

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
EDUCATOR PREPARATION AND CERTIFICATION BOARD

Monday, March 9th, 2026, 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Microsoft Teams Event (Virtual)

Approved Retreat Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: 9:35 a.m.

Attendance All In-person:

Jen Rodriguez, Chair, CEPCB, Dr. Cynthia Rithchie, Vice Chair, Kristen Basiaga, Elsa Baptista, Jennifer Delaney, Sarah Lahr Fitzsimons, Jennifer Graves, Margaret Gustafson, Dr. Mel Horton, Hamish McPhail, Shannon Marimon, Patrice McCarthy, Dr. Katherine Roe, Bob Sartoris

Absent: Tiffany Caouette, Sinthia Sone-Moyano

Guests: Dr. Shuana Tucker, SDE, Dr. Jade Gopie, SDE, Julianne Frost, SDE, Kaylan Ricciardi, Lauren Tafate, SDE, Tong Koh, CPRL, Elizabeth Sked, CEA, Luke Forshaw, Facilitator

CEPCB Chair Jen Rodriguez started the retreat by welcoming the board member and guests to the retreat. The Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board (CEPCB) began the retreat with a Team Building activity orchestrated by facilitator Luke Forshaw.

Next the board engaged in Reflection & Priorities Work – with Jen Rodriguez, Dr. Cynthia Ritchie and Luke Forshaw.

Presentation: Dr. Shuana Tucker, SDE and Dr. Jade Gopie, SDE -Dr. Tucker and Dr. Gopie provided a high-level presentation regarding the State Board of Education’s Strategic Goals, The SDE talent Office’s recruitment initiatives, CT’s Educator & Students diverse composition, the Educator Rising Program that is designed to address CT’s teacher shortage crisis, the Aspiring Educator Scholarship program, the Teacher Registered Apprenticeship Program to name a few.

Luncheon

Action Item: Approval of Emergency Educator Certification Endorsements for the 2026-2027 School Year

The board proceeded with the approval process of the Emergency Educator Certification Endorsements for the 2026-2027 School Year.

Shannon Marimon motioned to approve the Emergency Educator Certification Endorsements for the 2026-2027 School Year.

Jennifer Delaney seconded the motion.

Vote:

In Favor: Unanimous

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The motion carried.

CPRL Presentation with EPP Working Group & Birth to Grade 3 Update/ Presentation with Paige Bray and Ryan Colwell. This presentation outlined the work that the group is currently engaged in developing updated language for the changes made to the grade range and endorsements for Early Childhood certifications.

The board engaged in additional discussion and reflection regarding the upcoming projects and remaining endeavors that remain on the board's agenda during 2026 and 2027. The board reviewed and amended the language of SB 312 Sec. 2, which was approved. Public testimony will be submitted in support of the amended language.

Adjournment: The retreat adjourned at 2:00 p.m.