

CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION FOR READING RESEARCH
Summary of the Connecticut State Board of Education (CSBE) Meeting
December 4, 2019

Attending: Allan Taylor (Chair), Erin Benham, Miguel Cardona (Commissioner), Milan Chand (Student Member), Sophia H. Chin (Student Member), Eric Clemons, William Davenport, Estela Lopez (Vice-Chair), Donald Harris, Malia Sieve, Robert Trefry (Ex-Officio).

Absent: Marc Ojakian (Ex-Officio)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Tom Stringfellow, Manchester activist, presented the Board with material related to current issues.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER

Commissioner Cardona updated the Board on his internal and external activities in the past month. He presented an extended update on data related to the CSBE's new social media sites on Facebook and Twitter.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chair Taylor acknowledged the work of Board members and State Department officials at educational events and forums across the state.

ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

- A. In the Matter of Kevin Muhammad, Certification Action
Mr. Muhammad's CT certification was revoked.

- B. Consideration of Hamden Board of Education's Plan to Address Racial Imbalance in Church Street School.
Hamden's Superintendent and Hamden Board members presented the CSBE members with an update on measures taken to rebalance the racial composition of district schools. Measures include redefining attendance zones, creating Pre-K opportunities, moving Grade 6 to the middle school, closing and repurposing the Church Street and Shepherd Glen Schools, reincorporating the town's Wintergreen facility, and proposing intra-district magnet programs.

- C. Consideration of Vernon Board of Education's Plan to Address Racial Imbalance in Lake Street School.
Vernon's Superintendent and Vernon Board members presented the CSBE with an update on measures taken to rebalance the racial composition of district schools. Measures include relocating of pre-Kindergarten programs and examining the impact of returning ELLs to their neighborhood schools.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Report on Agricultural Science and Technology Education Graduates Five Years After Graduation.
This item was removed from the Agenda by William Davenport in order to provide the opportunity to discuss its contents, with emphasis on the rates of college graduation by Agriculture students, which are above 90% for those who enter college after agricultural high school graduation. Mr. Davenport reiterated that it is only the Agricultural Schools that are required by statute to do this, which points to the lack of such a requirement for charter, magnet, public high schools.
- B. Progress Report, Connecticut Relay Graduate School of Education

- C. Recommendation for the Adoption of the Educational Testing System Service: Computer Science Test and ETS Recommended Cut Score
(Items B and C were approved.)

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- A. Connecticut's Draft Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V) State Plan.

Melissa Hickey, Chief Academic Officer, presented the CSDE's plan to enact the latest requirements for obtaining and administering Perkins Grants across the state.

- B. Update on Priorities

Commissioner Cardona presented the CSDE priorities for the upcoming year. The department will work to:

1. Improve School Culture and Climate, and Student Connectedness
Increasing student engagement and root causes of disengagement improve attendance and reduce exclusionary discipline practices. The extended report on discipline practices will be presented in the upcoming months. An advisory group has been established and will provide input and research on best practice and successful programs.
2. Strengthen Pathways to College and Career

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Marie Mulready