

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Hartford**

Minutes of Meeting  
June 4, 2008

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, June 4, 2008, at the State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

**I. Call to Order**

Vice Chairman Finneran 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  
Patricia Luke  
Jay Voss

Absent: Theresa Hopkins-Staton  
Michael Meotti, Ex-Officio

**II.A. Presentation by Members of the State Student Advisory Council on Education (SSACE)**

The SSACE members reported on their response to the draft recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on Secondary School Improvement. The following members represented the Council: James Blake from Litchfield High School; David Goldberg from Weston High School; Katie Bradway from Stafford High School; James Reed from Simsbury High School; Brian Rosen from Guilford High School; Devin Murphy from Tolland High School; Erik Neumann from Trumbull High School and Chris Kennedy from Fitch High School.

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

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

Commissioner McQuillan presented a brief historical overview of the New London 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.B. District Improvement Plan: Norwich**

Commissioner McQuillan presented a brief historical overview of the Norwich 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.C. District Improvement Plan: Bridgeport**

Commissioner McQuillan presented a brief historical overview of the Bridgeport 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.

\*[Mr. Taylor arrived at 11:20 a.m.]

**III. Consideration of Minutes of the May 7, 2008, State Board of Education Meeting**

Mrs. Luke moved, Dr. Farrell seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the May 7, 2008, State Board of Education meeting.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

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

- o Mr. Taylor attended a meeting this morning in Naugatuck to discuss Connecticut's participation and progress in the NASBE Adolescent Literacy Project;

- Mr. Taylor attended the CAFE Dinner Series on Student Assessment held on May 13. The next dinner session will be held on June 12, topic: Driven by Accountability;
- A public hearing on the application submitted by the Charter School for Young Children on Asylum Hill was held on Wednesday, May 21 at Hartford's Learning Corridor;
- Mrs. Hopkins-Staten attended a session on HIV/AIDS with the HIV Coordinator for the State Department of Education on May 28-30, in Atlanta, Georgia, sponsored by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention;
- Mr. Taylor, Mrs. Bobroske, and Dr. Voss will attend the NASBE Board of Directors and Study Group meetings on June 5-7;
- The Board's semiannual recognition event will be held Wednesday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. in the Old Judiciary Room at the State Capitol; and
- The State Board of Education Retreat will be held on August 13 at the Waterbury Holiday Inn (formerly known as the Grand Hotel). Details to follow.

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

- Board members are invited to view the Data Wall Display in the corridor. This represents work done by State Department of Education employees and will be turned into a leadership module.
- The agency is developing ideas for legislative proposals tied to our budget proposals. Discussions have also centered on incentives to encourage districts to participate in "Sheff."
- We are continuing discussions related to J.M. Wright Technical School in Stamford.
- Commissioner McQuillan invited Deputy Commissioner George Coleman to give an update on the Sheff regional office. Deputy Commissioner Coleman stated that the Sheff office has crossed a major milestone by opening the regional office called the Regional School Choice Office (RSCO) at the Learning Corridor in Hartford, a place where parents will have access.

## **VI.A Financial Matters**

Mr. Coolican moved, Dr. Carolan seconded, that the Board, approves the request for Finance Advisory Committee (FAC) actions to transfer a total of \$15,956,000 from 12 surplus accounts to cover deficits in the Personal Services (\$2,400,000); Other Expenses (\$1,600,000); Magnet Schools (\$6,500,000); Adult Education (\$56,000); and Excess Costs (\$5,400,000) accounts, 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.

## **XII. Committee Reports**

- **Finance, Audit and Department Matters** – Mrs. Luke reported that the Committee met this morning and discussed issues regarding Title 1. Mrs. Luke expressed concern regarding the need to have clerical support in the Office of Internal Audit.
- **Legislation and Bylaws** – Mrs. Bobroske referred to the 2008 Education Committee Bills Log.
- **Policy Development** – Meeting was cancelled.
- **Connecticut Technical High Schools (CTHSS)** – Mr. Coolican reported that a committee will be formed to look at J.M. Wright Technical High School. The CTHSS committee is scheduled to meet on June 11<sup>th</sup>.
- **Ad Hoc Committee on Secondary Education** – Dr. Voss reported that the Committee met earlier this week and received progress reports from the three work groups (Revisions and Implementations, Middle Level and Higher Education). The formal reports are due on July 14<sup>th</sup>.
- **Ad Hoc Committee on Accountability** – Dr. Carolan reported that the committee has completed its meetings with all of the districts.

