

## Connecticut State Board of Education Hartford

### State Board of Education Meeting

June 11, 2025

*Draft*

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 11, 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://ct-n.com/ondemand.asp?id=24989>.

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

Vice Chairperson Erin Benham called the meeting to order at 9:35 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.  
Gladys B. Labas  
Sophia Messina, Student Member  
Dr. Alice Pritchard (designee for Christine Benz, Ex Officio)  
Kristen A. Record  
Juan C. Salazar  
Seth D. Zimmerman

Absent: Paula S. Gilberto  
Kelli-Marie Vallieres, Ex Officio

Vice Chair Benham welcomed Dr. Alice Pritchard, Executive Director of the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System (CTECS), as the CTECS representative on the Board.

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

1. Deepa Javeri, of Greenwich, spoke regarding a comprehensive statewide bell-to-bell phone-free school policy legislation. A copy of Ms. Javeri's written testimony is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
2. John Harris, Principal of Naugatuck High School, spoke on the adoption of the bell-to-bell ban of phones at NHS, and in support of bills under consideration to prohibit use of phones during

the school year. A copy of Mr. Harris' written testimony is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.

3. Julia Phillips, Madison, read the written testimony of Katie Swec, MD, FAAP, member of a parent-led organization, Madison Youth Unplugged (UMU), in support of strong school phone policies. A copy of Dr. Swec's written testimony is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
4. Giselle Funchion, of Burlington, spoke to advocate in support of a statewide phone free school policy. A copy of Ms. Funchion's written testimony is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
5. Dr. Claudia Califano, of Guilford, spoke as board certified child, adolescent and adult psychiatrist, that the screen removal is not just social, but neurological. A copy of Dr. Califano's written testimony is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
6. Anita Ford Saunders, co-chair of Capital Prep Middletown Planning Committee, requested that an impartial and independent hearing officer be appointed to address the Capital Prep Petition for Declaratory Ruling. A copy of Ms. Saunders' written testimony is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
7. Dr. Steve Perry, head of schools and founder of Capital Prep, requested that an impartial hearing officer be appointed to address the Capital Prep Petition for Declaratory Ruling.
8. Tom Stringfellow of Manchester, spoke on a variety of topics.
9. Maria Matos, urged the appointment an impartial hearing officer to review the hearing of the Capital Prep Petition for Declaratory Ruling.

Public Participation ended.

Vice Chair Benham provided follow-up comments to the public concerning the testimonies (i) on the cell phone bill legislation that failed in session; and (ii) the followed legal process for charter school funding.

### **III. Executive Session**

There was no executive session held.

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

Vice Chair Benham asked for a motion to move agenda to XI.A., Items for Discussion, to present agenda order. Board Member Record moved, and Board Member Burr seconded, that agenda item XI.A. be moved to present.

## **XI. Items for Discussion**

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

Dr. Melissa Hickey, Director of the Center for Literacy Research and Reading Success, provided an introduction of the two-year SSACE Literacy Project. She highlighted that last year, June 5, 2024, SSACE presented on their ideas with "*Enhancing Literacy Rates in the State of Connecticut.*"

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

The SSACE students presented their two segments of (1) Enhancing Literacy Rates: Peer Mentorship; and (2) Suicide Prevention. A copy of the presentation is in the official file of this meeting.

#### **Enhancing Literacy Rates: Peer Mentorship**

- Charles Fennell – Bloomfield High School
- Joey Darbilli – Bunnell High School
- Chloe Datum – Old Lyme High School
- Ella Bodner – Daniel Hand High School
- Etonam Koranchie – East Hartford High School
- Fiona Lin – Bacon Academy

The students presented the gaps in literacy among youth data; the initial goals of Peer Mentorship; the Q&A teaching method; the process and results of Methodology of Tutoring; and the next steps for statewide implementation.

Board members engaged with questions.

Division Director John Frassinelli, School Health, Nutrition, and Family Services, provided an introduction with student suicide data. He referenced that when presented with the data, the SSACE students immediately went to work on solutions.

#### **Suicide Prevention in Connecticut**

- Jessie Zheng – Amity Regional High School
- Abigail Ambooken – South Windsor High School
- Ali Zareb – South Windsor High School

The students opened with the rate of teen suicides and presented on teen suicide prevention with key proposals and ideas on student-to-faculty mentorship program; the importance improving and instituting summer programs; and the Promotion of a Suicide Prevention Hotline with 988 Lifeline.

