STATE OF CONNECTICUT

EDUCATOR PREPARATION AND CERTIFICATION BOARD

Monday, August 10th, 2026, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Microsoft Teams Event (Virtual)
Draft Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: 1:04 p.m.

Attendance:

Attendees: (All Virtual) Jennifer Rodriguez, Dr. Cynthia Ritchie, Elsa Batista, Sarah Lahr Fitzsimons, Jenny Graves, Margaret Gustafson, Patrice McCarthy, Dr. Katherine Roe, Sinthia Sone-Moyano, Malia Sieve, alternate for Shannon Marimon, Jocelyn Delancey, alternate for Kristen Basiaga, Jennifer Bennevento, alternate for Jenny Graves

Absentees: Tiffany Caouette, Kristen Basiaga, Mel Horton, Shannon Marimon, Hamish McPhail, Bob Sartoris

Guests: (All Virtual) Paige Bray, Dr. Jade Gopie, Dr. Shuana Tucker, Julianne Frost, Lauren Tafrate, Kaylan Ricciardi, Marisa Ferraro, Ryan Colwell, Elizabeth Sked, Lisa Gianni, Cheri Kent, Kristen Allen, Christopher Trombley, Trevor Baisden, Ann Traynor, Tong Hui Koh, Laura Morello, Kayleigh Hoagland, Ray Rossomando, Ashley Wright, James Brown, Sal Escobales,

Approval of Minutes: (June 8th, 2026) Meeting Minutes – Approved by general consensus as written.

Announcements:

Administrator Announcements: Karen Colebut provided the board with a comprehensive update regarding the progress of the proposed regulations status. Proposed Regulation PR2026-009 Professional Responsibility for Educators was approved under review by the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) and The Office of the Governor (OTG). This regulation's Notice of Intent was uploaded to the eRegulations website. Simultaneous to the uploading, the required 30-day period for public comment was initiated on August 4, 2026. The status of other proposed regulations were reported as follows: PR2026-011 is under review at OTG. All remaining proposed regulations are currently under review at OPM.

Board Business – Jen Rodriguez

Chair Rodriguez informed the board that Tong Koh of CPRL provided an update on the working groups. Tong will provide an update on the working group's full updated rosters. This information will be posted on the website so that there is a clear understanding of the compositions of the working groups that work in consultation with CPRL.

Updates

- Education Committee - Chair Rodriguez will schedule a meeting. Additional information will be provided regarding next steps at the September meeting. The board should invite legislators to the meeting.

- LPDC and SBE – The CEPCB will be on LPDC's September agenda. The board will appear on SBE's October agenda to present legislative proposals and advocate for issues relating to educators that the board considers priorities.

- Workforce Connections- Shannon Marimon was not in attendance. Her alternate Malia Sieve did not have an update to submit on Shannon's behalf.

- Every Kid Counts – Hamish McPhail was not in attendance. As such, an update was not provided.

Projects:

Birth to Grade 3 Certification Standards/Guidelines Working Group- Paige Bray, Ryan Colwell and Margaret Gustafson

Paige Bray began her presentation by providing a brief overview of the work recently completed by the group that included the guidelines, the language and review of field-based clinical experiences. All items were vetted by the OEC, SDE and the stakeholders at ECHEC.

Ryan continued the presentation by informing the board that the ECE group is currently working on the regulations, checklist and guidance. A collaborative meeting was held by the Office of Early Childhood and the Birth to Grade 3 working group to ensure alignment given the new certification has the expanded age and grade range.

Presentations/Discussions

Jen Rodriguez presented a comprehensive update of the board's progress completing its statutory obligations and other work finalized during 2026. Items completed were identified as follows:

- Finalize and approve legislative package

- Sunsetting deadline for regulations extended by the legislature to 2027.

- Proposed regulations approved by the CEPCB uploaded to the eRegulations system for approval by OPM & OTG.PR2026-009 Professional Responsibility for Educators approved by OPM and OTG. The 30-day public comment period was initiated on August 4, 2026.

The work on parts six, seven and eight have not been completed yet. As such, they have not been entered into the eRegulations system yet.

When regulations are proposed at the CEPCB meetings there is opportunity for the public to participate. Other venues for public participation include attending the SBE meetings or LPDC meetings and by submitting written comments when the Public Comment period opens on the eRegulations website.

The board is approving and finalizing three to four legislative priorities: crafting clear funding requests, defining outcomes, and validating plans for convening with partners that align with shared statewide agendas for stakeholders. Four proposals have prior approval and three are ready for approval by the board.

Chair Rodriguez continued her presentation with a comprehensive overview of the various content-specific working groups and How they conduct their work.

Chair Rodriguez concluded this portion of the presentation with an in-depth explanation of the Legislative Flyer for 2027.

Discussion Ensued

Action Items

Chair Rodriguez began discussion of the CEPCB's current proposals including:

- A stand-alone bilingual education endorsement.
- The combined endorsement of blind and partially-sighted students.
- The merging of elementary world language instruction with secondary world language endorsement.

Creating A Stand-alone Bilingual Endorsement Kristen Basiaga– Dr. Marisa Farraro

Chair Rodriguez introduced a guest presenter, Dr. Marisa Farraro, a member of the Bilingual sub working group and professor at Southern Connecticut State University.

