

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Hartford**

Minutes of Meeting  
February 6, 2008

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, February 6, 2008, at the State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Present: Allan Taylor, Chair  
Whitney Bartell  
James Blake  
Beverly Bobroske  
Alice Carolan  
Donald Coolican  
Lynne Farrell\*  
Janet Finneran  
Theresa Hopkins-Staton  
Patricia Luke  
Jay Voss

**II. Public Participation**

1. Mark Waxenberg, CEA, presented a written statement to the Board regarding the State Department of Education's response to recommendations of the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee regarding the Beginning Educator Support and Training (BEST) Program. A copy of his remarks can be found in the official file of this meeting.

[\*Dr. Farrell arrived at 9:45 a.m.]

2. Jean Klein, Connecticut Reading Association (CRA), presented to the Board CRA's position statement regarding reading in response to the Reading Summit. A copy of her remarks can be found in the official file of this meeting.
3. Mary Ellen Zukoski, Mitchell College President, agreed with the recommendation of the State Department of Education, agenda item, XI.A., Approval of Educator Preparation Program: Mitchell College. She stated that the College is committed to Early Childhood education programs.



**VI. Consideration of Minutes of the January 2, 2008, State Board of Education Meeting**

Commissioner McQuillan requested that under the "Report of the Commissioner" the word "joint" be placed before the word "office" in the first sentence of his report on the Sheff Office. It should now read:

- The joint Sheff Office has been staffed and they are meeting with Hartford Public Schools and CREC to discuss structure of the joint office. Commissioner McQuillan will be meeting with Hartford Area Superintendents on January 17, 2008, to discuss magnet school funding. On January 3, 2008, the Commissioner will present oral arguments in Court regarding the Sheff v. O'Neill Case.

Mrs. Luke moved, Mrs. Bobroske seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the January 2, 2008, State Board of Education meeting.

VOTE:	In Favor:	Coolican, Farrell, Hopkins-Staten, Luke, Taylor
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	Bobroske, Carolan, Finneran, Voss
	Absent:	0

Motion carried unanimously.

**V.A. Update – Early Childhood Cabinet**

Dr. Janice Gruendel, Governor's Senior Policy Advisor, Children and Youth and Co-Chair, Early Childhood Cabinet, presented the report to the Board. Discussion followed.

**V.B. Science Standard Setting**

Dr. William Congero, Director of Student Assessment, Bureau of Student Assessment, Division of Assessment and Accountability, presented the report to the Board. Discussion followed.

**V.C. Longitudinal Data**

Sarah Ellsworth, Acting Chief, Bureau of Data Collection, Research and Evaluation along with Mark Vocca, Data Warehouse Project Manager and Raymond Martin, Consultant, presented the report to the Board. Discussion followed.

By unanimous consent, the Board recessed its meeting at 12:25 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 1:10 p.m. Present: Mr. Coolican, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten, Dr. Farrell, Mr. Blake, Ms. Bartell, Mr. Taylor, Mrs. Bobroske, Dr. Carolan and Dr. Voss. Mrs. Luke and Ms. Finneran were absent.

**XI.C. Approval of Teacher Preparation Program: Connecticut College**

Dr. Carolan moved, Dr. Voss seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Section 10-145d-9(f)(1) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, grants full program approval for the period February 6, 2008, through September 30, 2011, for the purpose of certifying graduates from Connecticut College in the following areas:

<u>Program</u>	<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>Program Level</u>	<u>Program Type</u>
Elementary Education	K-6	Initial	Undergraduate
Secondary Academic Subjects:			
English	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate
French	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate
Spanish	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate
History and Social Studies	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate
Mathematics	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate
Biology	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate
Chemistry	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate
Earth Science	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate
General Science	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate
Physics	7-12	Initial	Undergraduate
Special Subjects:			
Music	PK-12	Initial	Undergraduate

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

[Ms. Finneran and Mrs. Luke returned at 1:15 pm]

VOTE: In Favor: Bobroske, Carolan, Coolican, Farrell, Finneran, Hopkins-Staten, Luke, Taylor, Voss  
 Opposed: 0  
 Abstained: 0  
 Absent: 0

Motion carried unanimously.

