

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

Minutes of Meeting  
October 2, 2008

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

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman Taylor called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

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

Absent: Alice Carolan

**II. Public Participation**

1. Ms. Jaya Vijayasekar, President of the Connecticut Council of Language Teachers (COLT), expressed her disappointment in the omission of a world language requirement in the Secondary School Redesign Proposal. Ms. Vijayasekar stressed the need to strengthen world language skills and that we cannot ignore cultural intolerances. Ms. Vijayasekar's remarks can be found in the official file of this meeting.
2. Karen de Fur, Supervisor of World Languages, New Haven Public Schools, also spoke about the world language requirement in the Secondary School Redesign proposal. She feels that higher education is linked to higher income and standard of living. Ms. de Fur stated that the lower requirement in the proposal will hurt the chances of urban students being accepted into higher education institutions and defeat gains in closing the achievement gap between urban and suburban students.

3. Rita Oleksak, President, American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language, proposed several recommendations to strengthen the foreign language capabilities of our nation. Ms. Oleksak's written testimony can be found in the official file of this meeting.
4. Connie Kapral, Executive Director of the Connecticut Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, spoke in support of the addition of .5 credits for physical education. She urged the Board to add .5 credits in comprehensive health education.
5. Michael Carlo, Parent, expressed his concern that the Vernon Public School System hired someone not properly certified and was then promoted to another position for which he was not properly certified. Mr. Carlo also talked about the College Board that administers the PSAT/SAT exams. His child took the exams, and he has received word that some of the information from the tests is posted on the Internet. He has scheduled a meeting with various State Representatives and staff from the Attorney General's Office to discuss this matter and prevent it from happening to others.

[Dr. Farrell arrived at 9:05 a.m.]

6. Nancy Silander, World Language Department Head at EO Smith High School, urged the Board to add world language requirements to the Secondary School Redesign proposal.

**IV. Consideration of Minutes of the September 3, 2008, State Board of Education Meeting**

Ms. Finneran moved, Dr. Voss seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the September 3, 2008, State Board of Education meeting.

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

Motion carried.

**V.A. Approval of District Improvement Plan: East Hartford**

Ms. Finneran moved, Mrs. Bobroske seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Section 10-223e of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves and directs the East Hartford Board of Education to implement the District Improvement Plan for the East Hartford Public School System, and directs the Commissioner to take necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

[Mrs. Luke arrived at 9:45 a.m.]

**V.B. Approval of District Improvement Plan: Norwich**

Ms. Finneran moved, Mrs. Bobroske seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Section 10-223e of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves and directs the Norwich Board of Education to implement the District Improvement Plan for the Norwich Public School System, and directs the Commissioner to take necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**V.C. Approval of District Improvement Plan: Norwalk**

Ms. Finneran moved, Mrs. Bobroske seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Section 10-223e of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves and directs the Norwalk Board of Education to implement the District Improvement Plan for the Norwalk Public School System, and directs the Commissioner to take necessary action.



- The Ad Hoc Committee for Secondary School Reform had their final meeting on September 24, 2008 and adopted *The Connecticut Plan: Academic and Personal Success for Every Middle and High School Student*.
- Beverly Bobroske and I will be attending the NASBE Annual Conference in Virginia on October 15-18.
- CABE/CAPSS Convention is scheduled for November 14, 2008 at the Mystic Marriott in Groton. The Board is invited to participate in the *Dialogue* from 10:45 am to 12:05 pm. Please notify Pam Bergin if you are attending.

**VII. Report of the Commissioner.** Commissioner McQuillan reported on the following. A copy of his detailed report can be found in the official file of this meeting.

- Dr. McQuillan summarized the three priorities of the 5-Year Comprehensive Plan: Preschool, Academic Achievement and Secondary School Reform.
- He has started working with Nancy Pugliese, Chief of the Bureau of Educator Standards and Certification, and a BEST task force to build a new program to replace BEST.
- Work is continuing on the Sheff Stipulated Agreement. A comprehensive management plan has been drafted but is not yet available for review.
- Dr. McQuillan told the Board that hiring is almost complete for an attorney in the Division of Legal and Governmental Affairs, and a new director has been hired in the Affirmative Action Office.
- The Department is in the process of making grant applications to the National Institute for School Leadership for a grant for the longitudinal data system.
- Dr. McQuillan then discussed the budget process. The Governor and OPM have asked for 10 percent budget reductions, which would be approximately \$280 million for the Department. Dr. McQuillan suggested a workshop be held for Board members to become familiar with the budget reductions/expansions and the capital budget request that will be presented at the November Board meeting.
- A possible moratorium on new magnet schools, except for Sheff and Comprehensive Management Plan, was discussed.

### **VIII.A. Overview of Certification Regulations**

Dr. McQuillan introduced Nancy Pugliese, Chief of the Bureau of Educator Standards and Certification, who provided the Board with an overview of the certification regulations. Discussion followed.

### **IX. Financial Matters**

**IX.A. Current Services Budget--** Brian Mahoney, Chief Financial Officer, explained the budget process. The Current Services budget represents what the Department will require to simply provide the same level of services over the next two years.

At this time, Chairman Taylor stopped the discussion on the Current Services Budget to visit agenda item XII. Committee Reports (Legislation and Bylaws Committee.) Mrs. Bobroske, the chair of that committee, had to leave the meeting.

### **XII. Committee Reports**

- **Legislation and Bylaws --** Mrs. Bobroske reported that the committee met in the morning and several changes to the legislative proposals are recommended. Staff from the Division of Legal and Governmental Affairs will edit accordingly. There was discussion regarding CEU's.

[Mrs. Bobroske left the meeting at 2:35 pm]

### **IX.A. Current Services Budget (Continued)**

Mrs. Luke moved, Ms. Finneran seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Section 4-77 of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the Current Services Budget Request for the 2009-2011 biennium and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**XII. Committee Reports**

- **Finance, Audit and Department Matters** – Mrs. Luke reported that an extension was granted by the Federal Government for Connecticut's response in regard to the Migrant Education Program.
- **Policy Development** – Ms. Finneran reported that the committee will meet immediately following the Board meeting. The Committee will discuss the Position Statements for Consideration in 2008-09 and the Draft Position Statement on English Language Arts.
- **Connecticut Technical High Schools (CTHSS)** – Mr. Coolican reported that the committee will meet on October 27, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. in the Middletown Office.

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

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