**CONNECTICUT READING ASSOCIATION**

**CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION FOR READING RESEARCH**

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

**February 6, 2019**

Attending: Allan Taylor (Chair), Eric Clemons (arrived 11AM), Estela Lopez (Vice Chair), Erin Benham, Dr. Jane Gates (representing Mark Ojakian-Ex-Officio) Donald Harris, Terry Jones, Diana Roberge-Wentzell (Commissioner), Malia Sieve, Robert Trefry (Ex-Officio), Joseph Vrabely

Absent: Stephen Wright

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Rina Garcia, parent of Renzulli Academy student, expressed her concerns regarding the actions of the Hartford Public Schools with respect to Renzulli Academy. She reported on the arbitrary removal and assignment of Renzulli faculty without the consultation of members of the Renzulli community, including parents

Sharon Voroschak-Papcin addressed the Board about the Ansonia Inquiry. She requested that the Board consider the harms done to schools and parents as a result of political manipulation of budgets.

Cesarina Thompson spoke in support of the new online Master’s in Special Education at the University of Hartford.

Tom Stringfellow, Manchester activist, addressed the Board regarding Black History month and issues of culture, ethnicity and self.

Aleece Kelly from the Child Health and Development Institute spoke in support of the Position Statement on Suspensions and Expulsions

Wendy Simmons spoke in support of the Position Statement on Suspensions and Expulsions

**ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION**

1. Consideration of Proposed Decision in the Matter of the Revocation of Educator

Certificate of Maria Moulthrop, Certificate Holder

*The Certificate was revoked*.

B. Ansonia 10-4b Inquiry

*The district and the municipality have moved forward to meet Minimum Budgetary Requirements*

C. Position Statement on Reducing Disproportionality in Suspensions and Expulsions

(Exclusionary Discipline)

*The position statement was approved. See Item A in Discussion Agenda*.

D. Appointments to Personnel Search Committee to Conduct Search for Commissioner

of Education

*This item and the following are pro-forma actions due to the election of the new Governor who has not formally appointed a Commissioner of Education*.

E. Appointment of Interim Commissioner of Education

*Diana Roberge-Wentzell was appointed.*

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

1. Report on School Discipline

Charlene Russell-Tucker, Chief Operating Officer and Ajit Golaparishkan, Chief Performance Officer, reported on the status of disciplinary actions across the state. In the past five years:

* The total number of suspensions has declined by 22%
* There has been a six-fold increase in incidents associated with Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems
* The is still a large disparity in the suspension rates between students of color and their white counterparts
* PK-2 in school suspensions declined by 39% and out-of-school suspensions by 75%. [Public Act 15-96 prohibits suspension of students unless the incident is violent.

B. Update on Achievement First Bridgeport and Amistad Academy

Discussion centered on the ongoing difficulty of the Charters to staff faculty with certified teachers. In one case, a professional staff member did not have a bachelor’s degree.

**REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

No report**.**

**REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER**

Commissioner R. Wentzell reported on her legislative, internal, and external CSDE activities.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Consent (Any item may be removed from the consent agenda at the request of a Board member).

*Items regarding East Hartford Middle School and the Clinton Avenue School were highlighted as exhibiting strong turnaround cultures as a result of Network Grants*.

A. Approval of the 2019-20 Concussion and Head Injury Annual Review for Coaches

B. Commissioner’s Network Extension for Batcheller Early Education Center in Winchester

C. Commissioner’s Network Extension for Pearson School Winchester

D. Commissioner’s Network Extension for East Hartford Middle School in East Hartford

E. Commissioner’s Network Extension for Clinton Avenue School in New Haven

F. Approval of New Educator Preparation Program: University of Hartford, Special Education Program

G. Approval of Menu of Research-based Grade K-3 Universal Screening Reading Assessment

*The Consent Agenda was approved*

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Marie Mulready