

CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION FOR READING RESEARCH
Summary of the Connecticut State Board of Education (CSBE) Meeting
FEBRUARY 6, 2020

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), Bonnie Burr, Malia Sieve

OATH OF OFFICE

Chair Taylor announced that Governor Lamont appointed four new members to the CSBE. Taylor noted that Bonnie Burr would attend the March meeting. Atty. Jessa Mirtle, Commissioner of the Superior Court, administered the Oath of Office to the newly appointed Board members: Karen DuBois-Walton, Martha Justine Prou, and Awilda Reasco.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Latisha Tralochand, parent, and Tyanne Mater, former teacher, spoke regarding serious concerns about student and teacher abuse by the former principal of the Marine Science Magnet High School. Ms Mater presented the Board with documents relating to complaints and concerns.

Latisha Parker and Anais Nunez, parents, requested that the Board approve the charter renewal of the Elm City Preparatory School charter.

Melissa Thomas, teacher, Brandi Billant, teacher, and Claudia Phillips, parent, spoke in support of the charter renewal for Achievement First Bridgeport Middle School.

Delia Perez, parent, Melissa Franco, parent, Tasha Bernadel, teacher, and Julia Leonard, teacher addressed the Board supporting the renewal of the Amistad Academy Elementary School.

Dr. Charlene Reed, founder and former director, Victoria Phillipe, parent, Alejandra Morales, grandparent, Lesly Galindo, parent, Wendy Carrello, parent, Sani Suleman, parent, Nadia Lopez, parent, Oranna Moore, parent, Amy Buenartatagna, parent, Peter Cerrita, founding teacher and board member, Stephanie Smith, parent, Ayesha Clarke, parent, addressed the Board supporting the renewal of the Stamford School for Excellence charter.

Rev. Ernestine Holloway, an advocate for inner city urban schools, shared her thoughts on public charter schools and the need for the Board to fix all public schools for all students to have educational opportunities.

State Representatives David Fox, 148th District, Geraldo Reyes, 75th District, Hilda Santiago, 84th District, Robert Sanchez, 25th District, Patricia Billie Miller, 145th District, submitted letters of support for the Stamford School of Excellence. Senator Doug McCrory also submitted a letter of support.

ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

- A. Renewal of State Charter – Stamford Charter School for Excellence. The Board approved a five-year renewal of the charter for the Stamford School for Excellence

- B. Renewal of State Charter – Amistad Academy, New Haven. The Board approved a two-year renewal of the charter with conditions.
- C. Renewal of State Charter – Elm City College Preparatory, New Haven. The Board approved a two-year renewal of the charter with conditions.
- D. Renewal of State Charter – Achievement First Bridgeport Academy, Bridgeport. The Board approved a two-year renewal of the charter with conditions.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

No report

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER

Commissioner Cardona reported on his January internal, external, and legislative activities. He elaborated on the new Sheff Stipulation Agreement settling the Robinson v. Wentzell case. The challenge to the Hartford-region school choice program was withdrawn as a result of changes in how students are selected for choice program seats. Commissioner Cardona thanked the Attorney General's Office, the Governor's Office, and the SDE legal team.

CONSENT AGENDA

No items

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- A. Report on School Discipline Deputy Commissioner Charlene Russell-Tucker, Chief Performance Officer Ajit Gopalakrishnan, and Education Division Director Glen Peterson presented an analysis of trends in student disciplinary behaviors in Connecticut public schools. Over the past five years, Connecticut has made major strides in reducing exclusionary discipline. The discussion included data collection and reporting the types of disciplinary incidents. District reports must include rates of
 - In-School Suspension (ISS)
 - Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)
 - Bus Suspension
 - Expulsion (EXP)

All serious offenses and all incidents involving alcohol, drugs, or weapons must be reported. All bullying incidents must also be reported. There was a review of:

- Sanctions and Incidents by grade level
- Suspension rates by grades
- Suspensions of Young Students, Pre-K through Grade 2

Mr. Peterson spoke on alternative community practices

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Marie Mulready