

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
EDUCATOR PREPARATION AND CERTIFICATION BOARD

Monday, October 20th, 2025, 1:00p.m. - 4:00p.m.
450 Columbus Boulevard Conference Rooms C & D
Approved Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: 1:04 p.m.

Attendance:

Attendees: (All In Person) Chair Jen Rodriguez, Vice Chair Dr. Cynthia Ritchie, Kristen Basiaga, Elsa Batista, Jennifer Delaney, Jenny Graves, Margaret Gustafson, Dr. Mel Horton, Hamish McPhail, Shannon Marimon, Patrice McCarthy, Dr. Katherine Roe, Bob Sartoris, Sinthia Sone-Moyano

Absentees: Tiffany Caouette, Sarah Lahr Fitzsimons

Guests: Dr. Shuana Tucker (SDE), Dr. Jade Gopie, Julianne Frost (SDE), Kaylan Ricciardi (SDE), Lauren Tafrate (SDE), Dean Trombly (Southern CT State University), CT State Representative Jennifer Leeper, Andrew Hill (CT Council of Leaders of Mathematics), Gail Jorden, Joy Colon, Ray Rossamondo, Elizabeth Sked

Public Participation:

- Mr. Andrew Hill of the Mathematics Association presented his testimony on prioritizing several key components for aspiring educators. Policy should reflect what reality is for students in CT to learn mathematics. Educators should be certified and skilled teachers.
- Dean Christopher Trombly – Expressed gratitude to the board for their continuing work.
- Mrs. Gail Jorden, a classroom educator with more than 20 years of experience, expressed concern for CT lowering its standards. She added that as an educator, educators of color are equally prepared as their counterparts as teachers. Ms. Jorden concluded her remarks by stating that EPPs should not be handling out certifications in a piece-meal type fashion.
- Joy Colon, an educator of color with 26 years of experience, stated that lowering the bar should not be an approach adopted as a plan for diversifying the educator workforce in Connecticut.

Review and Approval of Minutes (Sept. 8, 2025) Approved as written.

Announcements:

- a. Administrator Announcements – Karen Colebut – reminded board members that materials to be included on the agenda must be submitted ten days prior to the date of the meeting per the CEPCB Bylaws.

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- b. Board Business – Jen Rodriguez – The meeting’s configuration was in-person only with Jen Rodriguez and Dr. Ritchie out a public viewing link.

Presentations/Q & A

- a. Office of Dyslexia and Reading Disabilities – ODRD Athena McAlenney –
 - o Educator Competencies was discussed in detail as part of Ms. McAlenney’s presentation – primary goal of the ODRD is to verify existing legislation and to develop and maintain structured literacy objectives for Connecticut public school students.
 - o Ms. Lisa Gianni’s presentation noted that SBE adopted the competencies for EPPS, educators, and advisors. Each state has its own competency requirements.
- b. Chair Jen Rodriguez provided a guided review of the Pathways to Initial Certification Flowchart crafted by SDE staff.

Updates

- Chair Jen Rodriguez provided an update on the continuing completion of regulations review by the Regulations Ad Hoc Committee.
- Kristen Basiaga gave a brief overview of the recent work completed by the Regulations Ad Hoc Committee.
- Jen Rodriguez gave an update on the status of the Visioning Ad Hoc Committee and the Section 14 ad Hoc Committee as being paused.

Action Items

- Jen Rodriguez and Dr. Cynthia Ritchie provided an update on the offer of support submitted by the four entities: CEA, AFT AACTE, and CCIC which detailed the type of support: legal and a facilitator and the professionals who would be filling those roles. Emma Leheny, Esq. an experienced attorney with over 25 years of experience in the area of education. Luke Forshaw, an experienced facilitator who has substantial experience providing those services to various organizations across Connecticut.

Discussion Ensued

Patrice Mcarthy made a motion for the board to accept the offer of support from the four education organizations.

Kristen Basiaga seconded the motion.

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Vote:

In Favor: Unanimous

Motion carried

- Connecticut's updated version of the Code of Professional Conduct for educators as revised by CACTPS was discussed with the board.

Margaret Gustfson motioned to move forward to LPDC

Dr. Mel Horton seconded the motion

Vote:

In Favor: Unanimous

The motion carried.

- Regulations Batches – Kristen Basiaga, board member and Regulations A Hoc Committee member
Ms. Basiaga provided an in depth review of the regulations reviewed and discussed at the last Regulations As Hoc Committee Meeting.

Kristen Basiaga made a motion for the board to accept the two batches of reviewed regulations.
The motion Was seconded by Dr. Katherine Roe.

Vote: In favor: Unanimous

Motion carried

- Public Act 24-41 Sec.6 Proposed Language - Jen Rodriguez presented language which would transfer the approval process from SBE to the CEPCB.

Kristen Basiaga motioned to accept the proposed amendment to the statutory language.
Patrice McCarthy seconded the motion.

Vote:

In favor: Unanimous

Motion carried.

Discussion Ensued

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Kristen Bsiaga motioned to table the three waivers until the next meeting.

Dr. Katherine Roe seconded the motion

Vote:

In favor: Unanimous

The motion carried.

Jenny Graves motioned to record all regular meetings,

Jen Delaney seconded the motion.

Vote: Unanimous

The motion carried.

Chair Jen Rodriguez called for a motion to adjourn

Kristen motioned to adjourn

Adjournment: 4:36

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