

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Hartford

**Ad Hoc Committee on Accountability**

Jay Voss, Chair  
Janet M. Finneran  
Allan B. Taylor

Minutes of Meeting  
May 19, 2009

**Call to Order**

Committee Chair Mr. Voss called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. The meeting was held in room 307B of the State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut. Present were Mr. Voss, Ms. Finneran and Mr. Taylor. Also present were Commissioner Mark K. McQuillan, Deputy Commissioner George A. Coleman, Associate Commissioner Barbara Beaudin, Associate Commissioner Marion Martinez, Associate Commissioner Charlene Russell-Tucker, Bureau Chief Deborah Richards, Bureau Chief Susan Kennedy and Attorney Laura Anastasio.

**Approval of Minutes of the May 14, 2009 Committee Meeting**

Minutes were unanimously approved.

**District Presentation: Ansonia Public Schools**

Superintendent Carol Merlone, Local Board President John Lawlor and external consultant Jim Mitchell were in attendance for the presentation. Department staff member Tony Gasper from the Ad Hoc team also attended.

The superintendent and the local board president shared information on Ansonia's improvement efforts and the status of the District Improvement Plan, and there was some discussion with the Ad Hoc Committee members.

The Ad Hoc Committee made the following recommendations for Ansonia's District Improvement Plan: (7)

1. Develop vision and mission statement;
2. Include strategies that address the diversity of the student population, including transient students;
3. Review/reflect on strategies for prioritizing Superintendent's responsibilities;
4. Develop strategies to engage the community;
5. Include strategies that prioritize the work to be done;
6. Develop plan year-by-year over the next three years; and
7. Ensure articulation of prekindergarten through kindergarten throughout the system.

**District Presentation: Danbury Public Schools**

Superintendent Salvatore Pascarella and Assistant Superintendent Bill Glass were in attendance for the presentation, along with district staff personnel Kevin Haddad, Sue Morris, Karen

Casimiro and Laura Mead. External consultant Mike Wasta, as well as Department staff member Kathleen Wedge from the technical assistance team, also attended.

The superintendent and the assistant superintendent shared information on Danbury's improvement efforts and the status of the District Improvement Plan, and there was some discussion with the Ad Hoc Committee members.

The Ad Hoc Committee made the following recommendations for Danbury's District Improvement Plan: (4)

1. Include strategies to improve attendance, especially at the high-school level;
2. Develop strategies for access to data by teachers/data teams;
3. Provide comprehensive training and support to principals with regard to accountability;  
and
4. Include strategies for how the district will progress on its continuum from schools being completely autonomous to a system of schools.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Carta Corriveau