

**CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

**Legislation and Policy Development Committee Meeting
June 6, 2018**

Minutes
(Approved 9/5/2018)

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, 450 Columbus Blvd., Hartford, Connecticut, on June 6, 2018.

I. Call to Order

Committee Chair Joseph Vrabely called the meeting to order at 8:38 a.m. Also present were Committee members: Erin Benham, William Davenport, Donald Harris, Terry Jones and Malia Sieve.

Presenters: Dr. Sarah Barzee, Chief Talent Officer; Dr. Katie Moirs, Education Consultant, Educator Preparation; and Laura Stefon, Chief of Staff/Legislative Liaison.

Also present for all or part of the meeting were the following Department of Education staff members: Chief Financial Officer Kathy Demsey, Legal Director Peter Haberlandt and Recorder Eileen Williams.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

On a motion made by Committee Chair Vrabely and seconded by Donald Harris, the Committee unanimously approved the minutes of the May 2, 2018, Legislation and Policy Development Committee meeting.

**III. New Educator Preparation Program Approval: University of Connecticut—
Mandarin Chinese Program**

Committee Chair Vrabely commenced the meeting by introducing Dr. Sarah Barzee, Chief Talent Officer. Dr. Barzee began her presentation by giving a brief introduction regarding the proposal for a new educator preparation program in Mandarin Chinese at the University of Connecticut (UCONN). She then introduced Dr. Katie Moirs who continued the presentation.

In March 2018, UCONN submitted a proposal to the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) to add Mandarin Chinese to their existing world language program. In April 2018, a CSDE evaluation team identified a minor area for improvement (AFP) for the proposal. During a May 24, 2018, Review Committee meeting, the AFP was satisfactorily addressed by UCONN and the committee recommended full approval for the UCONN Mandarin Chinese program.

If approved by the Connecticut State Board of Education, the program will begin implementation during fall 2018.

A discussion ensued with committee members asking a variety of questions, which Dr. Barzee and Dr. Moirs responded to accordingly.

On a motion made by Committee Chair Vrabely and seconded by Malia Sieve, the Committee unanimously accepted the proposal for a new educator preparation program in Mandarin Chinese.

IV. 2018 Legislative Session

Laura Stefon, Chief of Staff/Legislative Liaison, provided three handouts to those present: *2018 Education-Related Legislation Passed by House and Senate, Substitute Senate Bill No. 455 Public Act 18-34 and Substitute Senate Bill No. 183 Public Act No. 18-51.*

The *2018 Education-Related Legislation Passed by House and Senate* is a list of all of the bills the CSDE was tracking this session that passed through both chambers and what action (if any) the Governor has taken to date. Ms. Stefon gave a brief overview of all bills, including those that were modified, and those that did not pass at this time.

Discussion then ensued on specific bills, which Ms. Stefon addressed.

With respect to Substitute Senate Bill No. 455 Public Act 18-34, *An Act Concerning Minority Teacher Recruitment and Retention*, Ms. Stefon briefly went over the changes to this bill, including the seven items listed in this bill separately.

Ms. Stefon discussed the outcome of the Board's 2018 legislative priorities, which were included in Senate Bill 183.

A discussion ensued on specific areas of Bill 183, which were addressed by Ms. Stefon, Dr. Barzee and Ms. Demsey.

V. Other Matters

Committee Chair Vrabely thanked Mr. Haberlandt for his role in making sure all agenda items requested were added to the agenda in a timely manner. He asked Committee members if there are any topics they would like to see included in upcoming agendas.

A discussion ensued. Committee members agreed that agenda items for upcoming meetings should include discussion on policy and legislation, as it applies to public safety and guidance counselors, the rights of transgender students and vocational training. On the topic of vocational training, Committee member William Davenport took the opportunity to hand out an article titled *Manufacturers looking to high schools for new workers.*

Specific documents were asked to be made available to the Committee, including a document on civil rights protections and supports for transgender students (previously circulated) and C.G.S. 10-221a *An Act Concerning Revisions to High School Graduation Requirements*, specifically, in regard to the graduating class of 2023. Mr. Haberlandt responded accordingly.

Committee Chair Vrabely thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

VI. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Eileen Williams, Recorder