

IV.A.

Connecticut State Board of Education Hartford

State Board of Education Meeting

June 3, 2026

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 3, 2026, 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://www.youtube.com/live/Ss2Ugt6ekS4?si=upiUmQxtItyBsc7P>

I. Call to Order

Vice Chairperson Erin Benham called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Present: Erin D. Benham, Vice Chairperson
Samanth Basanth, Student Member
Bonnie E. Burr (not present at the start of the meeting)*
Andrew J. Carlson
Paula S. Gilberto
Donald F. Harris, Jr.
Gladys B. Labas
Hansika Lenkala, Student Member
Evan Pitkoff
Dr. Alice Pritchard, designee for CTECS
Kristen A. Record
Seth D. Zimmerman

Absent: Dr. Aynsley Diamond, designee for CSCU
Kelli-Marie Vallieres, Ex Officio

II. Public Participation

1. Javon Sokolovic, of Bridgeport, spoke on the impact of decisions for funding Bridgeport's fiscal year 2028 and the outcomes on funding of permanent issues.

2. Joseph Sokolovic, Vice Chair of the Bridgeport Board of Education, stated that he was speaking in his individual capacity, of Bridgeport, spoke on the impact of setting recommendations for funding Bridgeport's fiscal year 2028 and the outcomes on funding of permanent issues.
3. Sarah Turner, of New London, spoke regarding CT's statute for a school governance council, her request to be supported, and the need for clarity on the implementation of New London's governance council to be in alignment. A copy of Ms. Turner's written statement is in the official file of this meeting
4. Jazmine Jones, spoke to advocate in support of agenda item VIII.F., Renewal of State Charter: Amistad Academy, New Haven.
5. Tiffany Johnson, New Haven, spoke in support of the renewal of agenda item VIII.F., Renewal of State Charter: Amistad Academy, New Haven.
6. Tanisha Edwards, of West Haven, spoke to advocate for herself in support of agenda item VIII.D., Consideration for Approval of Certification for Tanasia Edwards **#165** Comprehensive Special Education, PreK-12. A copy of Ms. Edwards's written statement is in the official file of this meeting.

[Board Member Bonnie Burr arrived at approximately 9:51 a.m. to the meeting.]

7. Donna Timmune, of New Haven, spoke to advocate for Tanisha Edwards in support for agenda item VIII.D., Consideration for Approval of Certification for Tanasia Edwards **#165** Comprehensive Special Education, PreK-12. A copy of Ms. Timmune's written statement is in the official file of this meeting.

Public Participation ended.

III. Executive Session

There was no executive session held.

IV. Consideration of Minutes:

A. May 13, 2026, State Board of Education Meeting

Board Member Harris moved, and Board Member Burr seconded, that the Board adopt the minutes of the May 13, 2026, State Board of Education Meeting.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

V. Report of the Chair

Vice Chair Benham highlighted the following:

- Board Member Bonnie Burr attended the 2026 Connecticut FFA State Convention, held at Nonnewaug High School, on Saturday, May 30, 2026
 - Ms. Burr presented that the impressive convention had a turnout of 700 attendees and showcased a diverse range of competitions, where students presented on a range of topics. She commended the talents of young people gathered engaging in discussions about agriculture, natural resources, food and nutrition.
- Invited Board members to attend CT's Second Annual [Blue Ribbon Schools Recognition Ceremony](#) being held on Tuesday, June 9, 2026, at Conard High School in West Hartford.
- Updated Board members that the next SBE meeting will be the Retreat on August 5, 2026, at H.C. Wilcox Technical High School in Meriden.

VI. Committee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessment

Committee Chair Gilberto reported that the committee met on May 19, 2026, and that the committee was provided with updates and discussion on (i) Financial Literacy, (ii) Model Curriculum, and (iii) Right to Read overview.

B. Accountability and Support

Committee Chair Benham reported that the committee met on May 20, 2026, and reviewed and received updates on two charter schools. The committee will next meet on June 17, 2026.

C. Finance, Audit, and Budget

Committee Chair Harris reported that the committee last met on May 6, 2026, and that the committee was busy addressing audits.

