

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
EDUCATOR PREPARATION AND CERTIFICATION BOARD

Monday, February 9th, 2026, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Microsoft Teams Event (Virtual)

Approved Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: 1:01 p.m.

Attendance:

Attendees: (All Virtual) Jennifer Rodriguez, Dr. Cynthia Ritchie, Kristen Basiaga, Elsa Batista, Tiffany Caouette, Sarah Lahr Fitzsimons, Jenny Graves, Margaret Gustafson, Dr. Mel Horton, Hamish McPhail, Patrice McCarthy, Dr. Katherine Roe, Shannon Marimon, Bob Sartoris, Sarah Fitzsimons, Dorothea Anagnostopoulos

Absentees: Sinthia Sone-Moyano

Guests: (All Virtual) Dr. Shuana Tucker, Dr. Jade Gopie, Lauren Tafrate, Kaylan Ricciardi, Julianne Frost, Lee Youn Hee, Tong Hui Koh, Maddy Malicdem, Kenneth Neal, Ray Rossomondo, Ann Traynor, Christopher Trombly, Edward Frame, James Brown, Kayleigh Hoagland, Elizabeth Sked, Lisa Nouri

Approval of Minutes – (1.12.2026) & (1.28.2026) Meeting Minutes - Approved as written by general consensus.

Public Participation - All documents submitted through the CEPCB email inbox will be distributed to board members for meetings configured as virtual.

Administrator Announcements – Karen Colebut – Forward proposals in Word format as docx. or .doc format, ten days before the scheduled meeting.

Board Business –

- Chair Jen Rodriguez provided the board with upcoming initiatives planned for the 2027 Legislative Session anything that the LPDC approves , the item can be moved to the Education Committee. But in the event that the SBE does not approve it will be removed by CEPCB.
- Chair Rodriguez provided a clarification on Praxis Core. Praxis Core is different than the Praxis test for minimum content knowledge and ETS Bridge. The EPP currently uses the test as a different than the Bridge Praxis test for minimum content knowledge and ETS Bridge. This board voted to maintain these two tests to demonstrate minimum content knowledge for certification. The Praxis Core is a test that is taken by aspiring educators to gain admission to the EPP. The EPP also utilizes this test for determining when remediation is necessary for aspiring educators, but is not intended to be used that way. Candidates receive remediation when they are completing testing required upon entering college.
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- Board Chair Jen Rodriguez informed the board that the CEPCB Leadership Dr. Cynthia Ritchie, Luke Forshaw, Karen Colebut and I were working steadfastly on solidifying plans for the March 9th, 2026, retreat.

Updates

- CPRL Innovation Cohort Meeting – Jen Rodriguez and board members , Dr. Cynthia Ritchie, Dean Mel Horton and Shannon Marimon were in attendance in addition to others. The focus of the cohort was aligned with the CEPCB’s initiatives of CEPCB in March, which is paid apprenticeships and residency, which will be discussed comprehensively at the retreat with a presentation provided by Dr. Shuana Tucker. This will provide inroads on how to best move this work forward in collaboration with CEPCB’s education stakeholders.

Projects

- Program Approval – CPRL Team Tong Koh provided the board with a brief overview of the latest progress the group has completed. All components of program approval have been discussed. The Core working group and content specific groups have been established. Draft language will be discussed with CEA attorney, and then brought back to the core working group.
- Birth to Grade 3- Standards/Guidelines update - Board member Margaret Gustafson shared progress achieved by the group. The Early Childhood Education Consortium had a detailed discussion about guidance regarding the Birth to Grade Three endorsement. The group will meet with CPRL on February 20th, 2026.

Action Items

- Approval Proposals – Pathways to Professional (continuation)
Kristen Basiaga provided a continuation of the overview that was commenced at the previous meeting but was not completed due to the lack of time. The three requirements possess a master’s degree; complete a total of thirty graduate credits beyond the requirement of initial certification; or complete a total of ten graduate credits beyond initial certification in addition to holding national Board Certification.

Discussion Ensued

Jennifer Delaney motioned to amend the language to state nine (9) credits.

Jennifer Graves seconded the motion.

