

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
January 7, 2015
(approved February 4, 2015)

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, January 7, 2015, in Room 307 of the State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Allan Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:50 a.m.

Present: Allan Taylor, Chairperson
Theresa Hopkins-Staten, Vice Chairperson
Erin D. Benham
Michael Caminear, Student
Patricia Keavney-Maruca*
Maria I. Mojica
Robert Trefry, ex officio
Joseph Vrabely
Stephen Wright (via conference call)

Absent: Megan Foell, Student
Gregory Gray, ex officio
Charles Jaskiewicz
Terry Jones
Estela López

On a motion by Mr. Vrabely, seconded by Mrs. Hopkins-Staten, the Board voted unanimously to consider agenda item VI.F., Appointment of Interim Commissioner of Education, at this time.

VI.F. Appointment of Interim Commissioner

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Section 10-3a of the Connecticut General Statutes, accepts the recommendation of the Personnel Search Committee and appoints Dr. Dianna Wentzell as Interim Commissioner of Education, effective immediately, to serve until such time as a new Commissioner is appointed.

VOTE ON

MOTION: In favor: Benham, Hopkins-Staten, Mojica, Taylor,
Vrabely, Wright
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0

Absent: Jaskiewicz, Jones, Keavney-Maruca, López

Motion carried unanimously.

Attorney Louis B. Todisco, Commissioner of the Superior Court, administered the Oath of Office to Dr. Dianna R. Wentzell (copy in official file).

II. Public Participation

1. Kate Fioravanti, District Arts Supervisor, New London Public Schools, thanked the Board for its support for arts education, providing grant opportunities, and the leadership of State Department of Education staff (Scott Shuler and Jackie Coleman). Ms. Fioravanti extended an invitation to the Board to visit New London Public Schools to witness their progress in the arts.
2. Diana Coyne, Parents Concussion Coalition, read prepared remarks and asked that the Board follow the model used in Maryland via a task force comprised of a diverse group of experts that reports directly to the State Board of Education. She recommended that the task force allow public comments on its recommendations. A copy Ms. Coyne's prepared statement is included in the official file of this meeting.
3. Pippa Bell Ader, Westport, a member of the Parents Concussion Coalition, spoke about the importance of successfully implementing the concussion law and the need for communication with school districts and parents. She encouraged the Board to take a more active role in enforcing the law. A copy Ms. Bell Ader's prepared statement is included in the official file of this meeting.

[Mrs. Keavney-Maruca arrived at 10:04 a.m.]

4. Deb Shulansky, Director of Community Outreach and Support, Brain Injury Alliance of Connecticut (BIAC), expressed her appreciation for the work of the Youth Concussion Advisory Group pursuant to Public Act 14-66, and stated there is a need for more review and comment. She urged the Board to establish an ongoing task force of professionals who work with student athletes and individuals who have sustained a concussion, as well as those who educate the public on the prevention of brain injury. A copy Ms. Shulansky's prepared statement is included in the official file of this meeting.
5. Rie Poirier-Campbell, Executive Director of Hartford Performs, spoke about the importance of the arts in education and in the community, and the impact the arts have on students' success. She commended the Department for hiring Ms. Jackie Coleman as the new arts consultant. A copy Ms. Campbell's prepared statement is included in the official file of this meeting.
6. Cheryl Hill, a Connecticut parent and taxpayer, expressed concerns about privacy and the extent of data collection. Ms. Hill also expressed concern about the Common Core and

SBAC. A copy of Ms. Hill's prepared statement is included in the official file of this meeting.

7. Jesse P. Turner, Ph.D., Central Connecticut State University, spoke about student assessment and the importance of it being balanced with the health, well-being, and fitness of children. He noted that we must look at the "whole child" and present a balanced and broader assessment framework that views performance over time. A copy of Dr. Turner's prepared statement is included in the official file of this meeting.
8. Bonnie Koba, Arts in Education Program Manager, Connecticut Office of the Arts, thanked the Board for its support of arts and the importance of the arts in developing a well-rounded student. She stated that she was pleased with the opportunity to collaborate with the new arts education consultant, Jackie Coleman, and looks forward to continuing to work with the State Department of Education.
9. Robert Cotto, Jr., Connecticut Voices for Children, spoke regarding diversity (racial, ethnic, ELL, special education, socioeconomic) and access in Connecticut school choice programs. A copy of Mr. Cotto's prepared statement is included in the official file of this meeting.
10. Ann Monroe-Baillargeon, Ph.D., Dean of the School of Education, University of St. Joseph, West Hartford, spoke on behalf of the Connecticut Chapter of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education. She noted that AACTE-CT has made a commitment to stay informed and engaged in all matters of education in Connecticut (i.e., stakeholder, EPAC and State Board meetings; Commissioner search). A copy Dr. Baillargeon's prepared statement is included in the official file of this meeting.
11. Dr. Kevin Basmadjian, Dean of the School of Education at Quinnipiac University and a member of AACTE-CT, urged the Board to exercise caution and consider the potential for unintended consequences before approving new policies and regulations that would transform teacher preparation. He recommended that someone from Connecticut's teacher preparation programs serve on the Commissioner Search Committee. A copy Dr. Basmadjian's prepared statement is included in the official file of this meeting.
12. Kristin Steeves, history education major at Central Connecticut State University, expressed her support for the Social Studies Framework and urged the Board to adopt the Framework at its February 2015 meeting.

III. Consent Agenda

Ms. Keavney-Maruca moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the Board consider consent agenda items III.A. and III.B.