Dr. Ferraro outlined the following endorsement sponsor as Kristen Baisaga's proposal in her presentation by identifying three initial certification pathways for bilingual education:

- Elementary bilingual education for grades PreK through grade 6;
- Bilingual STEM education for grades 4 through 12;
- Bilingual humanities education for grades 4 through 12

Discussion Ensued

Chair Rodriguez called for a motion on approval of the proposal.
Elsa Batista motioned to approve the proposal.
Dr. Katherine Roe seconded the motion.

Vote:
In favor: Unanimous
The motion carried.

Merging blind and partially sighted endorsements - Dr. Katherine Roe

Dr, Katherine Roe presented a review of the proposal to merge blind and partially sighted endorsements. Merging the two endorsements would be more efficient as most other states do not have separate endorsements for the blind and partially sighted.

Chair Rodgriguez called for a motion on the proposal.

Dr. Katherine Roe motioned to approve the proposal.
Margaret Gustafson seconded the motion.

Vote:
In favor: Unanimous
The motion carried.

Merging of Elementary World Language Instruction with Secondary World Language Endorsements – Michelle Back & Dr. Mel Horton.

Chair Rodriguez called for a motion to table moving forward with this proposal as the proponents of the motion were not in attendance.

Jennifer Delaney motioned to table moving forward with this proposal.
Jennifer Benevento sec, alternate for Jenny Graves, seconded the motion.

Vote:
In favor: Unanimous
The motion carried

Chair Rodriguez passed the governance of the meeting to Vice Chair Cynthia Ritchie as the next three proposals to be deliberated on were submitted by the chair herself.

Dr. Cynthia Ritchie transitioned to lead the meeting during the next three proposal discussions.

Amendment to Sunsetting Language to Add Section 10-145d-545 (Provisional Speech & Language Pathology) Kristen Basiaga & Jen Rodriguez

Chair Rodriguez provided a comprehensive overview of the proposal that outlines the revision to Public Act 24-41; C.G.S §10-145d-545; the rationale behind the proposed revision is the proposed regulation will repeal the language regarding the Provisional Certificates that no longer exists.

Magaret Gustafson motioned to approve the proposal.
Dr. Katherine Roe seconded the motion.

Vote:
In Favor: Unanimous
The motion carried.
Dr. Ritchie requested that Chair Rodriguez begin her presentation of the next proposal.

Establishing a Time Limit on Unique Endorsements Issued Under Section 10-145d-619 and Requiring Formal Rulemaking to Continue Them – Jen Rodriguez

Chair Rodriguez presented a brief overview of the proposal that governs endorsements that are currently being issued that do not fall under a content-specific program. Two options of the amendment were presented to the board. The board decided to move forward with Option B.

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Discussion Ensued

Joslyn Delancey, alternate for Kristen Basiaga, motioned to approve Option B of the proposal.

Margaret Gustafson seconded the motion.

Vote:

In Favor: Unanimous

The motion carried.

Strengthening Connecticut's Educator Pipeline: Proposed Amendments to the Educators' Scholarship Program Legislative Language – Jen Rodriguez

Chair Rodrguez began her presentation to the board of her proposal entitled Strengthening Connecticut Educator Pipeline: Proposed Amendments to the Aspiring Educators Scholarship Program Legislative Language.

Key aspects of the proposal:

- The proposal identified three potential legislative options for the reallocation of funds that remain unspent from the four million dollar aspiring educator scholarship each fiscal year. These funds could be utilized to support the 6 to 16 pipeline.
- The scholarship amount should be increased from $10,000. To $15,000.
- The timeline for the scholarship program would remain the same.
- The scholarship would become an annual event as opposed to a one-time.
- Maintains the funds in educator preparation.
- Grants the Commissioner flexibility to establish eligibility through policy rather than statute.

Discussion Ensued

Dr. Cynthia Ritchie motioned to approve the proposal to pay for student's coursework, college fees and student teaching to be paid during an educator's journey to become certified.
Elsa Batista seconded the motion.

Chair Rodriguez called for a Point of Order regarding Vice Chair Dr. Cynthia Ritchie's ability to make a motion acting as the chair and requested a ruling from the board's Administrator.
The Administrator confirmed that a board member other than Vice Chair Dr. Ritchie should make the motion according to Robert's Rules of Order.

Dr. Cynthia Ritchie provided the board with a comprehensive overview of Option number three as a synopsis of what the language that the motion should entail.

Joslyn Delancey motioned to approve Option number 3 as the board's choice to move forward as its choice for the proposal to move forward.

Patrice McCarthy seconded the motion.

Discussion Ensued

Joslyn Delancey, alternate for Kristen Basiaga motioned to table the discussion of this proposal until the next meeting, with the expectation to review the timeline and language with SDE staff.
Jennifer Delaney seconded the motion.

Vote:
In favor: Unanimous
The motion carried.

The board engaged in a discussion regarding what each member's respective organization is collectively considering as priorities that the CEPCB may be able to support. Some ideas shared include a paid apprenticeship for special education paraprofessionals amongst other ideas shared by board members.

Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 3:58 p.m.