

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

Minutes of State Board of Education Retreat
August 13, 2008

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the State Board of Education (hereinafter "Board") met on August 13, 2008, at the Holiday Inn, Woodbury Room, 3580 Main Street, Waterbury, Connecticut. The following members were present: Allan Taylor, Chairman, Beverly Bobroske, Alice Carolan, Donald Coolican, Janet Finneran, Lynne Farrell, Theresa Hopkins-Staton, Patricia Luke, Brandt Smallwood, Jay Voss and Michael Meotti, Ex-Officio.

A. Call to Order

Chairperson Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. Mr. Taylor welcomed the Board to its annual retreat, and introduced the meeting facilitator, Dr. Martha Summerville.

B. Process/Guidelines for Retreat

Dr. Summerville explained the process and guidelines for conducting the retreat.

C. Commissioner's Objectives 2008-09

Commissioner McQuillan presented an overview of his objectives for the 2008-09 year, addressing the following:

- 1) Early Childhood Education
- 2) Improved Academic Standards and Accountability
- 3) Secondary School Reform
- 4) Certification and Standards
- 5) Sheff Agreement and Equity Initiatives
- 6) Improvements in Operations and the Culture of the State Department of Education
- 7) P-20 Council

Discussion ensued.

D. State Board of Education Discussion

Dr. Summerville facilitated the Board's discussion of the following:

- Board's mission and priorities;
- Board's relationships with constituents;
- Board's role in promoting initiatives; and
- How to maximize use of meeting time.

The meeting was recessed at 12:45 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

E. Emerging Issues

Commissioner McQuillan and Deputy Commissioner Coleman highlighted the following "emerging issues" in public education in Connecticut:

- 1) P.J., et al, Lawsuit;
- 2) Guidance on In-School Suspension and Expulsion;
- 3) On-line Course Offerings and Distance Learning;
- 4) The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Reauthorization;
- 5) P-20 Council;
- 6) Adult Education;
- 7) Migrant Education; and
- 8) Teacher Retirements and Impact on Teaching Force.

F. Process for Approval of District Improvement Plans

Commissioner McQuillan described a proposed process for the approval of district improvement plans for those districts which have already appeared before the Board, as well as the three districts identified this year. Discussion ensued. The Board opted to retain its role in voting on the plans submitted by the twelve districts that have already appeared before the Board this year. The three districts that will be developing plans in the coming year will meet initially with the Ad Hoc Committee on Accountability, as has been done in the past. They will appear before the full Board when the final plan has been drafted, but will not appear before the Board as an "interim step."

G. Approval of Seat Authorization: Achievement First Hartford Academy

Mrs. Luke moved, Mrs. Bobroske seconded, that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-66bb of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the funding of fifty-three seats for Achievement First Hartford Academy, a charter school approved by this board on September 5, 2007, to enable the school to open for the 2008-09 school year, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Vote on motion:	In favor:	Bobroske, Carolan, Coolican, Farrell, Finneran, Hopkins-Staten, Luke, Taylor, Voss
	Opposed:	None
	Abstained:	None
	Absent:	None

Motion carried unanimously.

H. Wrap-up

Dr. Summerville invited Board members to reflect on their accomplishments today, and to establish clear priorities for the coming year.

Commissioner McQuillan and Board members thanked Dr. Summerville for facilitating the retreat session.

I. Executive Session

The Board moved into executive session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter. Present in executive session were Mrs. Bobroske, Dr. Carolan, Mr. Coolican, Dr. Farrell, Ms. Finneran, Ms. Hopkins-Staten, Mrs. Luke, Mr. Smallwood, Mr. Taylor and Mr. Voss. Also present were Commissioner McQuillan and Deputy Commissioner Coleman.

The Board reconvened in public session at 3:28 p.m.

J. Adjourn

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mark K. McQuillan, Secretary