A. CTHSS Biennial Summary Report (2012-13 and 2013-14)

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-95k of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the Connecticut Technical High School System

A. Adoption of 2015 Technical Legislative Proposals

Mr. Vrabely moved, Mrs. Benham seconded, that the State Board of Education adopts the 2015 Technical Legislative Proposals and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

MOTION: In favor: Benham, Hopkins-Staten, Keavney-Maruca,
Mojica, Taylor, Vrabely, Wright
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: Jaskiewicz, Jones, López

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Consideration of Request by Regional School District No. 6 to State Board of Education to Initiate a Complaint Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-4b

Mrs. Benham moved, Ms. Mojica seconded, that the State Board of Education hereby declines to initiate a complaint pursuant to Section 10-4b of the Connecticut General Statutes against the Thomaston Board of Education for its alleged failure to implement the educational interests of the State, specifically, for its failure to comply with Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-220d, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

MOTION: In favor: Benham, Hopkins-Staten, Keavney-Maruca,
Mojica, Taylor, Vrabely, Wright
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: Jaskiewicz, Jones, López

Motion carried unanimously.

E. Approval of Concussion Education Plan

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Public Act 14-66: An Act Concerning Youth Athletics and Concussions, approves the Concussion Education Plan and Guidelines for Connecticut Schools, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

MOTION: In favor: Benham, Hopkins-Staten, Keavney-Maruca,
Mojica, Taylor, Vrabely, Wright
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0

Absent: Jaskiewicz, Jones, López

Motion carried unanimously.

G. Appointments to Personnel Search Committee to Conduct Search for Commissioner of Education

Ms. Mojica moved, Mrs. Keavney-Maruca seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-3a and Section 1-200 of the Connecticut General Statutes, appoints to a Personnel Search Committee the following members:

- o all voting members of the State Board of Education, providing that those whose terms expire in 2015 but who are not nominated to serve another term shall cease to be a member of the Personnel Search Committee; and
- o any individual nominated by the Governor to fill a vacancy on the State Board of Education, providing that if such nomination is not confirmed by the General Assembly, said individual shall cease to be a member of the Personnel Search Committee; and
- o the Chairperson of the Connecticut Technical High School Board; and
- o Elizabeth Donohue of the Office of the Governor; and

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education charges said Personnel Search Committee with responsibility for conducting a search for a Commissioner of Education and submitting to the State Board of Education for its consideration a candidate for Commissioner of Education, whose appointment shall be recommended to the Governor.

VOTE ON

MOTION:	In favor:	Benham, Hopkins-Staten, Keavney-Maruca, Mojica, Taylor, Wright
	Opposed:	Vrabely
	Abstained:	0
	Absent:	Jaskiewicz, Jones, López

Motion carried.

By unanimous consent, the Board voted to add to the agenda item VI.H., Appointment of Interim Chief Academic Officer.

H. Appointment of Interim Chief Academic Officer

Mr. Vrabely moved, Ms. Benham seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-2a of the Connecticut General Statutes and its Bylaws, appoints Mrs. Ellen Cohn as Interim Chief Academic Officer, effective immediately, to serve until such time as a new Commissioner is appointed.

VOTE ON

MOTION: In favor: Benham, Hopkins-Staten, Keavney-Maruca,
Mojica, Taylor, Vrabely, Wright
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: Jaskiewicz, Jones, López

Motion carried unanimously.

The Board recessed its meeting at 12:05 p.m.

The Board reconvened the meeting at 1:05 p.m.

Present: Allan Taylor, Chairperson
Theresa Hopkins-Staten, Vice Chairperson
Erin D. Benham
Michael Caminear, Student
Patricia Keavney-Maruca
Maria I. Mojica
Robert Trefry, ex officio
Joseph Vrabely
Stephen Wright (via conference call)

Absent: Megan Foell, Student
Gregory Gray, ex officio
Charles Jaskiewicz
Terry Jones
Estela López

VII. Items for Discussion

A. Overview of ESEA Flexibility Renewal Process

Chief Operating Officer Charlene Russell-Tucker presented a PowerPoint, providing an overview of the "ESEA Flexibility Renewal Process." She summarized Connecticut's progress to date on each of its waiver commitments in the following areas: college and career-ready expectations for all students; state-developed systems of differentiated recognition, accountability, and support; and supporting effective instruction and leadership.

Discussion ensued. Board members requested that they be kept apprised of policy implications of the flexibility request before its submission in March 2015.

VIII. Report of the Chair

Chairman Taylor did not present a report.

IX. Report of the Commissioner

Interim Commissioner Wentzell did not present a report.

X. Financial Matters

Chief Financial Officer Kathy Demsey stated that the Department awaits release of the Governor's budget. She noted that the Department is working with the Office of Policy and Management to address staffing issues in both Central Office and the Connecticut Technical High School System.

XI. Committee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessment

No report was given.

B. Accountability and Support

No report was given.

C. Finance, Audit, and Budget

No report was given.

D. Legislation and Policy Development

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten reported that the committee met this morning and discussed several matters, including: chronic absenteeism in general, and in relation to Alliance Districts; an update on English Language Learners and potential legislation to address the educational needs of English Language Learners students; and standards for charter schools related to governance and transparency.

A. Connecticut Technical High School System Board

Mr. Trefry referenced the CTHSS Newsletter, commented on the STEM initiative at Henry Abbott Technical High School, and the educational value of Skills USA.

B. NASBE

No report was given.

Chairman Taylor adjourned the meeting at 2:23 p.m.

Signed: _____
Dianna R. Wentzell, Secretary