



THE BOARD REPORT



2000-01: Issue 9

May 2001

The State Board of Education met on Wednesday, May 2, 2001, at W.F. Kaynor Regional Vocational-Technical School in Waterbury. Below are highlights of the meeting.

VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL MATTERS

W.F. Kaynor Regional Vocational-Technical School

Each year the State Board of Education schedules one or more of its monthly meetings at one of the state's 17 regional vocational-technical high schools. The May 2 meeting was held at W.F. Kaynor Regional Vocational-Technical School in Waterbury. **W.F. Kaynor Director Linda Drazen, Waterbury Superintendent of Schools David Snead and School Board President Michael Andolina** greeted the State Board and welcomed members to the school and the City of Waterbury.

Student council members led Board members on tours of Kaynor's trade areas and a digital classroom. The Board engaged in discussions with students about why they opted to enroll in a vocational-technical school and how the school is preparing them for their chosen careers.

Three seniors addressed the Board and shared their views as students at Kaynor Tech. **Karl Wence, Jr.** described his experiences in the culinary arts program and how the technology areas rely heavily on students' knowledge in the academic areas, particularly mathematics, science and English. **Shannon Bellemare**, enrolled in the fashion technology department, plans to further her education at Berkely College and the Fashion Institute of Technology. Shannon told the Board that her preparation at Kaynor, combined with her involvement in numerous extracurricular and athletic endeavors, has provided a solid foundation for

pursuit of her career goals. **Princeton Jones** told the Board that the freshman year exploratory program convinced him to pursue a career in drafting. The teachers at Kaynor Tech model a strong work ethic and have high expectations for their students, Princeton noted.

Aquanaut Program

Patricia Hans, Pro-Tech Facilitator at Norwich Regional Vocational-Technical High School, discussed Pro-Tech, the school system's enrichment program. Pro-Tech addresses the needs of exceptional secondary students with extraordinary learning abilities or outstanding talents. The program allows students to learn at an accelerated rate, modifying instructional practices within the classroom or in the resource center to address their educational needs.

The Aquanaut Program at Norwich Tech is an educational initiative of the National Undersea Research Center for the North Atlantic and Great Lakes. Students engage in hands-on, advanced learning with professionals as mentors and the latest technologies. The program provides a direct link between the academic study of theoretical science and practical research. Students enrolled in the program described their experiences in data collection at sea and laboratory analysis at the University of Connecticut laboratories. The program culminated in students preparing and presenting a scientific paper.

OATH OF OFFICE

Attorney Mark A. Stapleton administered the Oath of Office to Chairperson Craig Toensing, Allan Taylor and new Board member Donald Coolican. Governor Rowland reappointed Chairperson Toensing and Mr. Taylor and appointed Mr. Coolican to four-year terms on the Board.

Vocational-Technical School Matters (continued)

The Board discussed planned renovations and construction projects within the Regional Vocational-Technical School System (RVTSS). Howell Cheney Regional Vocational-Technical School and W.F. Kaynor Regional Vocational-Technical School are included in Phase II of the system's proposed construction grant projects.

The Board received an update on the system's School Collaboration Tech-Prep Program, a partnership program linking the RVTSS with the Community College System. The program links secondary and post-secondary education with business and industry to effectively prepare students who demonstrate advanced skills for the workplace. 660 RVTSS students in Grades 11 and 12 currently are enrolled in Capital Community College, Gateway Community College, Manchester Community College, Quinebaug Community College and Three Rivers Community College. Students have the opportunity to earn up to 14 college credits in a non-duplicative sequence of coursework, leading to an associate's or bachelor's degree or postsecondary certificate in a specific career field.

RECOGNITION

Beginning Educator Support and Training Teachers-in-Residence

Six educators who served as teachers-in-residence for the Beginning Educator Support and Training (BEST) Program were recognized by the State Board of Education for their contributions to the development and implementation of enhanced standards for new professionals entering Connecticut's schools. These individuals, released from their districts for a one- or two-year period, played important roles in developing professional development activities for beginning educators to support their successful completion of BEST. The following individuals were recognized:

- ❑ **Laurence A. Brown**, a science teacher in the **South Windsor Public Schools**;
- ❑ **Lynn Gaumond**, an elementary education teacher in the **Simsbury Public Schools**;
- ❑ **Michael L. Greenwood**, an elementary education teacher in the **Windsor Public Schools**;
- ❑ **Barbara A. Potter**, a music teacher in the **Bristol Public Schools**;
- ❑ **Mary C. Villanova**, a special education teacher in the **West Hartford Public Schools**; and
- ❑ **Alicia A. Willett**, a social studies teacher in the **South Windsor Public Schools**.

