



State Board of Education

Standing (left to right): Lynne S. Farrell, Valerie Lewis (Commissioner of Higher Education), Edna N. Chukwurah, Donald J. Coolican, Timothy J. McDonald, Sloan W. Danenhowe, Theresa Hopkins-Staten, Beverly R. Bobroske.

Seated (left to right): Patricia B. Luke, Janet M. Finneran (Vice-Chairperson); George A. Coleman, (Interim Commissioner), Allan B. Taylor (Chairperson), Alice L. Carolan

**Allan B. Taylor, Chairperson
Hartford**

Mr. Taylor was named Chairperson of the Board by Governor M. Jodi Rell in 2005. He is a partner in the law firm of Day, Berry & Howard and has an extensive record in public service in the Hartford community. He earned an A.B. from Harvard College; a M.P.P. from the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University; and a J.D. from Harvard Law School. Mr. Taylor has served on the Board since 1994; his current term expires February 2009.



**Janet M. Finneran, Vice Chairperson
Bethany**

Ms. Finneran retired in 2005 from the Cheshire Public School System, where she taught high school biology for the past 18 years and grade 7-8 biology and general science for 15 years. She earned a B.A. degree from St. Johns University and a M.S. degree from Southern Connecticut State University. In addition to serving as Vice Chairperson of the Board, Ms. Finneran chairs the Board's Policy Development Committee. Ms. Finneran was appointed to the Board in 1995; her current term expires February 2007.



**Beverly R. Bobroske
Bristol**

Mrs. Bobroske taught for three years and was a guidance counselor for 27 years in the Plymouth School System. She has a longstanding history of local, state and national public service involvement, including 17 years on the Bristol Board of Education, four of which she served as Chairman. She also served for two years as the President of the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education and has served on state and national advisory councils. Mrs. Bobroske was elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the National Association of State Boards of Education, effective January 2006. She was awarded B.S. and M.S. degrees from Central Connecticut State University. Her first term on the board expires February 2007.



Alice L. Carolan
Brookfield

Dr. Carolan has served as an adjunct professor in the doctoral program at the University of Bridgeport since 1995 and formerly taught graduate-level courses at several Connecticut universities. Dr. Carolan was an administrator in the Naugatuck and Windham school systems, and served as superintendent of the Naugatuck Public Schools from 1991 to 2001. In addition, she taught English and was the language arts coordinator in the Brookfield School System. Dr. Carolan is the secretary/treasurer of the League of Women Voters in Brookfield and serves as a board member for several community and civic organizations. Dr. Carolan received her Ph.D. in educational administration and school law from the University of Connecticut; her administrative certification from Southern Connecticut State University; and her Sixth Year Certificate, master's degree and Bachelor of Science degree from Western Connecticut State University. Dr. Carolan is serving her first term on the Board, which expires February 2007.



Edna Chukwurah
Bridgeport

Miss Chukwurah is a senior at Central Magnet High School in Bridgeport. She is one of two student members appointed to the Board by the Governor and is serving a one-year term that expires June 2007. Miss Chukwurah is president of the Interact Club and a member of the National Honor Society and Spanish National Honor Society. She enjoys graphic arts and web page design. Miss Chukwurah served as a municipal intern in the Bridgeport mayor's office for one year. Upon graduating in June 2007, she intends to study pre-medicine.



Donald B. Coolican
East Hampton

Mr. Coolican served in the U.S. Navy on active duty and as a reserve duty naval aviator between 1960 and 1981. He also was a pilot and engineer for international airlines from 1967 to 1998. He received a B.S. from Miami University. Mr. Coolican has participated in numerous public service roles, including chairman of the East Hampton Board of Education. He currently chairs the State Board of Education's Connecticut Technical High Schools Committee. Mr. Coolican's term expires February 2009.



Sloan Danenhower
Old Lyme

Mr. Danenhower is a senior at Lyme-Old Lyme High School. He is one of two student members appointed to the Board by the Governor and is serving a one-year term that expires June 2007. Mr. Danenhower is president of his class and has served as the student representative on his local board of education. In 2006 he was elected as Governor of Boy's State. Mr. Danenhower founded Youths Promoting Political Awareness at his school. He is a reporter for the school newspaper and is a member of the Key Club and American Field Service. Mr. Danenhower plans to study international business after graduating in June 2007.



Lynne S. Farrell
Shelton

Ms. Farrell is an attorney with the firm Farrell, Leslie & Grochowski, and specializes in juvenile law. Prior to her legal career, Ms. Farrell was an elementary school principal and teacher in the West Haven School System. She has also served as an adjunct professor at Fordham University and the University of New Haven. Ms. Farrell earned a J.D. degree from Quinnipiac University School of Law, Ph.D. from Fordham University, C.A.S. from Fairfield University, M.S. from Southern Connecticut State University, and a B.A. from Albertus Magnus College. Ms. Farrell's first term on the Board expires February 2007.



Theresa Hopkins-Staten
West Hartford

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten is the Director of Conservation & Load Management and Community Programs at Northeast Utilities, and chair and president of the Northeast Utilities Foundation. For 11 years, she served as Senior Counsel to Northeast Utilities. She also serves on the boards of numerous business, education and community organizations. Mrs. Hopkins-Staten earned both a B.A. and J.D. from the University of Connecticut. Mrs. Hopkins-Staten is serving her first term on the board, which expires February 2009.



Patricia B. Luke
New Britain

Mrs. Luke served as the Director of the Elementary & Middle School Principals Association of Connecticut and worked as the Associate Director and Director of Legislative Services for the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education from 1980 to 1999. Prior to that, she taught in the communications department at Central Connecticut State University. Mrs. Luke attended the University of North Carolina and was awarded B.S. and MS. degrees by Central Connecticut State University. Mrs. Luke's second term on the Board expires February 2009.



Timothy J. McDonald
Waterbury

Mr. McDonald, Principal of Holy Cross High School in Waterbury since 1989, has worked in teaching and administration assignments since 1968. He serves as chairperson of the State Board of Education's Legislation & Bylaws Committee. McDonald earned a B.A. from Holy Cross College and a M.A. from Fairfield University. He is currently serving his third term on the Board, which expires February 2007.



Valerie F. Lewis, Ex Officio
Groton

Valerie Lewis is Connecticut's 4th Commissioner of Higher Education, appointed by the Board of Governors for Higher Education in 2000. She oversees the Department of Higher Education and reports to the Board whose job it is to coordinate, set policy and plan for the higher education system. She holds degrees in English and Education from Mount Holyoke College and the University of Connecticut.



George A. Coleman, Interim Commissioner of Education
Sandy Hook

Mr. Coleman was named Interim Commissioner of Education by the Connecticut State Board of Education effective August 14, 2006. He serves as Secretary to the State Board of Education and oversees the State Department of Education. Mr. Coleman earned a Bachelor of Science degree in history from Tuskegee Institute. He also earned graduate degrees in both early childhood education and curriculum and instruction from Teacher's College at Columbia University. Mr. Coleman will serve as Interim Commissioner of Education until such time as a permanent candidate is chosen.

