

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

Legislation and Policy Development Committee Meeting
April 4, 2018

Minutes
(Approved 5/2/18)

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Board of Education Legislation and Policy Development Committee met in the North Plaza, Meeting Room E, State Office Building, Hartford, Connecticut, on April 4, 2018.

I. Call to Order

Committee Chair Joseph Vrabely called the meeting to order at 8:53 a.m. Also present were Committee members: Erin Benham, William Davenport, Donald Harris, Terry Jones and Malia Sieve. State Board of Education Chairman Allan Taylor and Vice Chairperson Estela López honored us with their presence.

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, Chief of Health & Nutrition, Family Services & Adult Education John Frassinelli, Communications Director Peter Yazbak, Legal Director Peter Haberlandt, and Recorder Mildred Pagán.

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 February 14, 2018, Legislation and Policy Development Committee meeting.

III. Report on District Activities Regarding Sexual Assault

Committee Chair Vrabely commenced the meeting by introducing Mr. John Frassinelli, Chief of Health & Nutrition, Family Services & Adult Education. Mr. Frassinelli began his presentation by accessing a webpage on the State Department of Education (SDE) site entitled *Statewide K-12 Sexual Assault & Abuse Prevention & Awareness Program Guidelines*. Mr. Frassinelli explained the requirements of the various laws concerning this topic. Mr. Frassinelli explained that the applicable laws require age-appropriate education on this topic for children in grades Kindergarten through 12th grade, including strategies for preventing and addressing sexually coercive behavior.

Section 17a-101q required DCF to develop guidance in consultation with SDE, and SDE ended up taking the lead. Both agencies cosigned a memo along with the Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence (The Alliance – formerly CONNSACS) that was sent to all superintendents. The Alliance, a statewide coalition of individual sexual assault crisis programs – was a huge help. They work to end sexual violence through victim assistance, community education, and public policy advocacy. They have 9 regions and provide a list of schools active in the program at the end of the school year.

A discussion ensued with committee members asking a host of questions. Mr. Frassinelli explained that although a curriculum, programs and services are in place, sexual assault in schools is an issue that needs the commitment of all involved: school administration, agencies, outside organizations, the community, etc. It is an ongoing issue that needs “all hands on deck.”

The above program guidelines publication can be access by clicking on the link below:
<http://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Publications/Statewide-K12--Sexual-Assault-Abuse--Prevention-Awareness--Program-Guidelines>

Committee Chair Vrabely thanked Mr. Frassinelli for his presentations and everyone for attending the meeting.

V. Other Matters

VI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mildred Pagán, Recorder