D. Legislation and Policy Development

Committee Chair Burr reported that the committee bypassed holding a meeting last month as Laura Stefon had presented to the Board. She further reported that the committee would not meet today due to the length of today's Board agenda.

E. Connecticut Technical Education and Career System Board

Vice Chair Benham reported that there was no CTECS report for this meeting.

F. Connecticut State Colleges and Universities

Vice Chair Benham reported that there was no CSCU report for this meeting.

F. NASBE

Vice Chair Benham thanked the members who attended the NASBE Exchange. She highlighted matters discussed on the Northeast Exchange. She reported that the next Member Exchange will be June 8, 2026.

G. SERC

Vice Chair Benham referenced the SERC report. She noted that SERC continues to do its interesting work.

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 to move agenda to XI.A., Items for Discussion, to present agenda order. Board Member Zimmerman moved, and Board Member Record seconded it. The Board unanimously agreed in favor of agenda item XI.A.

XI. Items for Discussion**A. End-of-Year Presentation by the State Student Advisory Council on Education (SSACE)**

Commissioner Russell-Tucker invited Chief Academic Officer Irene Parisi, who worked with the SSACE students to join the table, and welcomed the students by noting the gratification to have student voice in the room for their Math presentation.

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

The SSACE students presented their Math topic in segments of (1) Math Foundation and Math Applications, and (2) Artificial Intelligence in Connecticut Education. A copy of the presentation is in the official file of this meeting.

Math Foundations and Math Applications

- Tasneem Musa - New Haven Academy
- Jermaine Brown – Academy of Computer Science and Engineering
- Kassie Bailey – Woodland Regional High School
- Adam Chouiki - West Haven High School
- Olivia Cusa – Masuk High School
- Kayla Lin – E. O. Smith High School

The students presented on exploring the challenges and opportunities in teaching and acquiring foundational math skills, as well as the goal of improving math so that every student in CT can acquire a strong mathematical foundational skills at a young age.

The Board members commended the students and engaged in questions.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Connecticut Education

- Jessie Zheng – Amity Regional High School
- Ella Bodner – Daniel Hand High School
- Madison –
- Siyona Dutta – Weston High School
- Makayla Fletcher – Hartford Public High School
- Victoria Melzen – Farmington High School
- Etonam Koranchie – East Hartford High School
- Brittany Jabber – Farmington High School
- Ainsley Rinoski – Old Lyme High School

The students opened with an overview of the SSACE AI Committee research, and then presented on the positives and negatives on the rise of AI in education and what changes they think should possibly be made. They presented AI with five subgroups of (i) Academic Integrity and Ethics, (ii) AI for Learning, (iii) Future Readiness, (iv) Personalization, and (iv) being their proposals for changes in AI.

Vice Chair Benham praised the fact that the presentation was based on elementary level.

The Board members commended the students and engaged in questions and discussion.

The Commissioner thanked SSACE for the presentation shared with Board.

She highlighted that Governor Lamont had signed Public Act 26-15, which is legislation establishing youth online safety protection and regulations over Artificial Intelligence, and spoke on digital literacy and safety.

Commissioner Russell-Tucker recognized Cherese Odukwe, Director of Student Activities, CT Association of Schools (CAS) and thanked her for the work each year for the SSACE topic(s) to explore.

Vice Chair Benham followed-up to appreciate and acknowledge Ms. Odukwe for sharing and providing information on the State Student Advisory Council that was shared with NASBE (National Association of Board of Education).

Vice Chair Benham resumed the regular agenda back to agenda item V., Report of the Commissioner.

VII. Report of the Commissioner and Agency Update

The Commissioner referenced her written report and highlighted the following:

- ❖ The CSDE released the High-Quality Special Education Incentives Grant program for local and regional boards of education to support in-district or regional special education programming and services for students with disabilities.
- ❖ Attended the joint meeting with the Connecticut Advisory Council for Teacher Professional Standards (CACTPS) and the Connecticut Advisory Council for Teacher Professional Standards (CACAPS) to discuss updates to the CSDE's recruitment and retention efforts.
- ❖ The CSDE announced to districts two new grant funding opportunities for the 2026-27 school year:
 - *Nita M. Lowery 21st Century Community Learning Centers* provides funding (federal) for programs that provide students with after school opportunities.
 - *Learner Engagement and Attendance Program (LEAP)* is a relationship-based home visiting model designed to reduce chronic absenteeism by strengthening family-school partnerships.
- ❖ Joined Governor Lamont to announce the six schools in the state that were selected by the CSDE as 2026 Connecticut Blue Ribbon Schools. The Commissioner read aloud the six schools.