The Board members engaged in questions and discussion.

Vice Chair Benham brought the agenda back to agenda item IV.

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

##### **A. May 7, 2025, State Board of Education Meeting**

Board Member Harris moved, and Board Member Labas seconded, that the Board adopt the minutes of the May 7, 2025, State Board of Education Meeting.

##### **VOTE ON**

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

Motion carried unanimously.

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

Vice Chair Benham highlighted the following:

- Attended SERC's Dismantling Systemic Racism Conference on May 9, 2025
- Visited Norwich Free Academy
- Visited Montville Public Schools
- Attended meeting of the Educator Evaluation and Support (EES) Council
- Announced that it is **not** necessary to have a July 2, 2025 SBE meeting
- Announced that August 20, 2025, is the new date for the SBE Retreat
- Announced that October 8, 2025, is our SBE *evening* meeting
- Announced that on June 10, 2025, the Student Members Sreenidi Bala and Sophia Messina officially became high school graduates

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

The Commissioner provide the following updates to the Board.

##### Federal Transition

The Commissioner presented updates on federal transition actions related to education.

##### United States Office of Civil Rights (OCR)

The OCR has notified three CT districts of initiating investigations into possible Title IX violations related to the transgender student athletic policy.

Grant Funding - The Department continues to access funding without interruptions for federal programs administered from both the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Agriculture for Child Nutrition Programs.

COVID Funding - The Department had received liquidation extension approval for the department and districts for utilization of COVID funds. The extension was subsequently rescinded on March 28, 2025. The department has submitted 11 projects that were previously approved.

##### Discretionary Grants

The Department is now receiving preliminary allocations for federal programs we administer, such as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Board members engaged in discussion.

Commissioner Russell-Tucker noted that her written report was in the Board's Supplemental Folders.

The Commissioner highlighted events as follows:

- ❖ Hosted the annual Commissioner's Educator Roundtable with the Talent Office
- ❖ CSDE's Talent Office hosted its first statewide *Educators Rising Signing Day*, at Quinnipiac University
- ❖ Held the Commissioner's Roundtable on Family and Community Engagement
- ❖ Attended the Dual Credit Press Conference with Governor Lamont, Manchester Superintendent Matthew Geary, CT State President John Maduko, and Manchester High School students
- ❖ Team CSDE held a Summer Picnic at Churchill Park in Newington
- ❖ Provided opening remarks for Lieutenant Governor Bysiewicz's Computing Challenge Recognition Event at Quinnipiac University
- ❖ Presented at Harvard University on Chronic Absence and how CT is addressing chronic absenteeism
- ❖ Kari Sullivan attended an event connecting attendance and health at John Hopkins and presented on chronic absenteeism work being done in CT
- ❖ Promoted the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual PK-12 School Staff Appreciation Digital Backpack Initiative

#### Windsor Public School's Mobile Classroom

Chief Academic Officer Irene Parisi presented on the launch of Windsor Public School's Mobile Classroom that travels to different community spaces. She applauded Superintendent Terrell Hill and Assistant Superintendent Noha Abdel-Hady for their innovative approach to bring school to the community.

#### Update on Hartford Public Schools Fiscal Operations

The Commissioner invited Chief Strategic Planning Officer Keith Norton to present to the Board. He summarized that it was initially at the June 5, 2024, meeting that the Board voted and authorized action concerning Hartford Public Schools Financial Management and the three-prong approach: (i) Magnet School Assessment: Optimizing Funds Utilization; (ii) Special Education Services Assessment and Enhancement; and (iii) Improvement of Financial Systems.

Mr. Norton reported that at the March 5, 2025, meeting Public Works, LLC presented its final report and that at the May 7, 2025, meeting, New Solutions K-12 presented key findings of their review of special education in Hartford Public Schools.

#### Magnet School Assessment

The Office of Internal Audit is in the final stage of reviewing data and documents from HPS.

#### Special Education

Division Director Bryan Klimkiewicz reported that the Special Education update encompasses three areas: (1) Professional Development and Technical Assistance; (2) Enhanced Monitoring Activities; and (3) IEP Implementation.