Vote:

In favor: Unanimous

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The motion carried.

Hamish McPhail motioned to amend section iii by removing “graduate” credits in an appropriate subject matter area.. to simply nine credits.

Shannon Marimon seconded the motion.

Vote:

In favor: Kristen Basiaga, Elsa Batista, Tiffany Caouette, Hamish McPhail, Jennifer Graves, Margaret Gustafson, Shannon Marimon, Patrice McCarthy, Dr. Katherine Roe, Bob Srtoris, Jennifer Delaney, Dr. Cynthia Ritchie, Jennifer Rodriguez

Opposed: Dr. Mel Horton

Absent: Sarah Fitzsimons, Synthia Sone-Moyano

The motion carried.

Kristen Basiaga motioned to move forward the Pathway to Professional proposal (as amended) to the Legislation Policy and Committee (LPDC) for the March meeting.

Jennifer Graves seconded the motion.

Vote:

In favor: Unanimous

The motion carried.

Re-evaluation of the 2026 CEPCB Meeting Calendar (Virtual/In person Configuration)

Chair Jen Rodriguez provided an overview of the proposed change in meeting configurations of the remaining 2026 meetings.

Discussion Ensued

Patrice McCarthy motioned to accept the proposed changes to the configuration of the remaining 2026 meeting dates.

Vote:

In favor: In favor: Kristen Basiaga, Elsa Batista, Tiffany Caouette, Hamish McPhail, Jennifer Graves, Margaret Gustafson, Shannon Marimon, Patrice McCarthy, Bob Srtoris, Jennifer Delaney, Sarah Fitzsimons, Dr. Cynthia Ritchie, Jennifer Rodriguez

Opposed: Dr. Katherine Roe

Abstentions: None

The motion carried.

New Business

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- Statewide LEARN (Learn, Engage, Attend, Refer, Nurture) Teacher Preparation, Partnership and Onboarding – Dr. Cynthia Ritchie
Dr. Ritchie provided a comprehensive overview of her idea for discussion into five components for the board. Many aspects of supporting aspiring educators through residency with paid apprenticeships, overseeing EPP required coursework, offer micro credentials from SDE and other partners. Dr. Ritchie sees this as an opportunity to spark conversation surrounding this idea, but it is not a formal proposal.

Chair Rodriguez added that there are several variations of apprenticeship programs in Connecticut currently: Ed. Rising, Aspiring Educator Program, Next Gen Paid Apprenticeship, and Paid Residency, etcetera, to name a few.

Dr. Shuana Tucker, (SDE Talent Office) shared that funding is lacking to support the apprenticeship opportunities that SDE and other stakeholders would like to see expand. Other states have provided amounts of nineteen million and thirty million dollars allocated for aspiring educators, paid apprenticeship/residency initiatives and programs.

Discussion Ensued

- Board Certified Behavior Analysts – Jen Rodriguez
Chair Rodriguez provided an overview of the possibility for a pathway to an endorsement that could lead to a leadership level and (a new endorsement code) for the board to consider.

Kristen Basiaga motioned for the board work to find a pathway for BCBA's to have access leadership opportunities once statutorily imposed obligations have been completed for

Jennifer Graves seconded the motion.

Vote:

In favor: Unanimous

Opposed: None

The motion carried.

- Math Specialist Endorsement – Dr. Cynthia Ritchie provided the board with a proposal to consider an endorsement for a Math Specialist.

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Board Member Hamish McPhail provided information proposed legislation, (Governor's Bill No. 5034) from the Office of the Governor regarding an elementary math specialist. Dr. Richie requested that her proposal be revisited by the board's strategic planning leadership tea as part of the board; at the March meeting.

Vision/ Strategic Planning Committee – Shannon Marimon & Hamish McPhail

Shannon Marimon provided an overview of the proposal that she and Hamish McPhail co-authored.

Hamish McPhail interjected that the goal of this proposal is to move work forward for the long term.

Discussion Ensued

Kristen Basiaga motioned to table this item to be taken up for later discussion.

Jen Delaney seconded the motion.

Vote:

In favor: Unanimous

The motion carried

Adjournment : The meeting was adjourned at 4:02 p.m.