

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

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

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, February 4, 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 9:45 a.m.

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

Absent: Gregory Gray, ex officio
Charles Jaskiewicz

II. Public Participation

1. Members of the State Student Advisory Council on Education (SSACE) presented a synopsis of their work to date in three areas. Megan Foell, a senior at Thomaston High School, updated the Board on the SSACE's work in the area of community-based learning. Peter Russell, a student at Greenwich High School, summarized the SSACE's study of standardized testing, especially in Grade 11. Max Wang, a senior at Shelton High School, spoke about their research on the ideal start time for high school students.
2. State Representative Victor Cuevas, City of Waterbury, spoke about the effective use of the Turnaround grant funds in Waterbury, noting that he has seen improvements to the school culture and climate, which is integral to student success. He noted that he has witnessed positive growth at Crosby High School.

3. State Representative Larry B. Butler, spoke in support of the Board's adoption of agenda item VI.C, approval of Crosby High School Turnaround Plan, and commended the support of the Waterbury Mayor, Superintendent, Board leadership, and the Chief Operating Officer.
4. Elizabeth Lapman, President of the Connecticut Council of Language Teachers (COLT) and world language curriculum coordinator for Regional School District No. 10, spoke in support of reinstating a world languages consultant in the State Department of Education. She noted that it would ensure equity and excellence in world languages statewide and would allow for a voice in the national conversation about language learning. A copy of Ms. Lapman's prepared remarks is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
5. Jessica Haxhi, supervisor of world languages for the New Haven Public Schools, spoke in support of reinstating a world languages consultant in the State Department of Education and explained the importance of doing so. A copy of Ms. Haxhi's prepared remarks is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
6. Christopher Ozmun, principal of Oswegatchie School in Waterford and a board member of the Connecticut Science Supervisors Association, expressed his support for the adoption of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). He addressed the value of the NGSS in helping to deepen students' understanding of science, engineering, and technology, and the importance of inquiry-based standards. A copy of Mr. Ozmun's prepared remarks is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
7. Neil O'Leary, Mayor of the City of Waterbury, spoke in support of the adoption of Crosby High School's Turnaround Plan. He stated that the City of Waterbury is fully committed to the turnaround process and he has confidence in the new Crosby High School leadership, with the support of state and city resources. Mayor O'Leary informed the Board of the notable change in the atmosphere at Crosby High School.
8. Charles L. Stango, president of the Waterbury Board of Education, stated that the Board supports the Turnaround Plan for Crosby High School. He stated that they would like to make Crosby a model for urban school reform and believes the plan will have proven results.
9. Cheryl Gatling, parent member of the Crosby High School Turnaround Committee, and mother of two students in Crosby High School, praised the recent collaborative efforts of the school district and outside individuals. She noted that they are ready and able to turn the school around. Ms. Gatling stated that parents and students need to be actively involved in fixing problems within our schools.
10. Simona Carter, mother of a Crosby High School student, shared her enthusiasm for smaller learning academies for students and expressed her support of the Turnaround Plan.

11. Kathy Reilly, Education Director, Urban League of Greater Hartford, asked the Board to consider allowing the State of Connecticut to offer an alternative high school equivalency test to non-high school graduates in Connecticut. She expressed her concerns with the administration and results of a new GED test developed by Pearson and administered in Connecticut. A copy of Ms. Reilly's prepared remarks is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
12. Richard Therrien, K-12 Science Supervisor for the New Haven Public Schools, and a member of the Next Generation Science Standards Connecticut Leadership Team, spoke about the importance of science education and his support for the adoption of the Next Generation Science Standards. A copy of Mr. Therrien's prepared remarks is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
13. Melinda Meyer, a member of the Connecticut Science Supervisors Association and a K-8 Science Coordinator, expressed her support for the Next Generation Science Standards. She explained to the Board what is different about the Next Generation Science Standards, why they are beneficial, and who will benefit from them. A copy of Ms. Meyer's prepared remarks is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
14. Lea Graner Kennedy, CT-COLT liaison to the National Association of Supervisors of Foreign Languages, asked the Board to consider reinstating the state position of world languages supervisor in order to ensure that all of Connecticut's students have access to programs to attain competency in writing and speaking in at least two languages. A copy of Ms. Graner Kennedy's prepared remarks is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
15. Dr. David Moss, science teacher educator on the faculty of the University of Connecticut, urged the adoption of the Next Generation Science Standards from both a research perspective and in terms of supporting the preparation of future teachers at UConn and other public and private institutions across Connecticut. He added that the standards will support STEM learning across Connecticut, and will help our state to be recognized as a leader in the field. A copy of Dr. Moss' prepared remarks is enclosed in the official file of this meeting.
16. Ann Sweeney, Member of the Waterbury Board of Education, expressed her support for the Crosby High School Turnaround Plan. She stated that development of the plan was a collaborative effort and that parents are pleased with the smaller learning academies. Ms. Sweeney noted her concerns regarding financial support for what the school is expected to deliver, and expressed the need to convince taxpayers that this is a worthwhile educational investment.
17. Tom Brodnitzki, social studies teacher at CREC, spoke in support of agenda item VI.A., Social Studies Curriculum Framework, and urged the Board to adopt it.