Career and Technical Student Organizations

Connecticut's career and technical student organizations are a co-curricular, integral part of the local, state and national applied education programs. These organizations aim to develop individual student leadership skills in a variety of ways and settings. Students have the opportunity to work in the private sector and engage in performance-based competitive activities, including community service projects.

The following career and technical student organizations were recognized by the Board for their outstanding community service projects:

- ❑ **Distributive Education Clubs of America, Shelton High School**;
- ❑ **Future Business Leaders of America, John F. Kennedy High School, Waterbury**;
- ❑ **Future Farmers of America, Wamogo Agricultural Science and Technology Center, Litchfield**; and
- ❑ **Skills/Vocational Industrial Clubs of America, Southington High School**.

**Plan to Address Racial Imbalance
at
Bear Path Elementary School, Hamden**

The Board approved the plan to address racial imbalance at the Bear Path Elementary School in Hamden. The plan was submitted by the Hamden Board of Education in response to 1999 statistics indicating that the school was racially imbalanced. The plan calls for the Bear Path School to be expanded to accommodate 145 additional students at the school, which will become a school of choice within Hamden, or a "unique school" under the definition of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. The school will feature a "multiple intelligences" project-based curriculum, an all-day kindergarten, and an infusion of technology to attract students from other Hamden schools that have a higher minority student population.

**Application for Funds:
State Action for Leadership Project**

The Board approved the Department's submission of an application for funds available from the Wallace-Reader's Digest Foundation under the auspices of the Council of Chief State School Officers, Education Commission of the States, National Association of State Boards of Education, National Conference of State Legislatures and the National Governor's Association. The Department would use grant funds to support the work of the 60-member Connecticut School Leadership Consortium and to review, revise and develop policies, programs and legislation to strengthen the preparation, recruitment, retention and support of Connecticut superintendents and principals.

The Board initially approved the Advanced Alternative Preparation for School Library Media Specialist Certification Program in 1999. The program is designed to meet the increasing need for and decreasing availability of school library media specialists in Connecticut. The Board extended the program through September 30, 2003, which will allow for two additional cohorts of participants. The purpose of the program is to give successful classroom teachers who have a minimum of five years of successful classroom experience and who have already earned their Master's degree an opportunity to become certified as school library medial specialists. Successful completion of the alternative program requires a commitment for one school year and participation in an intensive summer preparation program.

Attached to this issue of *The Board Report* you will find the Board's "Position Statement on Student Support Services." The Board recognizes the essential role that student support services professionals play in delivering prevention-oriented programs and services, assisting students in identifying and developing strengths and talents, and focusing on individual goals and postsecondary plans. The Board stresses the importance of support services professionals working together to address the myriad needs of students and keeping open lines of communication with families and community service providers.

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE	STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS
Address: 165 Capitol Ave. Room 301 Hartford, CT 6106	<i>Craig E. Toensing, Chairperson</i> <i>Janet M. Finneran, Vice Chairperson</i> <i>Amparo Adib-Samii</i> <i>David R. Agrawal</i> <i>Donald J. Coolican</i> <i>Terri L. Masters</i> <i>Timothy J. McDonald</i> <i>Jennifer Y. Santiago</i> <i>Allan B. Taylor</i> <i>Annika L. Warren</i>
Telephone: (860) 566-5371	
Facsimile: (860) 566-1723	
E-Mail: pamela.bergin@po.state.ct.us	
To obtain a copy of a report considered by the Board, please contact the Office of Public Information, 860-566-1304.	<i>Theodore S. Sergi, Secretary</i> <i>Valerie Lewis, ex officio</i>

NOTE: The next meeting of the State Board of Education is June 13, 2001. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. in Room 307 of the State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT.

The Board Report is published monthly and is posted on the Department's Internet site (<http://www.state.ct.us/sde>). It provides a summary of matters considered by the State Board of Education at its regular monthly meetings. The Department welcomes comments and suggestions concerning the format and content of **The Board Report**. Please submit your comments to Pamela V. Bergin, Office of the State Board of Education, 165 Capitol Avenue, Room 301, Hartford, CT 06106, or pamela.bergin@po.state.ct.us