

**CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

**Legislation and Policy Development Committee Meeting
February 6, 2019**

Minutes

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 J, 450 Columbus Blvd., Hartford, Connecticut, on February 6, 2019.

I. Call to Order

Committee Chair Joseph Vrabely called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m. Also present were Committee members: Erin Benham, William Davenport, Donald Harris, Terry Jones and Malia Sieve.

Board Member Robert Trefry was also present.

Presenters: Dr. Sarah Barzee, Chief Talent Officer; Dr. Katie Moirs, Education Consultant, Bryan Klimkiewicz, Special Education Bureau Chief and Committee Chair Vrabely.

Also present for all or part of the meeting were the following Department of Education staff members: Chief Financial Officer Kathy Demsey, Communications Director Peter Yazbak 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 December 5, 2018, Legislation and Policy Development Committee meeting.

III. Nominations of new members to serve on the Review Committee

Committee Chair Vrabely introduced Chief Talent Officer, Dr. Sarah Barzee and Education Consultant, Dr. Katie Moirs. They explained that four out of twelve seats in the Review Committee became vacant due to term expirations. The Review Committee members are appointed by the State Board of Education to serve a three-year appointment. The four professionals below are currently being nominated:

- Megan Mackey, Central Connecticut State University
- Stephanie Storms, Fairfield University
- Shannon Marimón, Connecticut Council for Education Reform
- Michael Livingston, Capitol Region Education Council

Committee members engaged in a brief discussion asking a variety of questions, which Dr. Barzee and Dr. Moirs responded to accordingly.

On a motion made by William Davenport and seconded by Donald Harris, the Committee unanimously approved forwarding all four Review Committee nominees to the State Board of Education for consideration.

IV. Discussion Regarding Homebound and Home Instruction for Students with Disabilities or Temporary Medical Needs

Committee Chair Vrabely shared a story of a family he knows who had a homebound student whose rights to homebound instruction were violated. Although the family settled the dispute, Committee Chair Vrabely felt this could have been avoided if the district would have provided the student homebound instruction. Therefore, Committee Chair Vrabely invited Special Education Bureau Chief Bryan Klimkiewicz to discuss this topic with the committee.

Mr. Klimkiewicz shared copies of current legislation as well as a PowerPoint presentation handout. Mr. Klimkiewicz briefly described the work of the Special Education Bureau followed by information clarifying the definition and differences in the terms *Hospitalization, Homebound Instruction, and Home Instruction*. Districts monitor situations in which students require instruction outside of the school setting. Additionally, the SDE collects data through the Public School Information System (PSIS). Data was shared with the committee. Mr. Klimkiewicz also shared strategies that the SDE is employing to ensure that current legislation is upheld including:

- Providing guidance to Local Education Agencies (LEA);
- Providing guidance to Planning and Placement Teams, reviewing the current Individualized Education Program document to ensure consistency in reporting student placement; and
- Collaboration with other initiatives within the SDE, including Chronic Absenteeism and Alternative Education Program teams.

A discussion ensued with members asking a variety of questions, which Mr. Klimkiewicz responded to accordingly.

V. Discussion Regarding Draft Proposed Resolution on Access to Public School Choice Programs

Committee Chair Vrabely asked Committee members to refer to their folders to discuss the draft proposed resolution regarding access to public school choice programs that Chief Financial Officer Kathy Demsey and former Legal Director Peter Haberlandt put together.

A discussion ensued with members providing suggestions and recommendations to improve the draft proposed resolution. Committee Chair Vrabely asked Ms. Demsey to recommend the best way to incorporate the suggestions discussed in the meeting into the proposed resolution.

VI. Other Matters

Committee Chair Vrabely thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

VII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mildred Pagán, Recorder