#### Improvement of Financial Systems

Deputy Commissioner Charles Hewes reported on the financial services, and noted that Public Works, LLC colleagues Dr. JoAnn Cox and Ms. Betty Ressel were on standby virtually for Board questions.

Deputy Commissioner Hewes summarized that since March 5, 2025, Public Works, LLC had increased its technical assistance to HPS to target the 46 recommendations outlined in the *Fiscal Services Review Executive Summary of the Final Report*, with a focus on budget creation and grants planning, as well as the purchasing and payroll processes.

#### Update Bridgeport Public Schools – Action to Address District Needs

Deputy Commissioner Charles Hewes referenced the report in the Board's Supplemental Folder and presented an overview of the CSDE intervention commencing with the January 22, 2025, Special State Board of Education meeting, that authorized the Commissioner to take action in order to support the district of Bridgeport. Dr. Hewes then provided an update on the three interventions (1) establishing a Technical Assistance Team; (2) professional development training for the members of the Bridgeport Board of Education; and (3) the opportunity to work with the district with the Commissioner reserving the right to approve of the hiring of a new superintendent.

Deputy Commissioner Hewes highlighted five categories of actions:

1. Financial and Human Resources Procedures and Decision-Making.
2. Facilities and Maintenance.

#### Facilities and Maintenance - Nutrition

Division Director John Frassinelli, School Health, Nutrition, and Family Services, reported on conducting an administrative review of the program in 2024 that looked at policies and procedures and implementation of the federal Child Nutrition Programs. He reported that they conducted two full days of listening sessions with students at six different schools. The students raised issues of concern on menu awareness, limited options, meal quality concerns, portion sizes. Mr. Frassinelli stated that it is important to know that every student in every school in Bridgeport can have breakfast and lunch for free.

3. School Climate.
4. Regular and Special Education Instruction.
5. Operational Efficiency and Effectiveness of the Bridgeport Board of Education is a CABE initiative, and not the Technical Team.

Deputy Commissioner Hewes highlighted the need to fill vacancies within the district, address the budget deficit, and ensure family-focused community engagement opportunities. He referenced the newsletter and partners at SERC and summarized next steps.

Board members engaged in discussion.

#### 2025 Legislative Session Update

The Commissioner invited Chief of Staff and Legislative Liaison Laura Stefon to present a summary on the legislative session and status of legislative bills. Ms. Stefon reported on bills that passed, SBE expansion items included in the budget, and major bills that did not pass.

The Commissioner stated the need for the Department to know and be aware of every task assigned to the Department from any related bills that were passed from session.

The Commissioner ended the Agency Update

Vice Chair Benham recessed the meeting at approximately 12:45 a.m.

Vice Chair Benham reconvened the meeting at approximately 1:30 p.m.

Present: Erin D. Benham, Vice Chairperson  
Sreenidi Bala, Student Member  
Bonnie E. Burr  
Dr. Aynsley Diamond (designee for Terrence Cheng, Ex Officio)  
Gladys B. Labas  
Sophia Messina, Student Member  
Dr. Alice Pritchard (designee for Christine Benz, Ex Officio)  
Kristen A. Record  
Juan C. Salazar  
Seth D. Zimmerman

Absent: Paula S. Gilberto  
Donald F. Harris, Jr.  
Kelli-Marie Vallieres, Ex Officio

Vice Chair Benham asked for a motion to move agenda items VII.D., VII.E., and VII.F. to present on the agenda at this time. Board Member Zimmerman moved, and Board Member Record seconded, that agenda items be moved to present.

## **VII. Items Requiring Action**

### **D. Recognition of State Board Member Dr. Juan C. Salazar**

Vice Chair Benham asked for a motion on agenda item VII.D. Board Member Record moved, and Board Member Zimmerman seconded. Vice Chair Benham read the certificate of recognition into the minutes as follows:

Certificate Of Recognition in honor of Dr. Juan C. Salazar who has served with distinction as a member of the Connecticut State Board of Education, and with appreciation for his significant and lasting contributions to the State Board of Education and selfless dedication to Connecticut's children.

Approved unanimously this eleventh day of June, Two Thousand Twenty-Five.

