

**Connecticut State Board of Education
Finance, Audit and Budget Committee Meeting – Draft Minutes of 3/11/2026**

**Wednesday, March 11, 2026
450 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, CT
2nd Floor North - Meeting Room A**

Draft Minutes (Subject to change)

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

Others Present: Keith Norton, Acting Interim Director for Office of Internal Audits
Justin Cleary, Supervising Accounts Examiner
Kerrian Denham, Administrative Assistant, Office of Internal Audits

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am by Chairperson, Donald Harris.

I. Approval of Minutes – 11/18/25

A motion was made by Donald Harris, seconded by Bonnie Burr, and unanimously adopted to approve the minutes of the Finance, Audit and Budget Committee meeting held on 11/18/25.

Vote: Yes: 4

No: 0

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

Keith Norton updated the Committee on the promotion of Justin Cleary to supervising accounts examiner from associate accounts examiner to ensure smooth workflow. He also shared that we are collaborating with IT to modernize the single audit database. We are working to digitize files for efficiency and to maximize usage of office space.

Justin Cleary gave an overview of the status of activities. The department continues to function progressively.

IV. Financial Matters (Division of Fiscal and Internal Operations)

Jessica Brunetti briefly discussed the budget process to date, including the Governor's budget proposal, Appropriations Committee hearing, and the working group sessions. The proposal to provide breakfast for the students of Connecticut raised several questions within the committee, and the potential benefits to the families of the state of such an undertaking were highlighted. Jessica is to collaborate with Ajit Gopalakrishnan and John Fransinelli to determine if data is available that reflects successful impact of proposal on existing districts who are currently providing free breakfast to their students. There were questions regarding the \$12M cut for magnet schools in FY27, and it was explained that this cut is a hold on new funding, not an actual decrease. The Appropriations Committee requested the cost of funding the five new charter schools that were granted initial charters by the Board, and that would be approximately ten million initial year funding. It was mentioned that the current ECS formula is also being reviewed. The two models that are proposed are a fixed rate or one using CPI related rates.

Roger Persson shared information on collaboration efforts with CASBO to discuss proposed changes and updates to eGMS, and the pros of addressing issues and possible costs. Research is ongoing. Hiring processes are in motion for several vacancies, including the new rate setting unit. There was a brief discussion on these endeavors, including the use of temporary staffing as an interim solution for certain positions.

Additionally, there were discussions on the procurement plan where Department divisions need to review their contractual needs for the next three years. Also discussed was the new indirect cost plan for districts that will allow for easier, more automated submissions.

At 10:50am a motion was made by Donald Harris to adjourn the FABC mtg and seconded by Bonnie Burr. The meeting was unanimously adjourned.

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