- ❖ Participated in the first meeting of the *Connecticut Career Pathways Commission*.
 - Highlighted that Vice Chair Benham was a member.
 - Directed the Board to the CSDE Partnerships and Resources document to form the commission.
- ❖ Team CSDE hosted an in-person All-Staff Gathering to connect, share perspectives, and reflect on how our work aligns with the seven focus areas and the SBE Comprehensive Plan.
- ❖ Developed and shared a video in honor of *Teacher Appreciation Week* to show the gratitude we hold for Connecticut teachers.
- ❖ Launched the 5th Annual *School Staff Appreciation Digital Backpack* program.
- ❖ Joined Governor Lamont, Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz, and other state leaders to announce the establishment of the Blue-Ribbon Commission on K-12 Education Funding and Accountability.

Connecticut Curriculum Teacher Leader Fellowship

The Commissioner invited Academic Officer Irene Parisi to present. She reported that the session of the Fellowship gathered educators in teams for collaboration, learning, and leadership development focused on increasing access to high-quality curriculum. She highlighted the creation of the educators' Curriculum Vision Boards of systems.

Update on Hartford Public Schools Fiscal Operations

Chief Strategic Planning Officer Keith Norton referenced the HPS report in the Board's packet.

Fiscal and Grants Management

Mr. Norton presented that on April 17, 2026, the CSDE entered into agreement with CliftonLarsonAllen LLP (CLA) to conduct a compilation of forecasted statement of revenue and expenditures (Phase I) followed by a forensic audit of HPS's FY 2024, FY 2025, and FY 2026 budgets (Phase II).

Mr. Norton concluded that CLA revealed that HPS's forecasted deficit of \$22 million was increased by \$7.5 million of expenditures in three major areas not accounted by HPS that resulted in a \$7.5 million deficit increase to the \$22 million for a total deficit amount of \$29.5 million.

The Board engaged in questions.

Update Bridgeport Public Schools – Action to Address District Needs

Deputy Commissioner Charles Hewes presented that since March 2026, the CSDE has supported the Bridgeport Board of Education in understanding the required actions necessary for opening of the permanent superintendent position.

Dr. Hewes highlighted that as of June 1, 2026, the BBE has updated or revised its By-laws and Administration policies specially related to oversight of the superintendent's primary role, and that the chair has notified the CSDE that they had selected a vendor. He concluded that when BBE enters into

a contract, the Commissioner of Education will financially support the district with funding for the search.

Update on Special Education Systems Review – Strengthening CT’s Special Education System

Division Director Bryan Klimkiewicz, Special Education, provided an overview of the activities related to the WestEd report and their recommendations. Mr. Klimkiewicz highlighted the competitive grants rolled out to enhance capacity programming and services in the district.

Bureau Chief Katherine Matz, Special Education, presented on activities related to the complaint infrastructure, and the continued achievement of 90% compliance. She highlighted engagement with WestEd on process mapping and talent mapping activities.

CT Fresh Ed Compass

Division Director John Frassinelli, School Health, Nutrition, and Family Services, presented. He reported that the state brand, CT FreshEd, was developed in partnership with the University of Connecticut to improve the Farm-to-School efforts and relationships in schools and childhood programs. He highlighted that the CT Fresh Compass ensures that local CT schools have a statewide view of Farm-to-School operational activities. He highlighted the three focus components to support the continuous food improvement are (i) the Cafeteria, (ii) the Classroom, and (iii) the Communities.