#### **VOTE ON**

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Salazar thanked the Commissioner, the Governor, VC Benham, the SDE Team and SBE colleagues. He stated that it has been an honor to have served and see how students and families of Connecticut are supported.

**E. Recognition of State Board Student Member Sreenidi Bala**

Vice Chair Benham asked for a motion on agenda item VII.E. Board Member Record moved, and Board Member Labas 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 Sreenidi Bala of Farmington to the State Board of Education for a one-year term commencing August 13, 2024; and

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

Approved unanimously this eleventh day of June, Two Thousand Twenty-Five.

**VOTE ON**

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**F. Recognition of State Board Student Member Sophia Messina**

Vice Chair Benham asked for a motion on agenda item VII.F. Board Member Labas moved, and Board Member Burr 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 Sophia Messina of Woodbridge to the State Board of Education for a one-year term commencing August 13, 2024; and

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

Approved unanimously this eleventh day of June, Two Thousand Twenty-Five.



VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**A. Recognition of GED Scholar Award Winner**

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

**Whereas**, Jeremy Matson, of Norfolk, has demonstrated exceptional skill and proficiency in the four subject areas of the high school equivalency examination by attaining a total score of 755 on the GED® tests in 2024; 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 Jeremy Matson 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, Labas, Record, Salazar, Zimmerman
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	0
	Absent:	Gilberto, Harris

Motion carried unanimously.

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

Vice Chair Benham asked for a motion on agenda item VII.B. Board Member Labas moved, and Board Member Burr 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:

Alden Cost	Middletown Adult Education
Celia Miguel	East Hartford Adult Education
Yessica Moraes	Naugatuck Adult Education
Stephanie Moril	Rose City Learning Center
Jesther Rosa	Waterbury 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, Labas, Record, Salazar, Zimmerman
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained	0
	Absent:	Gilberto, Harris

Motion carried unanimously.

**C. Recognition of Career and Technical Education Student Organizations**

Vice Chair Benham asked for a motion on agenda item VII.C. Board Member Salazar moved, and Board Member Zimmerman 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), Ridgefield High School;
- Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), Branford High School;
- FFA (formerly known as Future Farmers of America), Glastonbury High School;
- Future Health Professionals (HOSA), Farmington High School;
- SkillsUSA, Oliver Wolcott Technical High School; and
- Technology Student Association (TSA), Valley Regional High School

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Chief Academic Officer Irene Parisi and Associate Education Consultant Sean McKeown, presented to the Board.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**G. Report on Agricultural Science and Technology Education Graduates  
Five Years After Graduation**

Vice Chair Benham asked for a motion on agenda item VII.G. Board Member Record moved, and Board Member Labas seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-65a(b) of the Connecticut General Statutes, receives the "Report on Agricultural Science and Technology Education Graduates Five Years after Graduation."

Chief Academic Officer Irene Parisi and Education Consultant Harold Mackin, with guest Michael Wolf, Department of Agriculture, presented to the Board.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**H. Approval of Commissioner's Network Turnaround Plan: Prendergast School, Ansonia**

Vice Chair Benham asked for a motion on agenda item VII.H. Board Member Labas moved, and Board Member Record seconded, that, pursuant to Section 10-223h of the Connecticut General Statutes, the State Board of Education adopts and approves the Commissioner's Network Turnaround Plan for Prendergast School in Ansonia, subject to the conditions noted in the Commissioner of Education's June 11, 2025, 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 Turnaround Officer Dr. Melissa Jenkins, and Bureau Chief Jennifer Webb, presented.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**I. Approval of Commissioner's Network Turnaround Plan: Crosby High School, Waterbury**

Vice Chair Benham asked for a motion on agenda item VII.I. Board Member Record 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 Commissioner's Network Turnaround Plan for Crosby High School in Waterbury, subject to the conditions noted in the Commissioner of Education's June 11, 2025, 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 Turnaround Officer Dr. Melissa Jenkins, and Bureau Chief Jennifer Webb, presented.

**VOTE ON**

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**J. Approval of Commissioner's Network Turnaround Plan: John F. Kennedy High School, Waterbury**

Vice Chair Benham asked for a motion on agenda item VII.J. Board Member Labas moved, and Board Member Record seconded, that, pursuant to Section 10-223h of the Connecticut General Statutes, the State Board of Education adopts and approves the Commissioner's Network Turnaround Plan for John F. Kennedy High School in Waterbury, subject to the conditions noted in the Commissioner of Education's June 11, 2025, 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 Turnaround Officer Dr. Melissa Jenkins, and Bureau Chief Jennifer Webb, presented.

