**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**

***EDUCATOR PREPARATION AND CERTIFICATION BOARD***

Monday, September 14th, 2026, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Microsoft Teams Event (Virtual)

Approved Meeting Minutes

**Call to Order:** 1:07 p.m.

**Attendance:**

Attendees: (All Virtual) Jennifer Rodriguez, Dr. Cynthia Ritchie, Elsa Batista, Tiffany Caouette, Jennifer Delaney, Jenny Graves, Margaret Gustafson, Hamish MacPhail, Patrice McCarthy, Dr. Katherine Roe, Sinthia Sone-Moyano, Shannon Marimon, Kristen Basiaga, Meghan Geary, alternate for Elsa Batista

Dr. Roe experienced and Sarah Lahr Fitzsimons experienced technical difficulties with Teams.

Absentees: Bob Sartoris, Sarah Lahr Fitzsimons

Guests: (All Virtual) Paige Bray, Dr. Jade Gopie, Julianne Frost, Lauren Tafrate, Kaylan Ricciardi, Marisa Ferraro, Michele Back, Elizabeth Sked, Cheri Kent, Kristen Allen, Christopher Trombley, Trevor Baisden, Ann Traynor, Tong Hui Koh, Laura Morello, Kayleigh Hoagland, Ray Rossomando, Ashley Wright, Verenise Duran, Kimberly Strike, Jennifer Benevento

**Approval of Minutes:** Tabled until October 19th Meeting

**Announcements:**

**Administrator Announcements** – Karen Colebut

Karen Colebut provided the board with a comprehensive update regarding the current status of all proposed regulations that are currently in the formal regulatory process.

PR2026-009 Code of Professional Responsibility for Educators Public Comment period closed on September 4, 2026. One public comment was received. The board will submit its response to the public comment submitted via the eRegulations portal.

She will provide updates to the board on the proposed regulations progress at each monthly meeting.

**Board Business –** Jen Rodriguez

Chair Rodriguez followed up on the Administrator's update by adding the current status of four proposed regulations Notices of Intent are currently under internal review at the SDE:

PR2026-011; PR2026-012; PR2026-018; PR2026-020. Once the internal review process is completed , this group of proposed regulations can be opened up for Public Comment. The remaining ones: PR2026-025, PR2026-027, PR2026-028, PR2026-029, PR2026-030, PR2026-031 and PR2026-032 are under review at OPM. The board Administrator is in the process of finalizing the Notices of Intent in anticipation of their approval.

Chair Rodriguez provided an overview of the next steps to be taken with the Education Committee. The next steps will include extending an invitation to members of the Education Committee to join the board for wither the October or November CEPCB depending on what the board decodes. Four items have moved forward and approval at the LPDC meeting:

- Proposed Regulation 145d-458
- Amendment to 145d-619
- Revision of Public Act 24-51
- The CEPCB is on the SBE Oct.7, 2026 meeting

The fourth item, the Professional Educator Scholarship Program , which was presented to the LPDC in February was moved forwarded to the SBE without an approval. The proposal will be presented at the SBE October 7, meeting. The board was informed that there may not be an LPDC meeting in October.

**Updates**:

**Every Kid Counts –** Hamish MacPhail

Board member Hamish MacPhail informed the board that the in an effort to support professional learning and modernization of Connecticut math pathways a volunteer group has been convened. The group has discussed methods to assist math learning and professional learning in the state. Other topics discussed by the group include math specialists, and that endorsement area.

**Workforce Connection –** Shannon Marimon

Board member Shannon Marimon provided an update on the Connecticut Career Pathways Commission. The committee is in the process of finalizing recommendations by November. The commission is comprised of four subgroups:

- The pathways design and governance work group
- A career connected education work group
- A work-based learning work group
- State-wide systems work group

The groups meet weekly. A first draft of the recommendations will be presented on October 1st, 2026. Some of the recommendations relate to the work of the CEPCB – which is to establish and scale career pathways for individuals across the continuum. Comprehensive high schools has been an area of focus.

**Presentations/Discussions:**

September – Advocacy & Early Engagement

Chair Rodriguez provided the board with a comprehensive overview of her PowerPoint presentation that illustrated the regulatory process in detail. The key steps of the process that the CEPCB utilizes for proceeding with proposals include the following:

- The board receives proposals.
- Batches of proposed regulations are formed.
- Proposed regulations are uploaded into the eRegulations system to be reviewed by OPM, OTG, the AG's Office and finally the LRRC.

Chair Rodriguez began her presentation of what the board's tasks for September entailed. Tasks to be undertaken by the board were identified as :

- Launching coordinated advocacy
- Beginning earl engagement
- Deploying advocacy tools
- Gathering feedback and making minor adjustments

Chair Rodriguez continued the presentation by reviewing six CEPCB priorities/proposals:

- Pathways to Professional Certification
- Alternate Route to Certification
- Reinstate Transcript /Experience Pathway
- Revision to PA 24-41
- Establish a Professional Educator Scholarship Program
- Reissuance of Initial Certification with Time Served

Chair Rodriguez directed the board to review the proposals momentarily and be prepared to decide in which category to place the top three proposals: legislative fixes (omnibus) or top priorities. All proposals will be submitted to the Education Committee.

