CONNECTICUT READING ASSOCIATION

CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION FOR READING RESEARCH

Summary of the Connecticut State Board of Education (CSBE) Meeting

September 5, 2018

Attending: Eric Clemons, Estela Lopez (Vice Chair), Erin Benham, William Davenport, Donald Harris, Diana Roberge-Wentzell (Commissioner), Malia Sieve, Robert Trefry (Ex-Officio), Joseph Vrabely

Absent: Terry Jones, Maria Mojica, Robert Ojakian (Ex-Officious), Stephen Wright, Allan Taylor

Tarni Krishna was sworn in as the new CSBE student member.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Matthew Hough, President of the Ansonia Education Association, addressed the Board regarding the hardships currently facing the Ansonia School District and requested that the Board not impose further financial restrictions on the district.

Tom Stringfellow, Manchester activist, discussed current movies and publications related to the history, experience and health of minority populations.

**ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION**

A. Ansonia 10-4b Proceeding. Peter Haberlandt, Attorney for the CSDE, reported that the Ansonia Board of Education (ABOE) has failed to appropriate sufficient funds to meet the Minimum Budget Requirements to qualify for State Department of Education Grants. The city of Ansonia may be responsible for the failure or inability of the ABOE implement the educational interests of the state. Therefore, the CSDE directs the Board to provide notice of this complaint to the ABOE and the city of Ansonia. The Board approved the directive.

B. Approval of Commissioner’s Network Turnaround Plan for Windham High School(WHS), Windham . Desi Nesmith, Chief Turnaround Officer, Patricia Garcia, Superintendent, Windham, and Vanessa Sosa Bariel, Principal of WHS, presented the Board with a Turnaround Plan for WHS. WHS has been identified as a Focus School for English Language Arts. Eighty five and Nine tenths (85.9) percent of the students are eligible for free or reduced price meals. Identified weaknesses are chronic absenteeism, instructional rigor, and professional development. The goal is to establish the Multiple Career Pathways to Student Success curriculum. The model uses real world applications outside of the high school and connects them to learning in the classroom. It will integrate rigorous academic instruction with a demanding curriculum and field based learning. The model works in partnership with *Attendance Works* and *In Class Today*. The plan was approved.

C. Approval of Commissioners Network Turnaround Plan for Wexler-Grant Community School (WGCS) New Haven. Desi Nesmith, Cheryl Birks, New Haven Superintendent of Schools, and David Diah, principal, presented the Turnover Plan. WGCS is a PK-8 school, serving 424 students. Sixty five percent (65%) are eligible for free or reduced price meals and 21% are Hispanic and 71% are Black. The goal of the plan is to adopt the Service- Based Learning Model with continued focus on literacy (Reading 60) and math. The plan includes establishing and further developing community resources and support. The plan was approved.

**REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

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**REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER**

In addition to welcoming everyone back for the new school year, CommissionerWentzell reported on her legislative, internal, and external CSDE activities.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Continuing Program Approval, Alternate Route to Certification for Library Media Specialist (ARCLMS)
2. Request for Finance Committee Action

The Consent Agenda was approved

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

1. Update: Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (JJPOC). Charlene Russell-Tucker, Chief Operating Officer and John Frasanelli, Bureau Chief for Food, Nutrition, Family Services, and Adult Education reported to the Board on the work of JJPOC toward developing systemwide and research driven strategies to improve youth justice in the State of Connecticut. In 2016 the JJPOC established three strategic goals to guide juvenile justice reform: (1) increase diversion of children and youth from juvenile court by 20%, (2) decrease the number of children and youth incarcerated in state run facilities by 30 %and, (3) decrease the rate of recidivism among juvenile offenders by 10%.

To date, four work groups have been established. In addition, a community based diversion system and a school based diversion system have been developed. A referral process and intervention models addressing truancy have been developed and made available. Next steps include assessing the quality and availability of diversion programming and reducing youth incarceration, reducing racial and ethnic disparities of youth in CT’s juvenile justice system and right sizing the system by setting appropriate lower and upper age limits.

1. Update on Students Displaced by Disasters. Charlene Russell-Tucker reported to the Board on the efforts and outcomes related to students from Puerto Rico and other areas of the Caribbean displaced by Hurricane Maria. The number of students in CT is currently 1,734, a reduction from a high of 1,932 students in December, 2017. In conjunction with statewide programs and fiscal support, the CSDE has provided school systems with materials related to the educational rights of students displaced by disasters, FEMA services information, health assessmetnts, immunizations, and support related to compliance with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Act. The CSDE has provided data collection and advocacy to support funding and documents regarding grade level advancement and graduation. Recently, the Federal Department of Education has provided $400,000 to be distributed to six school districts with the largest concentrations of Maria evacuees, which includes Connecticut.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Marie Mulready