**VOTE ON**

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**K. Approval of Commissioner's Network Turnaround Plan: Teachers' Memorial Global Studies Magnet Middle School, Norwich**

Vice Chair Benham asked for a motion on agenda item VII.K. Board Member Labas moved, and Board Member Record seconded, that, pursuant to Section 10-223h of the Connecticut General

Statutes, the State Board of Education adopts and approves the Commissioner's Network Turnaround Plan for Teachers' Memorial Global Studies Magnet Middle School in Norwich, subject to the conditions noted in the Commissioner of Education's June 11, 2025, 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 Turnaround Officer Dr. Melissa Jenkins, and Bureau Chief Jennifer Webb, presented.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**L. Receipt of Racial Imbalance Report**

Vice Chair Benham asked for a motion on agenda item VII.L. Board Member Record moved, and Board Member Zimmerman 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 2024-25 school year.

Legal Director Mike McKeon, and Staff Attorney Laura Anastasio, presented.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**M. Adoption of State Board of Education Committee Appointments: Paula S. Gilberto**

Vice Chair Benham asked for a motion on agenda item VII.M. Board Member Record moved, and Board Member Zimmerman seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Article II, Section 4, of its Bylaws, approves the following assignment to the State Board of Education standing committees and appoints Paula S. Gilberto to serve on the Academic Standards and Assessment Committee and the Legislation and Policy Development Committee, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**N. Adoption of State Board of Education Committee Appointments: Gladys B. Labas**

Vice Chair Benham asked for a motion on agenda item VII.N. Board Member Record moved, and Board Member Burr seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Article II, Section 4, of its Bylaws, approves the following assignment to the State Board of Education standing committees and appoints Gladys B. Labas to serve on the Academic Standards and Assessment Committee and the Legislation and Policy Development Committee, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

**VOTE ON**

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**O. Adoption of 2026 Meeting Schedule**

Vice Chair Benham asked for a motion on agenda item VII.O. Board Member Record moved, and Board Member Zimmerman seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 1-225 of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the 2026 schedule of regular meeting dates, as follows:

January 14, 2026  
February 11, 2026  
March 4, 2026  
April 1, 2026  
May 13, 2026  
June 3, 2026  
July 1, 2026 (Tentative)  
August 5, 2026 (Retreat)  
September 2, 2026  
October 7, 2026 (evening meeting)  
November 4, 2026  
December 2, 2026

**VOTE ON**

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**VII. Financial Matters**

Chief Fiscal Officers Jessica Brunetti and Roger Person presented the process to close out the fiscal year.

## **IX. Consent Agenda**

There were no Consent items on the agenda.

## **X. Committee Reports**

### **A. Academic Standards and Assessment**

Vice Chair Benham reported that the committee met on May 20, 2025, and Chief Parisi provided an overview of the committee's work and curriculum. She noted that Board Members Gilberto and Labas will join that committee.

### **B. Accountability and Support**

Committee Chair Benham reported that the committee met May 15, 2025. The committee reviewed the four Commissioner Network schools on today's agenda. The committee will meet on June 18, 2025.

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

Board Member Burr reported on behalf of Committee Chair Harris that the committee last met on June 3, 2025, and that the committee will meet on August 26, 2025.

### **D. Legislation and Policy Development**

Committee Chair Burr reported that the committee will meet after the adjournment of today's Board meeting.

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

Dr. Alice Pritchard reported for CTECS. She requested that the SBE consider CTECS when discussing districts. She highlighted the recognition of 2025 SkillsUSA CTECS Team that would be going to the national championships.

### **F. NASBE**

Vice Chair Benham reported we continue with our area membership engagements for federal updates.

### **G. SERC**

Vice Chair Benham referenced her written report. She noted an upcoming SERC board meeting to discuss SERC's financial standing.

Vice Chair Benham asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Board Member Burr moved, and Board Member Record seconded the motion to adjourn.

Vice Chair Benham adjourned the meeting at 2:49 p.m.

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