

CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Remote Learning Commission Meeting

November 22, 2021

1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Charlene M. Russell-Tucker, Commissioner of Education, Chairperson
Doug Casey, Connecticut Commission for Educational Technology
Kate Dias, Connecticut Education Association (CEA)
Dr. Karen DuBois-Walton, Connecticut State Board of Education
Dr. Charles Dumais, RESC Alliance
Katharine Gabrielson, ConnCASE
Michelle Levy, Connecticut Office of Early Childhood (OEC)
Frances Rabinowitz, Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS)
Dr. Evelyn Robles-Rivas, Connecticut Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (CALAS)
Lon Seidman, Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE)
Rose Anne O'Brien Vojtek, Assistant Executive Director (CAS)
Lauren A. Mancini-Averitt, American Federation of Teachers-Connecticut (AFT)
Ed Klonoski, Charter Oak State College

Absent: Tim Larson, Connecticut Office of Higher Education (OHE)
Amy Wiltsie, State Education Resource Center of Connecticut (SERC)

Facilitator: Ingrid Canady, Executive Director, SERC

Staff: Desi Nesmith, Deputy Commissioner, CSDE
Ajit Gopalakrishnan, Chief Performance Officer, CSDE
Irene Parisi, Chief Academic Officer, CSDE

Guests: Dr. Louis Algaze, Florida Virtual School (FLVS)
Sandra Eggers, Florida Department of Education
Michael Bolling, Virginia Department of Education
Dr. Brian Mott, Virtual Virginia (VVA)

I. Opening Remarks & Introduction

Charlene M. Russell-Tucker, Commissioner, CSDE, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.
Ingrid Canady, Executive Director for SERC, welcomed attendees and reviewed the group norms and meeting's objectives as the facilitator of the Commission.

II. Roll Call

Irene Parisi, Chief Academic Officer, CSDE called attendance.

III. Acceptance of Minutes and Follow-up from Last Meeting Discussion

Members approved the October 18, 2021, meeting minutes.

IV. Introductions to New Members (if needed)

No new members were present.

V. Review the Purpose and Specific Tasks of the Commission

Charlene M. Russell-Tucker, Commissioner, CSDE, asked Commission members if there were any questions regarding the Commission's purpose and tasks. Commission members asked questions.

VI. The National Context - Implementation of Remote/Virtual/Online Learning by State Education

Irene Parisi, Chief Academic Officer, CSDE, introduced this portion of the meeting and questions that were asked of the presenters. Ajit Gopalakrishnan, Chief Performance Officer, CSDE, introduced the guests from Florida.

Dr. Louis Algaze, President & Chief Executive Officer of Florida Learning Virtual School (FLVS), gave an overview of the history of Florida Learning Virtual School (FLVS) and how it operates today. The overview of the operations included how FLVS is governed, reasons students partake in FLVS, current enrollment, staffing, curriculum, extracurricular enrichment, assessment, and funding. Dr. Algaze shared student state assessment data. Commission members asked questions to Dr. Algaze.

Irene Parisi, Chief Academic Officer, CSDE, introduced guests from the Virginia Department of Education and Virtual Virginia. Michael Bolling, Assistant Superintendent for Learning and Innovation, Virginia Department of Education, deferred to Dr. Brian Mott, Executive Director of Virtual Virginia, to provide an overview of Virtual Virginia that included funding, curriculum, extracurricular enrichment, programs offered, enrollment, and successes and challenges.

The Commission members asked questions to both presenters.

VII. Work Group Breakout for the Development of Commission Tasks

This portion of the meeting did not occur due to time constraints. Consensus was reached to extend the discussion with FLVS and Virtual Virginia.

VIII. Future Meetings/Calendar

Future meetings were announced: December 13, 2021, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. and January 10, 2022, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

IX. Closing/Meeting Adjourned

Charlene M. Russell-Tucker, Commissioner, CSDE, opened the floor for final remarks and adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.