**VIII. Report of the Chair** – Mr. Taylor reported the following:

- Mr. Taylor attended the Governor's Early Childhood Summit, on January 15, 2008, at Northeast Utilities. He stated that the Governor is very committed to this issue.
- Mr. Taylor acknowledged Dr. Voss and Ms. Finneran for joining the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner at numerous public forums on the secondary school improvement proposals. On February 5, 2008, Mr. Taylor and Janet Finneran attended the session with the Connecticut Academy, held at the Crowne Plaza in Cromwell; and he also attended the EASTCONN and CREC sessions. Mr. Taylor welcomed the Board to attend any of the remaining sessions.
- **NASBE:**
  - Mr. Taylor was been elected the NASBE Northeast Area Director and is also on the Board of Directors. Dr. Voss is serving on the Middle School Study Group.
  - The NASBE Upcoming Legislative Conference will be held in Washington, D.C., on March 13 and 14, 2008.
  - Awards Nominations: Board members are invited to nominate individuals for three awards: The Policy Leader of the Year Award; the Distinguished Service Award; and the Friend of Education Award. Nominations must be submitted no later than March 31.
- March 5, 2008, State Board of Education Meeting
  - The educator recognition event has been reschedule for 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., following our regular March meeting, to take place at the State Office Building. The meeting will begin in the afternoon, at a time to be determined.

**IX. Report of the Commissioner** - Commissioner McQuillan reported on the following:

- Commissioner McQuillan stated that Governor's Budget is a solid start and he was looking forward to working with the Governor.
- High School Reform – Commissioner McQuillan thanked the Department staff for their work either taking notes or doing a presentation. We are seeing significance of our work internally and its impact on forming a plan for a cost analysis. We will seek money for a cost study but will not be able to complete by July. We have received a variety of responses to the proposals, but on a whole taking people to a level we need to address. We will be having a conference in September or October to review the cost study and future direction.
- The Department is part of the RBA's initiative. This is a data-based decision-making process to coordinate resources and maximize efforts of work conducted within and across agencies. The Commissioner thanked Charlene Russell Tucker for her work.
- Commissioner McQuillan stated that the Department is still without an Associate Commissioner for the Division of Teaching, Learning and Instructional Leadership, and most likely will not be able to recruit until the end of the year. Secondly, due to the budget freeze, we will have to take on additional help to bring forward certification regulations.
- Accountability Work – At the March State Board of Education meeting, there will be an orientation given to the full board. It is the committee's hope that two districts will be presented at each meeting. Results of the Cambridge Assessment will be released by each district.
- Update on Sheff – Deputy Commissioner Coleman provided the Board with an update of the Sheff v. O'Neill case. He stated that the Judge accepted the settlement and sent it back to the General Assembly to approve or take other action for his consideration.

#### **VIII. Quarterly Financial Report**

Mr. Mahoney, Chief Financial Officer, Finance and Internal Operations, presented the report to the Board. Discussion followed.

#### **IX. Consent Agenda**

Mr. Taylor removed from the consent agenda item IX.A., Appointment of Special Education Hearing Officers.





**XI.D. Report on the Beginning Educator Support and Training Program by the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee**

Mrs. Bobroske moved, Mrs. Luke seconded, that the Board (a) approves the response to be submitted by the Commissioner of Education to the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee's December 2007 draft final report on the Beginning Educator Support and Training (BEST) Program; and (b) pursuant to subsection (d) of Section 10-220a of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves changes to the BEST Program portfolio assessment to be effective in the 2008-09 school year, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Mr. Coolican moved, Mrs. Bobroske seconded, to table agenda item XI.D., Report on the Beginning Educator Support and Training Program by the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee.

VOTE	In Favor:	Bobroske, Carolan, Coolican, Farrell, Hopkins-Staten, Luke,
TO		Finneran, Taylor, Voss
TABLE:	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	0
	Absent:	0

Motion to table carried unanimously.

**XII. Committee Reports**

- **Finance, Audit and Department Matters** – Mrs. Luke reported that the committee and Mrs. Hopkins-Staten met before the Board meeting this morning regarding Affirmative Action issues.
- **Legislation and Bylaws** – Ms. Finneran reported that the legislative package was submitted today to the General Assembly. Two proposals were slightly changed; Bilingual Education Certificate Pilot Program and Grant for Computer-Assisted Writing Program.
- **Policy Development** – The committee meeting was cancelled.
- **Connecticut Technical High Schools** – Mr. Coolican reported that the committee is meeting on February 13, 2008. He also stated that the committee met with Stamford Legislative Representatives and the Lieutenant Governor regarding J.M. Wright Technical High School.

- **Ad Hoc Committee on Secondary Education** – Dr. Voss reported that the committee met on January 28, 2008, to discuss listening tours and will meet again on February 21, 2008.

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mark K. McQuillan, Secretary