**IX. Consent Agenda**

Mr. Coolican moved, Mrs. Luke seconded, to approve the following consent agenda items: IX.A., State Board of Education Meeting Schedule 2008-09; IX.B., Adoption of Annual Audit Plan; and IX.C., Approval of Adjustment to Student Labor Fees in the Connecticut Technical High Schools.

**IX.A. State Board of Education Meeting Schedule 2008-09**

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 1-225 of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the following meeting schedule for the period August 2008 through December 2009:

August 13, 2008  
September 3, 2008  
October 2, 2008  
November 5, 2008  
December 3, 2008  
January 7, 2009  
February 4, 2009  
March 4, 2009  
April 1, 2009  
May 6, 2009  
June 3, 2009  
July 1, 2009  
August 5, 2009  
September 2, 2009  
October 7, 2009  
November 4, 2009  
December 2, 2009

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action

**IX.B. Adoption of Annual Audit Plan**

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education adopts the Annual Audit Plan for the period July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.





Middle Grades (4-8)

- General Science
- English
- History/Social Studies
- Mathematics
- Spanish

Secondary Education (7-12)

- General Science
- English
- History/Social Studies
- Spanish
- Mathematics
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Business

and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**XI.C. Approval of Alternate Route to Certification Literacy Specialist  
In Reading Language Arts: Albertus Magnus College**

Mr. Coolican moved, Dr. Carolan seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Section 10-145d-9(f)(1) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, grants provisional approval for the period September 30, 2008, through February 28, 2010, with an interim report due, and interim visit to be conducted, during fall 2009 for the Albertus Magnus College Advanced Alternative Route to Certification Literacy Specialist Program in Reading and Language Arts, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**XI.D. Adoption of Position Statement on Science Education**

Mrs. Luke moved, Dr. Farrell seconded, that the Board approves the Position Statement on Science Education and Guidelines for Policymakers dated June 4, 2008, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Ms. Finneran moved, Mrs. Luke seconded, to table this agenda item.

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

Motion to table carried unanimously.

**XI.E. Adoption of Science Standards: Connecticut Mastery Test –  
Grades 5-8**

Mrs. Bobroske moved, Mrs. Luke seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Section 10-14n of the Connecticut General Statutes and the *No Child Left Behind Act*, approves Grade 5 and Grade 8 Science Achievement Standards for the Connecticut Mastery Test, 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.F. Adoption of Alternate Science Standards: Connecticut Mastery Test  
(Grade 5 and 8) and Connecticut Academic Performance Test (Grade  
10) Skills Checklist**

Mrs. Luke moved, Dr. Voss seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Section 10-14n of the Connecticut General Statutes, and the federal *No Child Left Behind Act*, P.L. 107-110, approves the Alternate Science Achievement Standards for the Connecticut Mastery Test Skills Checklist (Grades 5 and 8) and Connecticut Academic Performance Test Skills Checklist (Grade 10), and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.



**XI.I. Report on the Operation of Charter Schools**

Mrs. Bobroske moved, Mrs. Luke seconded, that the Board, adopts the *Report on the Operation of Charter Schools in Connecticut, June 2008*, submitted pursuant to Section 10-66gg of the Connecticut General Statutes, 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.J. Charter School Enrollments**

Mrs. Bobroske moved, Mrs. Luke seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Section 10-66bb(c) of the Connecticut General Statutes, pending final state budget authorization and full compliance with the conditions set forth in the Commissioner's June 4, 2008, memorandum, approves the distribution of 348 additional seats among the existing charter schools for the 2008-09 school year, 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.

**XII. Executive Session**

The Board unanimously voted to move into executive session at 2:35 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the Commissioner's Evaluation and pending litigation.

Present at executive session were Board members: Mrs. Bobroske, Ms. Bartell, Mr. Blake, Dr. Carolan, Mr. Coolican, Dr. Farrell, Ms. Finneran, Mrs. Luke, Mr. Taylor and Dr. Voss. Also present was Commissioner of Education Mark K. McQuillan. Mrs. Hopkins-Staten and Mr. Meotti were absent.

The Board reconvened in public session at 3:00 p.m. Present were Mrs. Bobroske, Ms. Bartell, Mr. Blake, Dr. Carolan, Mr. Coolican, Dr. Farrell, Ms. Finneran, Mrs. Luke, Mr. Taylor and Dr. Voss. Mrs. Hopkins-Staten and Mr. Meotti were absent.

The Board discussed the procedure for the August retreat.

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

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