

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

Minutes of Meeting
July 2, 2008

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on Wednesday, July 2, 2008, at the State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

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

Karen Flanagan, Director, Division of Legal and Governmental Affairs, administered the Oath of Office to Christine Larson, student member from Trumbull and Brandt Smallwood, student member from Simsbury. Ms. Larson and Mr. Smallwood were appointed by Governor M. Jodi Rell to the State Board of Education for a one-year term commencing July 1, 2008.

II. Executive Session

The Board unanimously voted to move into executive session at 9:43 a.m. for the purpose of discussing Personnel Matters.

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

The Board reconvened in public session at 9:46 a.m. Present were Mrs. Bobroske, Ms. Larson, Mr. Smallwood, Dr. Carolan, Mr. Coolican, Dr. Farrell, Ms. Finneran, Mrs. Luke, Mr. Taylor, Dr. Voss and Mr. Meotti. Mrs. Hopkins-Staten was absent.

IV.B. District Improvement Plan: Hartford

Commissioner McQuillan presented a brief historical overview of the Hartford 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.

By unanimous consent, the Board considered agenda item VII., Report of the Chair.

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

- **NASBE MEETING** -- June 5-7, 2008, in Alexandria, Virginia. Mr. Taylor attended the Public Education Positions Committee. Dr. Voss attended the Middle School Study Committee and reported that his group completed its recommendations to NASBE and will present the report at the NASBE Annual Conference. Mrs. Bobroske attended the Nominations Committee meeting and reported that her group reviewed the nominees to ensure that they are qualified for the Presidency of NASBE.
- Janet Finneran has agreed to represent the Board on a committee that has been formed to review the certification regulations, which will also involve the deans of schools of education. The group is scheduled to meet four times from September 2008 to October 2008.
- CBE has asked us to save September 10 (4:30 to 6:00 p.m.) as the date for our annual meeting with the CBE Board of Directors. All Board members are welcome to attend.
- The August retreat will be held on August 13 at the Waterbury Holiday Inn.
- Mr. Taylor will be attending Achieve, Inc.'s annual leadership team meeting September 11-12, in Washington, D.C. This will be a gathering of representatives of all of the American Diploma Project network states. The purpose is to address key challenges and opportunities associated with moving the college and career-ready policy agenda forward.
- Theresa Hopkins-Staten participated in a recent conference in Atlanta, Georgia, on "Students at Risk: HIV/AIDS in the African American Community." This forum, sponsored by NASBE, provided an opportunity for state teams (including SBE members and HIV Prevention Coordinators) to discuss critical policy and program issues addressing HIV prevention education.

By unanimous consent, the Board considered agenda item IV.E., Report on English Language Learners in Connecticut.

IV.E. Report on English Language Learners in Connecticut

Barbara Beaudin, Acting Associate Commissioner, Division of Assessment and Accountability, presented the report to the Board. Discussion followed.

IV.C. NASBE Adolescent Literacy Project

Barbara Westwater, Bureau Chief, Bureau of Curriculum & Instruction, Introduced Bridgitte Crispino, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Naugatuck Public Schools; Christopher Montini, Principal, Cross Street Intermediate School, Naugatuck; Dr. Cheryl Dickinson, Professor, Southern Connecticut State University; and Jennifer Borck, Literacy Consultant with the State Department of Education, who presented a power point presentation to the Board. Discussion followed.

IV.D. Discussion of Proposal Concerning J.M. Wright Technical High School

Abigail Hughes, Superintendent of the Connecticut Technical High Schools, and Dr. David Levinson, President of Norwalk Community College, presented three high school design models for J.M. Wright Technical High School. Discussion followed.

V. Public Participation

1. Wyrot Ward, member of Asylum Hill Congregational Church, spoke in support of agenda item VI.A., Application for Charter: School for Young Children on Asylum Hill.
2. Kathleen Butler, Chair, Department of Education at St. Joseph's College, West Hartford, expressed support for the Charter School on behalf of the Dr. Pamela Trotman Reid, President of the College, and other members of the St. Joseph College community who have collaborated with Asylum Hill Congregational Church and CREC to develop the application for the charter school.
3. Careen Blake, resident of Asylum Hill and an employee at Asylum Hill Family Center, stated that the school will be a stabilizing factor within the community.

IV.F. District Improvement Plan: Waterbury

Commissioner McQuillan presented a brief historical overview of the Waterbury 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.