***Discussion Ensued***

Chair Rodriguez ended the discussion by reiterating the message that the board articulated collectively: Priorities numbers one and three were viewed as top priorities. The six priorities will be moved forward.

**Action Items:**

**Merging of Elementary World Language Instruction and Secondary World Language –** Michelle Back & Dr. Mel Horton

Chair Rodriguez introduced a guest presenter Michelle Back, and Dr. Mel Horton, proposal sponsor to begin the next segment.

Michele Back began her presentation by outlining the salient points that support the merging of the two endorsements. Ms. Back identified the benefits of a unified PreK-12 certification as follows:

- The change would better align the credential with the realities of world language instruction in Connecticut schools.
- The change would also better align with the state and the nation's proficiency standards.
- Would provide educators the preparation they need to teach learners across a continuous developmental pathway.

Requirements were determined that candidates would complete with this new PreK-12 certification. Course work required would include the completion of dedicated coursework and elementary methods, secondary methods focused on grades 6-12. In addition, candidates would complete a PreK-12 second language acquisition course.

Connecticut identifies world language as a statewide shortage area . This is an important reason for having this certification.

***Discussion Ensued***

Dr. Katherine Roe motioned to approve the proposal.

Dr. Mel Horton seconded the motion. ( There were multiple members that seconded the motion).

**Vote:**

**In favor:** Unanimous

The motion carried by general consensus.

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

In accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, Chair Rodriguez passed the governance of the meeting to Vice Chair Dr. Cynthia Ritchie because she is the sponsor of this proposal.

Dr. Cynthia Ritchie introduced Chair Rodriguez as the sponsor to begin her presentation.

Chair Rodriguez began her presentation by identifying the original intent behind the proposal was to support students of color and under-represented groups. Another important goal of the pipeline work and not be returned to the General Fund.

The board was presented with three options but decided to move forward with option number three, at the last meeting.

After meeting with SDE, at the board's request, some recommendations of language to include was shortage areas, students of color, and would be up to the board to decide.

Another suggestion from SDE was to raise the dollar amount from $10,000. per year to $15,000. per year.

Scholarship funds shall be used solely for tuition and fees charged by the institution of higher education.

Examples of what the funds could be used for were included via a link.

***Discussion Ensued***

Chair Rodriguez reiterated what she perceived as the language that the board collectively articulated through deliberation. Chair Rodriguez articulated the board's view for action as removal of the language, " scholarship funds shall be used solely for the purpose of tuition and mandatory fees charged by the institution of higher education.

Kristen Basiaga motioned to support the draft proposal to the amendment of the Aspiring Educator Scholarship fund with an amendment to the requirement that students are graduates of a public high school in Connecticut.

Kristen Basiaga withdrew her previous motion.

Kristen Basiaga motioned to support the draft proposal of the amendment to the Aspiring Educator Scholarship Fund with two additional amendments: to remove the requirements that aspiring educators have graduated from a Connecticut public high school and that scholarship funds shall be used solely for the payment of tuition and mandatory fees charged by the institution of higher education.

Hamish MacPhail seconded the motion.

**Vote:**

**In favor:**

Kristen Basiaga

Meghan Geary (alternate fore Elsa Batista)

Tiffany Caouette

Mel Horton

Hamish MacPhail

Margaret Gustafson

Cynthia Ritchie

Jen Rodriguez

Jennifer Delaney

Shannon Marimon

**Opposed:** Sinthia Sone-Moyano

**Abstentions:** None

The motion carried.

**Connecticut Educator Workforce Debt-Free College Program –** Jen Rodriguez

Chair Rodriguez began her overview of the presentation by informing the board that she was introducing this new proposal to allow board members the opportunity to review and share it with their respective organizations over the next four weeks. The board can revisit the new proposal at the October meeting regarding this important subject of how to alleviate the cost to aspiring educators.

The idea was previously considered by the legislature, but later was adjusted to apply to community colleges only. The language of this proposal was largely taken from the community college language.

This proposal is intended to assist students  who begin their college training at community college and transition to ed prep programs. This proposal can be brought forward to the Education Committee for the next legislative session.

Dr. Cynthia Ritchie entertained a motion to table the discussion of this proposal and idea to the next meeting.

Patrice McCarthy motioned to table the discussion of the proposal until the next meeting.

Kristen Basiaga seconded the motion.

**Vote:**

**In favor:** Unanimous

The motion carried by general consensus.

**New Business:**  Open Discussion

**Next Steps:** Chair Rodriguez will generate two flyers that reflect the board's areas of focus for the legislature. The board will communicate with the legislators to ascertain whether they would be willing to attend one of the two upcoming CEPCB meetings in October or November.

The October meeting is an in-person meeting at the State Department of Education , 450 Columbus Boulevard.

Dr. Cynthia Ritchie motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Hamish MacPhail seconded the motion.

**Adjournment:** 3:35p.m**.**