18. Rita Oleksak, Director of Foreign Language, ELL, Glastonbury Public Schools, stated that Connecticut's students are falling behind in the area of world languages, and expressed her support for hiring a state education consultant in world languages to better represent students' interests.
19. Lori Farkash, second grade teacher at Moses Beach School, Wallingford, and a former recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, stated that the Next Generation Science Standards are good for all students.
20. James Wildman, Vice-president of the Connecticut Council of Language Teachers and a teacher in the Glastonbury Public Schools, expressed his support for reinstating a world languages consultant and updating the 2005 framework in this subject area.
21. Linda Dalpe, CT-COLT past president and forty-year veteran teacher in Enfield, expressed support for a state world languages consultant. Ms. Dalpe stated that all students should learn at least two languages, and noted that Connecticut is falling behind in providing equitable world language instruction for all students.

III. Consent Agenda

Mr. Vrabely moved, and Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded, that the Board consider consent agenda item III.A.

A. Approval of Summer Food Service State Plan

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 13 of the National School Lunch Act of 1946, as amended by P.L. 108-265, P.L. 110-246, P.L. 111-80 and reauthorized on December 13, 2010, under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, P.L. 111-296, approves the Summer Food Service Program State Plan for Fiscal Year 2015 for submission to the United States Department of Agriculture, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Executive Session

The Board did not meet in Executive Session.

V. Consideration of the Minutes of the January 7, 2015, State Board of Education Meeting

Mrs. Benham moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the Board adopt the Minutes of the January 7, 2015, State Board of Education meeting.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

By unanimous consent, the Board voted to consider agenda item VI.C. at this time.

VI.C. Approval of Crosby High School (Waterbury) Turnaround Plan

Mr. Vrabely moved, Mr. Jones seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-223h of the Connecticut General Statutes, adopts and approves the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 Turnaround Plan for Crosby High School in Waterbury for the Commissioner's Network, subject to the conditions noted in the Commissioner's February 4, 2015, memorandum to the State Board of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action, including, but not limited to, expending such funds as may be necessary to execute and implement the foregoing.

Mr. Jones moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the resolution be amended by adding the following language to the end:

...and, RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education's approval is subject to the presentation to the State Board of Education Accountability and Support Committee, on behalf of the Board, a detailed plan and targets for reduction of chronic absenteeism and for improvements in targeted measures of school performance.

VOTE ON

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

Amendment carried unanimously.

Ms. Benham moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the Board adopt the motion as amended, to read as follows:

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-223h of the Connecticut General Statutes, adopts and approves the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 Turnaround Plan for Crosby High School in Waterbury for the Commissioner's Network, subject to the conditions noted in the Commissioner's February 4, 2015, memorandum to the State Board of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action, including, but not limited to, expending such funds as may be necessary to execute and implement the foregoing; and

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education's approval is subject to the presentation to the State Board of Education Accountability and Support Committee, on behalf of the Board, a detailed plan and targets for reduction of chronic absenteeism and for improvements in targeted measures of school performance.

VOTE ON

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

Motion as amended carried unanimously.

On a motion by Mr. Jones, seconded by Dr. López, the Board voted unanimously to consider agenda item VI.A., Adoption of Social Studies Framework, at this time.

VI.A. Adoption of Social Studies Framework

Mr. Wright moved, Mr. Jones seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-166 of the Connecticut General Statutes, hereby grants final approval of the Connecticut Elementary and Secondary Social Studies Framework, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

VOTE ON

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

Motion carried unanimously.

The Board recessed its meeting at 12:44 p.m.
The Board reconvened the meeting at 1:25 p.m. All members were present except Mr. Jaskiewicz and Dr. Gray.

By unanimous consent, the Board voted to consider agenda item VII.B. at this time.

