

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
EDUCATOR PREPARATION AND CERTIFICATION BOARD

Monday, April 20th, 2026, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Microsoft Teams Event (Virtual)

Approved Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: 1:02 p.m.

Attendance:

Attendees: (All Virtual) Jennifer Rodriguez, Dr. Cynthia Ritchie, Kristen Basiaga, Elsa Batista, Tiffany Caouette, Jenny Graves, Margaret Gustafson, Dr. Mel Horton, Hamish McPhail, Patrice McCarthy, Dr. Katherine Roe, Shannon Marimon, Sinthia Sone-Moyano

Absentees: Jennifer Delaney, Sarah Lahr Fitzsimons, Bob Sartoris

Guests: (All Virtual) Dr. Shuana Tucker, Dr. Jade Gopie, Ajit Golapalakrishnan, Lauren Tafrate, Kaylan Ricciardi, Julianne Frost, , Tong Hui Koh, Scheherazade Salimi, , Ann Traynor, Paige Bray, Kayleigh Hoagland, Elizabeth Sked, Jen Ruggiero, Dr. Jeffrey Vance, Ray Rossamondo, Chad Johnson, Jamess Brown

Approval of Minutes: (February 9, 2026) (February 20, 2026,) (March 9, 2026) Meeting Minutes – Approved by general consensus as written.

Public Participation: There was no public participation received via email.

Announcements:

Administrator Announcements: Karen Colebut informed the board that Monday April 20, 2026 was Volunteer Recognition Day. It is the annual celebration of those who selflessly benefit the lives of others such as CEPCB members.

Board Business: Board Chair Jen Rodriguez stated that this section will be covered in the updates section of the meeting.

Updates: Chair Rodriguez provided an update on the status of Education Committee progress with the amended bill. The bill has received approval. The next step will be for the bill to be called to the House floor. Representative Leeper communicated to the leadership that she is confident that the bill that will extend the deadline for the sunseting regulations will be called to the floor. The board will be updated on any new legislative developments. The Kristen Basiaga will be sending out a template for board members who desire to reach out directly to their respective legislators to support this bill.

LPDC & SBE – 615 amendment was approved by the State Board of Education (SBE) in March.

The administrator has begun the process of putting proposed regulations into the CT State eRegulations system.

Kristen Basiaga had a conversation with Representative Jenn Leeper, Co-Chair of the CGA Education Committee regarding concerns with the sunseting regulations. The representative

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shared that the CEPCB can put forward language to amend certain regulations for the 2027 legislative session.

Workforce Development Connections- Shannon Marimon provided an update on her recently initiated work on workforce development. Miguel Cardona, former U.S. Education Secretary will be chairing the career pathway commission that will be partnering with other state agencies to better modernize the K-12 to workforce pathway.

Tong Hoi Koh gave a comprehensive update on CPRL and the EPP Program Approval Core Working Group's progress drafting updated language for the EPP section of the CT Education regulations. The group has been considering combining two single-subject endorsements : (Blind) and (partially sighted) into one endorsement.

Paige Bray and Margaret Gustafson provided an update on the Birth to Grade 3 Certification/Guidelines Working Group's progress creating updated language for the Early Childhood section of the Education regulations. A checklist is being used and SDE has provided great guidance for implementing the process of change management.

The group has been working on guidelines with OEC. The group has completed solid guidelines and will present the language to all EPPs prior to circling back with the CEPCB. The group is ready with the content /checklist and how that lays out in program but will defer to the CEPCB on if the language should be placed in the guidance or in regulations. The next step will be to bring this information to the Regulations Ad Hoc Committee.

Presentations: Ajit Golapalakrishnan, of the CSDE Performance Office provided a comprehensive presentation regarding CSDE's reporting requirements of CT students' academic achievement and the progress of as graduates. This presentation was authored by CSDE staff in collaboration with Boston University's Wheelock Educational Policy Center that conducted an initial review of the data and made recommendations.

Chief Performance Officer Ajit Gopalakrishnan's presentation covered three areas of study: educator vacancies, shortage areas, academic progress of EPP graduates.

Vacancies: The group of educators that has the greatest number of vacancies is the paraeducators especially in the area of special education. The report indicated that there were 922.5 special education paraeducator vacancies were identified.

Shortage Areas subject-specific shortage areas are required to be reported to the U.S. Department of Education by CSDE annually. Educators that teach in a shortage area can receive benefits such as mortgage assistance, loan forgiveness and deferral. Two areas of focus for shortages that the

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report identified were Special Education (K-12) and Bilingual Education (PK-12). CT only has one measure of educator outcomes.

Jen Rodriguez discussed education data received from NASDTEC – The board Was provided with an update on major trends in education at a national level. Areas of focus included educator preparation, certification, licensure, residency, apprenticeship, educator employment and compensation. Other topics of interest included math and reading literacy. Finally, NASDTEC provided a table which highlighted various education bills being evaluated across the nation.

CEPCB Proposals template- The Administrator provided a brief overview of the proposal template for CEPCB members to use when submitting proposals.

Proposal of Reflection Themes and Strategic Plan for 2027 – Jen Rodriguez provided the board with a brief overview on how the topics for the Reflection Themes and Strategic Plan were developed and how they could guide the board in achieving its obligations and goals through 2027. Following the CEPCB's March 9th meeting, Luke Forshaw's organization compiled a grid from the reflections submitted by board members at the meeting memorializing the feedback. Four primary areas of focus identified via the feedback provided by board members are as follows: 1) Educator Preparation 2) Workforce Sustainability 3) Policy Alignment 4) Legislative Fixes & Proposals. This list is not exhaustive and additional themes can be added.

Dr. Cynthia Ritchie explained the process for implementation of the themes as a method that would facilitate the achievement of the board's goals identified in its themes and strategic plan. Once the themes have been agreed upon by the board, the strategic plan would identify specific goals.

Discussion Ensued

Jen Rodriguez discussed the draft Strategic Timeline 2026 – 2027 for the remainder of 2026 and 2027.

Action Items:

Kristen Basiaga motioned to approve the Performance Office and NASDTEC presentations to fulfill 12b obligation of CEPCB's statutory responsibilities.

Hamish McPhail seconded the motion.

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Vote:

In favor: Unanimous

The motion carried.

Patrice McCarthy motioned to accept the proposed four themes for the 2027 session with amendment to title number 1) to Fund and Align Educator Pipeline 2) Workforce Sustainability 3) Unify Strategy and Advocacy 4) remains as Legislative Fixes

Kristin Basiaga seconded the motion

Vote:

In favor: Unanimous

The motion carried.

Dr. Katherine Roe motioned for a conditional approval of the strategic plan.

Elsa Batista seconded the motion.

Vote:

In Favor: Unanimous

The motion carried.

Kristen Basiaga motioned to approve the proposal template for the board's use when submitting proposals for the board to consider.

Hamish McPhail seconded the motion.

Vote:

In Favor: Unanimous

The motion carried.

Discussion by the board continued after the voting process. The board identified criterion for success for each of the four themes approved by the board with focus on those actions that will lead to success.

Adjournment: 3:50 p.m.

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