

IV.B.

Connecticut State Board Of Education Hartford

Minutes Special State Board of Education Meeting

August 5, 2026

Draft Minutes

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 5 2026, at the H.C. Wilcox Technical High School, 298 Oregon Road, Meriden, Connecticut. Public access to the building allowed for public attendance at the meeting.

The meeting can be viewed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/pnEI2fDHQkA?si=Rw9crcgdghQeFROv>

I. Call to Order

Vice Chair Benham called the special meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

Present: Erin D. Benham, Vice Chairperson
Bonnie E. Burr
Shepard Fisher, Student Member (newly appointed)
Paula S. Gilberto
Donald F. Harris, Jr.
Gladys B. Labas
Evan Pitkoff
Dr. Alice M. Pritchard, designee for CTECS
Shruti Shah, Student Member (newly appointed)
Kristen A. Record (virtual attendance)*
Kelli-Marie Vallieres, Ex Officio

Absent: Andrew J. Carlson
Dr. Aynsley Diamond, designee for CSCU
Seth D. Zimmerman

II. Public Participation

There were no participants for public participation.

Commissioner Russell-Tucker provided a historical background introduction that referenced the *2023 General's Advisory on Social Media and Youth Mental Health*, and the *2025 Surgeon General's Warning on the Harms of Screen Use*.

III. Items Requiring Action

A. Position Statement and Policy Guidance Personal and Purposeful Technology Use in Connecticut Schools *Impact of Cell Phones, Social Media, and Screen Time on Student Learning and Mental Health*

Vice Chair Benham asked for a motion on agenda item III.A. Board Member Burr moved, and Board Member Harris seconded, that the State Board of Education, adopts the Position Statement and Policy Guidance: Personal and Purposeful Technology Use in Connecticut Schools, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Division Director John Frassinelli, School Health, Nutrition, and Family Services, presented.

Mr. Frassinelli highlighted that since the State Board of Education adopted the Position Statement and Policy Guidance in August 2024, this updated Position State and Policy Guidance considers new research and encourages school districts to implement policies.

Vice Chair Benham referenced that districts came to the Board and presented on their experiences on putting the 2024 guidelines forward.

Board Member Record provided comments.

The two newly-appointed student members, (i) Shepard Fisher, Francis T. Maloney High School, Meriden, and (ii) Shruti Shah, South Windsor High School, South Windsor, provided their student voice.

Vice Chair Benham raised a question concerning bilingual ESL students who use a tablet or cell phone as a translator.

Chief Academic Officer Irene Parisi joined Mr. Frassinelli at the table and provided a response to the question.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

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

Vice Chair Benham adjourned the special meeting at 9:37 a.m.

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