

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
EDUCATOR PREPARATION AND CERTIFICATION BOARD

Monday, June 8th, 2026, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
450 Columbus Boulevard Conference Rooms C & D

Meeting Minutes

The CEPCB elected to utilize the first ninety minutes of the meeting as a session dedicated to identifying areas of priority. Themes and priorities were chosen based on data retrieved via a survey completed by board members. This session was facilitated by Luke Forshaw, Director, Professional Development Services.

Attendance:

Attendees: CEPCB Chair Jennifer Rodriguez, CEPCB Vice Chair, Dr. Cynthia Ritchie, Patrice McCarthy, Kristen Basiaga, Elsa Batista, Jennifer Delaney, Tiffany Caouette, Sarh Lahr Fitzsimons, Jenny Graves, Margaret Gustafson, Patrice McCarthy, Dr. Katherine Roe, Sinthia Sone-Moyano, Sal Escobales

Absentees: Shannon Marimon, Bob Sartoris, Hamish McPhail, Dr. Mel Horton

Guests: Julianne Frost, Kaylan Ricciardi, Lauren Tafrate, Ann Traynor, Elizabeth Sked, Kerry Jones, Malik McKinley, Dortha Anagnogopoulos, Luke Forshaw

Approval of Minutes: (May 11th, 2026) Meeting Minutes – Approved by general consensus as written.

Announcements:

Administrator Announcements: CEPCB Administrator, Karen Colebut provided the board with a comprehensive update on the status of proposed education regulations being put through the formal regulatory process at the Secretary of State's eRegulations system. To date, two of the three proposed regulations are at the Office of the Governor for review. CEPCB Chair Jen Rodriguez is collaborating with the administrator to complete the task of updating various education regulations relating to educator certification, the Code of Professional Responsibility for Educators, and many others to follow.

The board elected to utilize the written comments option for the public to submit via in compliance with the notice requirement of regulatory process. Statutorily required annual reports pursuant to PA 24-41 sections 12b and 14 were completed by the administrator and approved by the board at this meeting.

Board Business – Jen Rodriguez informed the board that there was not any new board business.

Action Items

Chair Rodriguez presented the board with the options available to the board regarding the proposed the statutory notice requirement of a 30-day public comment period for all agencies proposed regulations. The two options presented for public comment were accepting written submissions of comments or a public hearing option.

Chair Rodriguez called for a vote on the board's opting for the written submission of public comments in compliance with the statute.

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Kristen Basiaga motioned to approve the board's option for the acceptance of written submission of comments in compliance with the public comment requirement for proposed regulations.

Patrice McCarthy seconded the motion.

Vote:

In favor: Unanimous
The motion carried.

Chair Rodriguez informed the board that its statutory obligations pursuant to Public Act 24-41 Sections 12b And 14 reports have been completed by the Administrator and called for a motion to approve the reports.

Patrice McCarthy motioned to approve the Sections 12b and 14 reports.

Sarah Lahr Fitzsimons seconded the motion.

Vote:

In favor: Unanimous
The motion carried

The board reviewed the proposed CEPCB 2027 Meeting Calendar.

Chair Rodriguez called for a motion to approve the proposed CEPCB 2027 Meeting calendar.

Tiffany Caouette motioned to approve the CEPCB 2027 Meeting Calendar.

Doctor Cynthia Ritchie seconded the motion.

Vote:

In favor: Unanimous
The motion carried.

Chair Rodriguez reminded the board that last July the CEPCB meeting was deferred due to members having planned vacations. Additionally, a deferral of the July Meeting would facilitate leadership meetings with the administrator to organize and plan for the CEPCB August 10th, 2026 meeting. All information deliberated on by the board at this meeting will be synthesized and presented or deliberation by the board at the August meeting.

Jen Rodriguez called for a motion for deferral of the July CEPCB Meeting.

Jenny Graves motioned to defer the July 2026 CEPCB meeting.

Patrice McCarthy seconded the motion.

Vote:

In Favor: Unanimous

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The motion carried.

Chair Rodriguez began the review of the proposals tracker. The board considered the legacy proposals to be deliberated on during recommended by the board to endorse were an increase in mentor stipend amount issued to teacher mentor by the state, Teach CT Marketing & Branding, and the certification software.

Discussion Ensued

Chair Rodriguez called for a motion for the CEPCB to craft a letter of endorsement supporting the Educator stipend increase, teacher certification software, and Teach CT Marketing & Branding initiatives.

Sarah Lahr Fitzsimons motioned for the CEPCB to craft a letter of endorsement supporting the Team Mentor Stipend increase , Teach Connecticut marketing and branding and the teacher certification software.

Elsa Batista seconded the motion.

Vote:

In Favor: Unanimous
The motion carried.

Discussion Ensued

Patrice McCarthy motioned to amend the previous motion.

Dr. Roe seconded the amended motion.

Vote:

In favor: Unanimous
The motion carried.

Motion to endorse via letter on behalf of the board, state funded stipend.

Vote:

In favor: Unanimous
The motion carried.

Chair Rodriguez called for a motion to approve the leadership team's continuing work on Special Education, Paraprofessionals, and the pipeline to prepare for the August meeting.

Sarah Lahr Fitzsimons motioned to approve the leadership team's continuing work on Special Education, Paraprofessionals, and the pipeline.

Dr. Katherine Roe seconded the motion.

Vote:

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In favor: Unanimous
The motion carried.

Chair Rodriguez presented the board alternative voting options for the board to review so as to avoid calling special meetings for routine matters such as the approval of annual reports.

Discussion Ensued

Chair Rodriguez called for a vote on the alternative voting option agreed upon by the board.

Kristen Basiaga motioned to approve the alternative voting option for reports and calendar items Part IV amended to remove U.S.P.S. as an option.

Jenny Graves and Elsa Batista seconded the motion.

Vote:

In favor: Unanimous
The motion carried.

Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 3:23 p.m.