VII.B. A Look to the Future: Personalized Learning in Connecticut

The following presenters summarized a white paper on personalized learning: Dr. Joseph Cirusuolo, CAPSS; Janet Garagliano, CAPSS; Dr. Larry Schaefer, CAPSS; Dr. Karissa Niehoff, CAS; and Michael Galluzzo (CAS). The panelists explained the need for a clear definition of a personalized learning system and stated that the system must be competency-based, offer multiple paths of study, use variable time, and include meaningful assessment and accountability. The paper emphasizes the urgency for a personalized learning system in Connecticut, citing that "All students should be invested in learning, prepared for college and career, be globally competitive, and be active participants in our representative democracy."

Discussion followed.

VI.B. Adoption of 2015 Technical Legislative Proposals

Mr. Vrabely moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten 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, Jones, Keavney-Maruca, López, Mojica, Taylor, Vrabely, Wright
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	0
	Absent:	Jaskiewicz

Motion carried unanimously.

VI.D. Incorporation of Plan to Address Chronic Absenteeism in Alliance District Plans

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten moved, Mrs. Keavney-Maruca seconded, the following resolution:

VII. Items for Discussion

C. Update on Student Assessments

Interim Chief Academic Officer Ellen Cohn and education consultants Abe Krist, Gail Pagano, and Janet Stuck presented an update on the implementation of the Connecticut Core Standards and the Smarter Balanced Assessment System (summative assessment; interim assessment; and the digital library and the formative assessment process). They also described options for 11th grade assessments and communication with stakeholders on these two important initiatives. Discussion ensued.

[Mr. Wright disconnected via phone at 3:00 p.m.]

[Mr. Taylor left the meeting room at 3:05 p.m.]

D. Update on Next Generation Science Standards

Interim Commissioner Dianna R. Wentzell introduced Interim Chief Academic Officer Ellen Cohn. Mrs. Cohn introduced the other panelist members: Elizabeth Buttner, Jeff Greig, Harold Mackin, and Ron Michael, STEM Unit Consultants.

The panel provided a PowerPoint presentation on (1) the need for new science standards, (2) development of Next Generation Science Standards, (3) Connecticut's role in NGSS development, and (4) an overview of NGSS by performance expectations, framework foundations, science connections, and Common Core connections.

[Mr. Taylor returned at 3:14 p.m.]

Discussion followed.

E. Flexibility Waiver: Policy Implications

Chief Operating Officer Charlene Russell-Tucker, Division Director Morgan Barth, Interim Chief Academic Officer Ellen Cohn, Bureau Chief Ajit Gopalakrishnan, and Chief Talent Officer Sarah Barzee presented an overview of the "ESEA Flexibility Renewal Process." The panelists 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.

At this time, the Board took the opportunity to acknowledge Adam Goldfarb, Chief of Staff, who recently announced that he has accepted a new position. The Board thanked Mr. Goldfarb for his work during his tenure with the State Department of Education, and wished his continued success in his professional endeavors.

[Mr. Taylor left the meeting at 4:39 p.m.; Mrs. Hopkins-Staten presided.]

VIII. Report of the Chair

Vice Chairperson Hopkins-Staten did not present a report.

IX. Report of the Commissioner

Interim Commissioner Wentzell indicated that the State Department of Education team is committed to continuing the important work that has been conducted over the past few years, and will continue to support, and work collaboratively with, all stakeholders on education initiatives.

X. Financial Matters

Chief Financial Officer Kathy Demsey stated that the Department awaits release of the Governor's budget in mid-February.

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 Norfolk and Colebrook's consideration of forming a regional school

district. This item will be presented to the Board at a future meeting for its review and action.

A. Connecticut Technical High School System Board

Mr. Trefry noted that the CTHSS Board is in the process of reviewing its admissions policy.

B. NASBE

No report was given.

Dr. López moved, Mr. Jones seconded, that the Board add to the agenda and consider agenda item VI.F., Resolution in Honor of Patricia Keavney-Maruca:

VI.F. Resolution in Honor of Patricia Keavney-Maruca

WHEREAS, Patricia Keavney-Maruca was appointed to the Connecticut State Board of Education by Governor Dannel P. Malloy in March 2011; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Keavney-Maruca, a long-time educator, served on the former Technical High School System Committee, and has served as a member of the Connecticut Technical High School System Board and the State Board of Education Accountability and Support Committee; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Keavney-Maruca was appointed by Governor Malloy to the Sandy Hook Advisory Commission, a panel of experts charged to review current policy and make recommendations in the areas of public safety, with particular attention to school safety, mental health, and gun violence prevention; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Connecticut State Board of Education extends to Patricia Keavney-Maruca its appreciation for the time, commitment and leadership she has dedicated to the improvement of public education in Connecticut, and offers best wishes for happiness and success in the future.

Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairperson Hopkins-Staten adjourned the meeting at 4:57 p.m.

Signed: _____
Dianna R. Wentzell, Secretary