes, accepts the Commissioner of Education's advisory and grants initial certificate of approval for a state charter to Stamford Big Picture Learning Academy, Stamford, subject to the conditions noted in the Commissioner of Education's January 15, 2025, memorandum to the State Board of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Deputy Commissioner Charles Hewes, Chief Turnaround Officer Melissa Jenkins, together with school officials, Dr. Charlene Reid, Co-Founder of Stamford Big Picture Learning Academy CEO of Excellence Community Schools (ECS), and Matthew Laskowski - Co-Founder of Stamford Big Picture Learning Academy and Interim Associate Superintendent, Stamford Public Schools, presented.

**VOTE ON**

<b>MOTION:</b>	In favor:	Benham, Burr, Harris, Record, Zimmerman
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained	0
	Absent:	Salazar, Taylor

Motion carried unanimously.

**F. Consideration of Granting Initial Certificate for a State Charter to Taino CoLab - New Haven Charter School, New Haven; and Taino CoLab Waterbury Charter School, Waterbury**

Vice Chair Benham requested a motion for agenda item VII.F. Board Member Zimmerman, moved, and Board Member Harris seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-66bb of the Connecticut General Statutes, accepts the Commissioner of Education's

advisory and grants initial certificate of approval for a state charter to Taino CoLAB Academy, New Haven and Taino CoLAB Academy, Waterbury, subject to the conditions noted in the Commissioner of Education's January 15, 2025, memorandum to the State Board of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

[Board Member Taylor returned to the meeting at approximately 1:31 p.m.]

Deputy Commissioner Charles Hewes, Chief Turnaround Officer Melissa Jenkins, together with school officials, Lucas Pimentel, Founding Member, and Dr. Adrian Manuel, Chair, Board of Trustees Organization, CoLAB Education, presented.

The Board members engaged in discussion.

**VOTE ON**

<b>MOTION:</b>	In favor:	Benham, Burr, Harris, Record, Taylor, Zimmerman
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained	0
	Absent:	Salazar

Motion carried unanimously.

**B. Adoption of the Connecticut K-12 World Language Standards**

Vice Chair Benham requested a motion for agenda item VII.B. Board Member Record moved, and Board Member Zimmerman seconded that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-25b of the Connecticut General Statutes, adopts the Connecticut K-12 World Language Standards.

Chief Academic Officer Irene Parisi, and Director of Equity and Languages Dr. Maribel Olivero, presented.

**VOTE ON**

<b>MOTION:</b>	In favor:	Benham, Burr, Harris, Record, Taylor, Zimmerman
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained	0
	Absent:	Salazar

Motion carried unanimously.

**VIII. Financial Matters**

There were no financial matters presented.

**IX. Consent**

There were no Consent items on the agenda.

**X. Committee Reports**

**A. Academic Standards and Assessment**

Vice Chair Benham reported that the committee will be meeting on February 11, 2025.

**B. Accountability and Support**

Committee Chair Benham reported that the committee met on January 9, 2025, and that the committee voted that the next steps would be to bring Bridgeport to the full Board. The committee will be meeting on February 6, 2025.

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

Committee Chair Harris reported that the committee will be meeting on February 25, 2025.

**D. Legislation and Policy Development**

Committee Chair Burr reported that the committee will be meeting today after the adjournment of the Board meeting. Ms. Burr announced that the next ASTE Tour will be held on April 30, 2025, and will start in Bloomfield at the Donald F. Harris, Sr. AgriScience Center.

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

No report was provided.

**F. NASBE**

Vice Chair Benham reported that NASBE will be holding their first member exchange on February 3, 2025.

**G. SERC**

Vice Chair Benham referenced her written report. She encouraged members to view SERC blogs Save-the-Dates, and upcoming events.

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

Vice Chair Benham adjourned the meeting at 2:11 p.m.

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