

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Hartford**

Minutes of Meeting  
May 7, 2008

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, May 7, 2008, at the State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Present: Allan Taylor, Chair  
James Blake  
Beverly Bobroske  
Alice Carolan  
Donald Coolican  
Lynne Farrell  
Janet Finneran  
Patricia Luke  
Theresa Hopkins-Staten\*  
Jay Voss  
Michael Meotti, Ex-Officio

Absent: Whitney Bartell

**II. Public Participation**

1. Dr. Betty Sternberg, Superintendent, Greenwich Public Schools, spoke in support of agenda item V.C. concerning Greenwich's plan for Hamilton Avenue School students to average the 180 school day requirement over a two-year period.
2. Jillian Gilchrest, Executive Director, NARAL Pro-Choice in Connecticut, explained to the Board the mission of NARAL and the importance of prevention measures. A copy of her remarks can be found in the official files of this meeting.

1. Katie Augustyn, President of the Connecticut Association for the Gifted (CAG), stated that CAG has been advocating for many years for more attention at the state level for the educational needs of gifted students. A copy of her remarks can be found in the official files of this meeting.

By unanimous consent, the Board considered agenda item V.C., Consideration of Greenwich Public Schools' Plan to Meet 180-Day School Requirement (Hamilton Avenue School) (Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-15)

**V.C. Consideration of Greenwich Public Schools' Plan to Meet 180-Day School Requirement (Hamilton Avenue School) (Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-15)**

Ms. Finneran moved, Mr. Coolican seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Section 10-15 of the Connecticut General Statutes, authorizes the Greenwich Board of Education's request to shorten the school year and accepts its plan that provides for an average school year of at least 180 days over the 2007-08 and 2008-09 school years for the Hamilton Avenue School students, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**XI.A. District Improvement Plan: New Haven**

Commissioner McQuillan presented a brief historical overview of the New Haven District Improvement Plan. Dr. Carolan, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Accountability, summarized the committee's meeting with the Superintendent and Board Chair and specific recommendations to address in the plan. Discussion followed.

[Mrs. Hopkins-Staten arrived at 10:15 a.m.]

**XI.B. District Improvement Plan: Windham**

Commissioner McQuillan presented a brief historical overview of the Windham District Improvement Plan. Dr. Carolan, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Accountability, summarized the committee's meeting with the Superintendent and Board Chair and specific recommendations to address in the plan. Discussion followed.

**IV. Consideration of Minutes of the April 2, 2008, State Board of Education Meeting**

Mrs. Luke moved, Ms. Finneran seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the April 2, 2008, State Board of Education meeting.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**XI.F. Summary of Trips to Finland and Providence**

Dr. Jay Voss, member of the State Board of Education, presented to the Board, a summary of his trips to Finland and Providence. Discussion followed.

**V.A. Praxis II Subject Knowledge Assessments: Review of Passing Standards for Mathematics, English Language Arts and General Science Tests**

Mrs. Bobroske moved, Mrs. Luke seconded, that the Board, pursuant to subsection (d) of Section 10-145f of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the adjustment of the passing standard on the Praxis II, General Science: Essays Test (#433), from 145 to 140, retroactive to July 1, 2005, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Mrs. Luke moved, Mrs. Bobroske seconded, to table this agenda item.

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

Motion to table carried unanimously.

[Mrs. Luke left at 12:12 p.m.]

**V.B. Adoption of Teaching of Reading Test for Elementary And Early Childhood Educators Seeking Initial Connecticut Certification**

Mrs. Bobroske moved, Dr. Voss seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Section 10-145f of the Connecticut General Statutes, adopts Evaluation Systems of Pearson *Foundations of Reading Test*—for individuals seeking certification as early childhood and elementary educators—as an evaluation of subject area knowledge in addition to the current Praxis II testing requirements, effective July 1, 2009, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried.

By unanimous consent, the Board recessed its meeting at 12:17 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 1:05 a.m. Present: Mrs. Bobroske, Mr. Coolican, Dr. Farrell, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Blake, Dr. Carolan, Mrs. Luke, Ms. Finneran and Dr. Voss. Ms. Bartell and Mr. Meotti were absent.

**XI.C. District Improvement Plan: Meriden**

Commissioner McQuillan presented a brief historical overview of the Meriden District Improvement Plan. Dr. Carolan, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Accountability, summarized the committee's meeting with the Superintendent and Board Chair and specific recommendations to address in the plan. Discussion followed.

**XI.D. District Improvement Plan: Norwalk**

Commissioner McQuillan presented a brief historical overview of the Norwalk District Improvement Plan. Dr. Carolan, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Accountability, summarized the committee's meeting with the Superintendent and Board Chair and specific recommendations to address in the plan. Discussion followed.

**V.A. Praxis II Subject Knowledge Assessments: Review of Passing Standards for Mathematics, English Language Arts and General Science Tests**

Mrs. Luke moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded, to remove this agenda item from the table.