By unanimous consent, the Board recessed its meeting at 1:30 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 2:05 a.m. Present: Mrs. Bobroske, Mr. Coolican, Dr. Farrell, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Smallwood, Dr. Carolan, Mrs. Luke, Ms. Finneran, Ms. Larson and Dr. Voss. Mr. Meotti was absent.

VI.A. Application for Charter: School for Young Children on Asylum Hill

Mrs. Bobroske moved, Ms. Finneran seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Section 10-66bb of the Connecticut General Statutes, accepts the Commissioner's recommendation and grants approval of a state charter to the School for Young Children on Asylum Hill for the period July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2013, with approval granted subject to the conditions noted in the Commissioner's July 2, 2008, memorandum to the State Board of Education, as revised, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

VI.B. Appointment of Associate Commissioner for Assessment and Accountability

Dr. Farrell moved, Mrs. Luke seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Article IV of its Bylaws, appoints Barbara Q. Beaudin as Associate Commissioner of the Division of Assessment and Accountability, effective July 4, 2008, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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 Commissioner - Commissioner McQuillan reported on the following:

1. SHEFF Update -- A letter was sent to the 35 surrounding Hartford towns regarding their responsibilities in funding for magnet school students. Both the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner will be visiting each town.
2. **Ad Hoc Committee on Secondary School Reform** – The committee is scheduled to meet on July 14, 2008. The three work group subcommittees (Revision and Implementation, Middle Level and Higher Education) will present their reports. Dr. Beaudin will present the financial cost analysis.
3. **BEST** – Ms. Finneran will be participating on a BEST Task Force Committee which will develop a mentoring system. Recommendations will be sent to the General Assembly in January.
4. Summaries have been completed on Priority II and III of the Board's Comprehensive Plan in results-based accountability format. These will be sent to the Board in a weekly mailing.

X. Consent Agenda

Ms. Finneran moved, Mrs. Bobroske seconded, to approve the following consent agenda items: X.A., Approval of Area Cooperative Educational Services; X.B., Approval of Cooperative Educational Services; X.C., Advanced Placement Incentive Grant; X.D., Application for Funds: Promoting Rigorous Career and Technology Education Programs of Study Statewide and X.E., Receipt of Report on School Readiness Need and Costs To Serve All 3- and 4-year-old Children in 19 Priority School Districts.

X.A. Approval of Area Cooperative Educational Services

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-66h of the Connecticut General Statutes, grants continued approval to the Area Cooperative Education Services (ACES) Regional Educational Service Center for the five-year period July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2013, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

X.B. Approval of Cooperative Educational Services

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-66h of the Connecticut General Statutes, grants continued approval to the Cooperative Educational Services (C.E.S.) Regional Educational Service Center for the five-year period July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2013, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

X.C. Advanced Placement Incentive Grant

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education approves the application for an Advanced Placement Incentive Grant, under the Elementary and Secondary Education Program, for the period 2008-11 and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

X.D. Application for Funds: Promoting Rigorous Career and Technology Education Programs of Study Statewide

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 114 (c)(1) of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2324 (c)(1)), approves the grant application for fiscal years 2008-11 titled, "Promoting Rigorous Career and Technical Education Programs of Study Through Statewide and Multi-State Articulation Agreements" for submission to the United States Department of Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education, and directs the Commissioner to take necessary action.

X.E. Receipt of Report on School Readiness Need and Costs To Serve All 3- and 4-year-old Children in 19 Priority School Districts

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes, Section 10-4(d), receives *A Report of School Readiness Need and the Costs to Serve All 3- and 4-Year-Old Children in 19 Priority School Districts*, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motions carried unanimously.

XII. Committee Reports

- **Legislation and Bylaws** -- Mrs. Bobroske referred to the 2008 Education Committee Bills Log. The committee discussed their planning strategy for 2009. Mrs. Bobroske would like the Board to review the Comprehensive Plan and prioritize their options. The Legislative and Bylaws Committee will have a joint meeting with the Policy Development Committee to set the priorities.
- **Policy Development** – Ms. Finneran reported that the committee will meet this afternoon, following the regularly scheduled meeting.
- **Connecticut Technical High Schools (CTHSS)** – Mr. Coolican reported that the committee will be meeting on July 22, 2008, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Northeast Utilities in Berlin.
- **Ad Hoc Committee on Secondary Education** – Dr. Voss reported that the committee will be meeting on July 14 to finalize the draft of the Secondary School Reform Plan.

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Prepared by: _____
Mark K. McQuillan, Secretary