

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

Legislation and Policy Development Committee Meeting
September 6, 2017

Minutes
(Approved 10/4/17)

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Board of Education Legislation and Policy Development Committee met in the North Plaza, Hearing Room A, State Office Building, Hartford, Connecticut, on September 6, 2017.

I. Call to Order

Committee Chair Joseph Vrabely called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m. Also present were Committee members: Erin Benham, William Davenport and Malia Sieve.

Donald Harris and Terry Jones were absent.

Also present for all or part of the meeting were the following Department of Education Staff members: Chief of Staff Laura Stefon, Chief Operating Officer Charlene Russell-Tucker, Education Consultant Kimberly Traverso, Education Consultant Scott Newgass, Bureau Chief John Frassinelli, Division Director Glen Peterson, Legal Director Peter Haberlandt and Recorder Mildred Pagán.

Also present was Dr. Wendy Simmons, Director of Development, Community Affairs and Equity, State Education Resource Center (SERC).

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

On a motion made by Committee Chair Vrabely and seconded by Erin Benham, the Committee unanimously approved the minutes of the June 14, 2017, Legislation and Policy Development Committee meeting.

III. Update regarding Guidelines for Educational Opportunities for Students Who Have Been Expelled

Committee Chair Vrabely introduced Chief Operating Officer Charlene Russell-Tucker to the Committee members. Ms. Russell-Tucker commenced the meeting by referring the Committee members to the *draft* Guidelines for Alternative Educational Opportunities for Students Who Have Been Expelled included in their folders. She gave a background and overview of the legal requirements with the assistance of SDE's Legal Counsel, Mr. Peter Haberlandt. The presentation covered the following topics:

- Guiding Principles
- Student Placement

- Prior to Expulsion
- Expulsion Placement
- Process for Placement
- Review of Student Placement
- Progress Monitoring of Student Performance and Placement
- Process for Transition Planning

She also discussed Best Practices for Program Implementation which included:

- Program Philosophy
- Parent/Guardians and Families
- Administrators
- Staff
- Students
- Assessment
- Curriculum and Instruction
- Vocational Technical and Career
- Personal/Social/Life skills
- Community/Social Services
- Facilities and Resources.

A discussion ensued with members asking questions as to the content of the Guidelines. The idea, in essence, is the whole student approach, meaning *all* of the needs of a student will be assessed in order for that student to succeed in an alternative education setting or within an environment with an alternative educational opportunity.

Committee members also engaged in a discussion concerning suspensions, which is not included in the Guidelines. After some discussion, Committee Chair Vrabely suggested that it would be beneficial to include a reference to suspensions in the Guidelines.

Legal Director Haberlandt indicated that the plan is to bring the Guidelines to the State Board for adoption as required by law.

Committee Chair Vrabely thanked Ms. Russell-Tucker for the informative presentation and everyone for attending the meeting.

IV. Other Matters

V. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mildred Pagán, Recorder