Mrs. Bobroske moved, Mrs. Luke seconded, that the Board, pursuant to subsection (d) of Section 10-145f of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the adjustment of the passing standard on the Praxis II, General Science: Essays Test (#433), from 145 to 140, retroactive to July 1, 2005, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion failed.

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

- Theresa Hopkins-Staten will attend the NASBE meeting on HIV/AIDS on May 28-30 in Atlanta GA. NABSE will cover Mrs. Hopkins-Staten's expenses.
- **SAVE THE DATE:** After School Partnerships for Success, June 13, 2008, at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford.
- **CTHSS graduation schedule** can be found in your supplemental materials folder. Please let Pam Bergin know, no later than May 15, which graduation ceremony you plan to attend.
- CABE sent an e-mail asking us to reserve November 14 for our session at the CABE/CAPSS Annual convention.
- **Upcoming meetings:**
  - June 4, 2008, State Board of Education meeting;
  - June 11, 2008, State Board of Education Recognition Ceremony (State Capitol Building, 5:30 to 7 p.m.);
  - July 2, 2008, State Board of Education meeting;
  - August 13, 2008, State Board of Education Retreat; and
  - In addition, Mr. Taylor reminded the Board that the October meeting will be held on October 2, 2008 rather than October 1, 2008..
- **NASBE Dues:** The bill for the 2009 dues arrived totaling \$26,712 minus a two percent discount if we pay by July 1. Last year's dues were \$24,215.

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

- The certification regulations are being vetted through Deans of Schools of Education and later, a broad group of education support groups. The regulations will then go to the Board for approval in September.
- The Commissioner of Education and Charlene Russell-Tucker, Associate Commissioner, Division of Family & Student Support Services, will head a Task Force to write guidelines on in-house suspension. These guidelines will inform districts regarding implementation on in-school suspensions law.

- Many days have been spent with the General Assembly testifying on:
  - In-house suspension;
  - Beginning Educator Support and Training (BEST) Program;
  - Early Reading Success;
  - Autism;
  - Early Childhood Education;
  - High School Credit for Private World Language Courses
- I attended a Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) policy meeting in Washington D.C., in April. Some of the issues were: 1) the NCLB Act will not be reauthorized in this session; and 2) many Governor's are taking an active role in education policy.
- The Department has formed an alliance with Achieve, Inc. Achieve, Inc., will be working on a needs assessment for a new P-20 Council.
- JM Wright Technical High School – Commissioner gave a brief summary of the issues with JM Wright Technical High School in Stamford. Ultimately, it was decided to enroll Grade 9 students in the 2008-09 school year.
- Deputy Commissioner Coleman gave an update on the Sheff Case. He stated that by virtue of the General Assembly not taking action, we have an agreement. The joint regional office has been completed, space designated, and Bruce Douglas, Executive Director of Capitol Region Education Council (CREC) will dedicate some of his time.

## **VIII. Financial Matters**

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

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

## **IX. Consent Agenda**

Mrs. Luke moved, Mrs. Bobroske seconded, to approve the following consent agenda items: IX.A., Adoption of Audit Policy Statement; IX.B., Receipt of Gift from ING for the Teacher of the Year Program and IX.C., Regulations Concerning Certification of Marriage/Family Therapists.

**IX.A. Adoption of Audit Policy Statement**

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education adopts the Audit Policy and Mission Statement and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

**IX.B. Receipt of Gift from ING for the Teacher of the Year Program**

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-9(b) of the Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) and its Policy on the Acceptance of Gifts, gratefully receives from ING Financial Advisors a gift in the amount of \$20,000 in support of the Connecticut Teacher of the Year Program, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

**IX.C. Regulations Concerning Certification of Marriage/Family Therapists**

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education adopts new regulations Section 10-145d-566a to 10-145d-566f, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut Agencies, for the certification of School Marriage and Family Therapists, and directs the Commissioner to take necessary action.

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

Motions carried unanimously.

**XI.E. Draft Position Statement on Science Education**

Barbara Westwater, Chief, Bureau of Curriculum and Instruction, along with Mary Ann Butler and Elizabeth Buttner, Science Consultants, presented the report to the Board. Discussion followed.

## **XII. Committee Reports**

- **Finance, Audit and Department Matters** – Mrs. Luke reported that the Committee will be meeting on June 4, 2008.
- **Legislation and Bylaws** – Mrs. Bobroske referred to the 2008 Education Committee Bills Log.
- **Policy Development** – Meeting was cancelled.
- **Connecticut Technical High Schools** – Mr. Coolican reported that the committee met and discussed J.M. Wright Technical High School. The agreement is to continue to recruit students for the 9<sup>th</sup> grade in 2008-09. There are approximately 40 students, so there will be fewer trades.
- **Ad Hoc Committee on Secondary Education** – Dr. Voss reported that Achieve, Inc., made a presentation to the committee and Achieve will be a good resource. The Revisions and Implementation Work Group and Middle Level Work Group are underway and the Higher Education Work Group is starting up.
- **Ad Hoc Committee on Accountability** – Dr. Carolan reported that the committee will be meeting with New Haven and Waterbury on May 21, 2008.

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 3:28 p.m.

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