

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

Accountability and Support Committee

Monday, November 7, 2016
State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Room 117
Hartford, Connecticut

Draft Minutes

I. Call to Order

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, Chairperson López called meeting to order at 3.00 p.m.

Committee Dr. Estela López, Chairperson
Members Present: Malia Sieve
 Robert J. Trefry
 Joseph Vrabely

Committee William P. Davenport
Members Absent: Erin Benham

Staff Present: Leslie Carson
 Pamela Charland
 Shondel Edwards
 Desi Nesmith
 Iris White

Guests Present: Frances M. Rabinowitz, Interim Superintendent, Bridgeport Public Schools
 Dyrene Newton, Executive Director of Elementary Education, Bridgeport Public Schools
 Alyshia N. Perrin, Principal of Paul Laurence Dunbar School, Bridgeport
 Jade L. Gopie, Principal, Crosby High School, Waterbury
 Dr. Kathleen M. Ouellette, Superintendent of Waterbury Public Schools
 Paul Whyte, Turnaround Director, Waterbury

II. Approval of Minutes

Minutes were not approved due to a lack of quorum.

Desi Nesmith, Chief Turnaround Officer, introduced his staff Leslie Carson, who works with Crosby High School and Iris White, who works with Paul Laurence Dunbar School. Mr. Nesmith then gave a brief overview on the Commissioner's Network Fast Facts for Crosby High School in Waterbury.

III. Crosby High School, Waterbury

Dr. Kathleen M. Ouellette, Superintendent of Waterbury Public Schools and Jade Gopie, Principal of Crosby High School, updated the committee on the strategies they are implementing in order to improve. Crosby is working on maintaining and retaining its staff and implementing strategies to decrease the in-school and out-of-school suspensions. Data is moving in the right direction with an increase in attendance and a decrease in chronic absenteeism.

IV. Paul Laurence Dunbar School

Frances M. Rabinowitz, Superintendent of Bridgeport Public Schools and Alyshia N. Perrin, Principal of Paul Laurence Dunbar School provided background on Dunbar’s challenges. When Dunbar first entered the Network, they were partnered with FUSE which required all staff to be replaced. Consequently, the school has had difficulty retaining its teaching staff and the majority of teachers are novices. Principal Perrin outlined the changes the school has made this year in order to improve student outcomes. Dunbar’s focus this year is on improving teacher effectiveness through professional development and coaching in the areas of literacy and math instruction. They are also providing new teachers with additional professional development and support, including training on classroom management.

Desi Nesmith noted that the 2015-16 data for Dunbar shows a two point decrease in chronic absenteeism and suspension rates decreasing over the past three years. Dr. Lopez thanked Superintendent Rabinowitz and Principal Perrin for being receptive to their suggestions to improve Dunbar.

V. Adjournment

By unanimous consent, Dr. Lopez adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Prepared by: Shondel Edwards