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

The Commissioner ended the Agency Update

VIII. Items Requiring Action

A. Recognition of GED Scholar Award Winner

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

Whereas, Brian Huang, of Fairfield, has demonstrated exceptional skill and proficiency in the four subject areas of the high school equivalency examination by attaining a total score of 750 on the GED® tests in 2025; 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 Brian Huang 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, Carlson, Gilberto, Harris, Labas, Pitkoff, Record, Zimmerman
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	0
	Absent:	0

Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chair Benham then asked for motions on agenda items VIII.B. and VIII.C., at this time. Board Member Gilberto moved, and Board Member Record seconded, the motions for VIII.B., and VIII.C.

B. Recognition of Career and Technical Education Student Organizations

The motion for VIII.B. was moved by Board Member Gilberto, and seconded by Board Member Record, 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), Fairfield Warde High School
- Educators Rising (EdRising), New Britain High School
- Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Bunnell High School
- Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), Windsor High School
- FFA (formerly known as Future Farmers of America), Nonnewaug High School
- Future Health Professionals (HOSA), Farmington High School
- Technology Student Association (TSA), Valley Regional High School

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Chief Academic Officer Irene Parisi presented to the Board, and also recognized the current career and technical unit and Program Manager for CTSOs, Associate Education Consultant Sean McKeown.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

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

The motion for VIII.C. was moved by Board Member Gilberto, and seconded by Board Member Record, 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:

Lexi Aschettino	New Haven Adult Education
Xue Qing Liu Chen	Norwich Adult Education
Lonnie Lee	Wallingford Adult Education
Hanna Kostiana	Literacy Volunteers at Family Centers
Mehwish Zeshan	EdAdvance

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, Carlson, Gilberto, Harris, Labas, Pitkoff, Record, Zimmerman
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	0
	Absent:	0

Motion carried unanimously.

**D. Consideration for Approval of Certification for Tanasia Edwards #165
Comprehensive Special Education, PreK-12**

Vice Chair Benham asked for a motion on agenda item VIII.D. Board Member Labas moved, and Board Member Burr seconded, that pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) Section 10-145bb(b), the State Board of Education determines that Tanasia Edwards presents a combination of education and experience that is the equivalent of the education and experience required under Section 10-145bb(b) and thereby waives the requirements set forth in C.G.S. Section 10-145bb(a) and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action to issue an Initial Educator Certificate endorsed for Comprehensive Special Education, PreK–12 (#165).

Chief Talent Officer Dr. Shuana Tucker, and Education Consultant Dr. Kaylan Ricciardi, presented.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

E. Adoption of CEPCB's 2026 Proposal Regarding Sunsetting Regulations

Vice Chair Benham asked for a motion on agenda item VIII.E. Board Member Burr moved, and Board Member Harris seconded, that in accordance with Section 10-150c(b)(1) of the Connecticut General Statutes, the State Board of Education hereby approves the Board's proposed revisions to the implementing regulations under Section 10-145d of the Connecticut General Statutes as recommended by the Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Jennifer Rodriguez, Chair, Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board (CEPCB), presented.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chair Benham recessed the meeting at approximately 12:27 p.m. for a 30-minutes break.

Vice Chair Benham reconvened the meeting at approximately 1:07 p.m.

Present: Erin D. Benham, Vice Chairperson
Samanth Basanth, Student Member
Bonnie E. Burr (not present at the start of the meeting)*
Andrew J. Carlson
Paula S. Gilberto
Donald F. Harris, Jr.
Gladys B. Labas
Hansika Lenkala, Student Member
Evan Pitkoff
Dr. Alice Pritchard, designee for CTECS
Kristen A. Record
Seth D. Zimmerman

Absent: Dr. Aynsley Diamond, designee for CSCU
Kelli-Marie Vallieres, Ex Officio

F. Renewal of State Charter: Amistad Academy, New Haven

Vice Chair Benham asked for a motion on agenda item VIII.F. Board Member Gilberto moved, and Board Member Zimmerman seconded, that pursuant to Section 10-66bb(g) of the Connecticut General Statutes, the State Board of Education renews the charter of Amistad Academy from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029, subject to the Commissioner's June 3, 2026, memorandum to the State Board of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Chief Turnaround Officer Dr. Melissa Jenkins, and school officials Lauren Raimondi, Principal, Elementary School, Jasmine Watt, Principal, High School, Qiana Dinkins, Principal, Middle School, and Alex Guzhnay, Governing Council, presented.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

