

Connecticut State Board Of Education Hartford

Minutes Special State Board of Education Meeting

August 20, 2025
(Approved September 3, 2025)

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State and posted on the agency's website, the members of State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, August 20 2025, at the Norwich Free Academy, Latham Science and Information Center, Board Room 1101, 305 Broadway, Norwich, Connecticut. Public access to the building allowed for public attendance at the meeting.

The meeting can be viewed here: <https://youtube.com/live/GjjQGolxKic?feature=share>

I. Call to Order

Vice Chair Benham called the special meeting to order at 9:14 a.m.

Present: Erin D. Benham, Vice Chairperson
Samarth Basanth, Student Member (newly appointed)
Bonnie E. Burr
Paula S. Gilberto
Donald F. Harris, Jr.
Gladys B. Labas
Hansika Lenkala, Student Member (newly appointed)
Dr. Aynsley Diamond (designee for Dr. John Maduko, Ex Officio)
Dr. John Maduko, Ex Officio
Dr. Alice M. Pritchard (designee for Dr. Christine Benz, Ex Officio)
Kristen A. Record
Kelli-Marie Vallieres, Ex Officio
Seth D. Zimmerman

Absent:

II. Public Participation

There were no participants for public participation.

III. Items Requiring Action

A. Connecticut Technical Education and Career System Section 10-4b Complaint Final Report

Vice Chair Benham asked for a motion on agenda item III.A. Board Member Record moved, and Board Member Harris seconded, that in accordance with Section 10-4b of the Connecticut General Statutes, as well as Section 10-4b-8 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, the State Board of Education ["SBE"] hereby resolves as follows: 1) There is reasonable cause to believe that the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System

(CTECS) failed to implement the educational interests of the State of Connecticut during, at least, the 2024-2025 school year; 2) CTECS has implemented measures to redress and cure its actions during the 2024-2025 school year pertaining to student admission and retention; 3) based upon the foregoing two findings, CTECS is directed to provide the CSDE's Office of Legal and Governmental Affairs with quarterly updates during the 2025-2026 school year regarding admissions, student withdrawals, and in-year Planning and Placement Team and Section 504 Team decisions that would result in the removal of special education and/or Section 504 students from CTECS; and 4) the current Section 10-4b complaint remain open and active until such time either during or following the 2025-2026 school year the CSDE can provide a follow-up report to the State Board, recommending either the closure of this matter, continued monitoring, or the referral of CTECS to a panel of the State Board for further proceedings, including an inquiry.

Director of Legal and Governmental Affairs Mike McKeon, presented.

Commissioner Russell-Tucker provided an introduction of Executive Director Dr. Alice Pritchard, Connecticut Technical Education and Career System (CTECS).

Dr. Pritchard thanked Director McKeon and the Board for the report and their efforts. Dr. Pritchard highlighted the implementation of the blind lottery, and Superintendent Michael Crocco joining the CTECS team. She stated that the CTECS team is focused on moving forward in the right direction and building relationships with districts.

The Board members engaged in discussion. Dr. Pritchard responded to questions.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chair Benham introduced the two newly-appointed student members (i) Samarth Basanth, and (ii) Hansika Lenkala.

Vice Chair Benham welcomed newly-appointed Interim Chancellor Dr. John Maduko, Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) system, as an ex officio member on the State Board.

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

Vice Chair Benham adjourned the special meeting at 9:45 a.m.

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