**CONNECTICUT READING ASSOCIATION**

**CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION FOR READING RESEARCH**

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

**March 6, 2019**

Attending: Allan Taylor (Chair), Erin Benham, Eric Clemons, Estela Lopez (Vice Chair), Donald Harris, Terry Jones, Maria Mojica, Diana Roberge (Commissioner), Malia Sieve, Robert Trefry (Ex-Officio), Joseph Vrabely

Absent: Stephen Wright, Marc Ojakian (Ex-Officio)

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Bernadette Trelei, parent, Meredith Kennedy, former student, Dean Perkins, faculty, and Lorraine Nichirco, citizen, spoke in support of the charter renewal for Stamford Academy.

Sharon Papcin addressed the Board regarding the cooperation of stakeholders in the

Ansonia Budget issue.

Nina Rochas, teacher, Brea Mangum, Nashon Thompson, and Claudia Phillips spoke in support of the Great Oaks renewal.

**ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION**

A. Ansonia 10-4b Inquiry

The Ansonia Board of Education (ABOE) had been denied Equal Funding Appropriations from the CSBE for failure to appropriate sufficient funds to meet Minimum Budget Requirements. The city of Ansonia may have been responsible for the failure or inability of the ABOE to implement the educational interests of the state by refusing to provide funds to the ABOE. The Ansonia Town Council has recently agreed to deposit sufficient funds. The CSBE voted to dismiss the complaint without prejudice, which means that the CSBE can reinstitute the inquiry if the city fails to provide the adequate funds.

B. Renewal of State Charter-Great Oaks Charter School.

Desi Nesmith, Chief Turnaround Officer, presented the request for charter renewal. Following a site visit, document review, focus group sessions, and a public hearing, renewal for two years with conditions was recommended. By April 2019, the school must institute a stronger direct instruction model, ensure certification compliance, strengthen discipline procedures, and reduce absenteeism and suspensions/expulsions. The partial renewal was approved with the requirement that the Charter shall submit a plan for addressing concerns at the April, June, and August CSBE meetings.

C. Renewal of State Charter-Stamford Academy, Stamford

Desi Nesmith presented the request for charter renewal. The school serves under-credited high school students who generally enter three or more grade levels behind in reading and mathematics. At the five year request for renewal, SA was placed on probation due to student achievement deficits, the graduation rate, and staff certification. As required, the school has developed goals around the issues of student absenteeism, student achievement, chronic absenteeism and student suspension. Following a site visit, document review, focus group sessions, and a public hearing, a renewal for two years with conditions, including unannounced site visits, was recommended. The Board approved the renewal and lifted the probationary status.

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

1. Connecticut’s Definition and Framework for Family Engagement.

Charlene Russell-Tucker presented the *Definition and Framework for Family Engagement* to the Board. The report defines engagement as “…full, equal and equitable partnership among families, educators, and community partners to promote children’s learning and development from birth through college and career.” The key words, *full*, *equal* and e*quitable* were further defined based on input from all stakeholders. Guidelines were created that are consistent with the Board’s Comprehensive Plan, Goal 1, “Ensuring that students’ non-academic needs are met so they are healthy, happy and ready to learn.”

B. Update on Child Nutrition Program.

Charlene Russell-Tucker and John Frascarelli updated the Board on the Summer Nutrition Program operating across the state in conjunction with the Federal Government. Again, this program supports the Goal 1 of the Comprehensive Plan.

C. Recognition of State Board of Education Members

Allan Taylor, on behalf of the Board and the State of Connecticut honored members whose terms are expiring this month. The following members are leaving the Board: Estela Lopez, Erin Benham, Terry Jones, Maria Mojica, and Joseph Vrably.

**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).

A. Town of Winchester’s Application for Waiver of Repayment.

B. Appointments to Educator Preparation Program Review Committee.

Megan Mackey, CCSU, Stephanie Storms, Fairfield University, Michael Livingston, CREC, and Shannon Marimon, CCER, were appointed to the Review Committee.

*The Consent Agenda was approved*

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Marie Mulready