G. Renewal of State Charter: Elm City College Preparatory, New Haven

Vice Chair Benham asked for a motion on agenda item VIII.F. Board Member Labas moved, and Board Member Zimmerman seconded, that pursuant to Section 10-66bb(g) of the Connecticut General Statutes, the State Board of Education renews the charter of Elm City College Preparatory from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029, subject to the Commissioner's June 3, 2026, memorandum to the State Board of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Chief Turnaround Officer Dr. Melissa Jenkins, and school officials Latisha Doubles, Governing Council, Serena Johnson, Principal, Elementary School, and Leisel Renaud, Principal, Middle School, presented.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

H. Renewal of State Charter: Achievement First Bridgeport Academy, Bridgeport

Vice Chair Benham asked for a motion on agenda item VIII.F. Board Member Burr moved, and Board Member Gilberto seconded, that pursuant to Section 10-66bb(g) of the Connecticut General Statutes, the State Board of Education renews the charter of Elm City College Preparatory from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029, subject to the Commissioner's June 3, 2026, memorandum to the State Board of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Chief Turnaround Officer Dr. Melissa Jenkins, and school officials Stephanie Fox, Principal, Achievement First Bridgeport Middle School, Shalia Garnett, Rajeev Lakra Governing Board Chair, and Principal, Achievement First Bridgeport Elementary School, presented.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

I. Receipt of Racial Imbalance Report

Vice Chair Benham asked for a motion on agenda item VIII.L. Board Member Burr moved, and Board Member Labas 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 2025-26 school year.

Legal Director Mike McKeon, and Staff Attorney Laura Anastasio, presented. The Commissioner invited Chief of Staff/Legislative Liaison Laura Stefon to present based on her active participation with the session.

The Commissioner provided clarification on the change in the moratorium year date.

Discussion followed regarding the history of schools on the report, responses of the districts, and mechanisms available to the Board to address.

Discussion followed on the legislation for a Racial Imbalance Study without appropriations resources for the study.

Commissioner Russell-Tucker reaffirmed her commitment for due diligence for the Racial Imbalance Study.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chair Benham asked for motions on agenda items VIII.J., and VIII.K., at this time. Board Member Harris moved, and Board Member Record seconded, the motions for VIII.J and VIII.K. the motions were read into the record of the minutes by Vice Chair Benham as follows:

J. Recognition of State Board Student Member Samarth Basanth

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 Samarth Basanth of South Windsor to the State Board of Education for a one-year term commencing August 18, 2025; and

Whereas, During his tenure, Mr. Basanth 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 Samarth Basanth its appreciation for his commitment to educational excellence in Connecticut public schools and best wishes for success in his future endeavors.

Approved unanimously this third day of June, Two Thousand Twenty-Six.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

K. Recognition of State Board Student Member Hansika Lenkala

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 Hansika Lenkala of East Granby to the State Board of Education for a one-year term commencing August 18; 2025 and

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

Approved unanimously this third day of June, Two Thousand Twenty-Six.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

L. Adoption of 2027 Meeting Schedule

Vice Chair Benham asked for a motion on agenda item VIII.L. Board Member Zimmerman moved, and Board Member Labas seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 1-225 of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the 2027 schedule of regular meeting dates, as follows:

January 13, 2027
March 3, 2027
April 7, 2027
May 5, 2027
June 2, 2027
July 7, 2027 (Tentative)
August 4, 2027 (Retreat)
September 1, 2027
October 6, 2027 (evening meeting)
November 3, 2027
December 1, 2027

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Vice Chair Benham provided a brief review of the 2027 schedule and highlighted the explanation for the intentional skipping of a scheduled February meeting.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

This was followed with discussion on the July ("tentative") meeting, August retreat, and October evening meeting.

Commissioner Russell-Tucker highlighted to the Board confirmation of the emailed invitations for Blue Ribbon Schools celebration.

IX. Financial Matters

There were no Financial Matters items on the agenda.

X. Consent Agenda

There were no Consent items on the agenda.

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

Vice Chair Benham adjourned the meeting at 2:33 p.m.

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