

CONNECTICUT READING ASSOCIATION
CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION FOR READING RESEARCH
Summary of the Connecticut State Board of Education (CSBE) Meeting
May 1, 2019

Attending: Allan Taylor (Chair), Erin Benham, William Davenport, Janet Gates (representing Marc Ojakian, Ex-Officio) Estela Lopez, Donald Harris, Diana Roberge-Wentzell (Commissioner), Malia Sieve, Robert Trefry (Ex-Officio).

Absent: Stephen Wright, Eric Clemons,

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Paula Devaney and Edward Devaney, parents of a student in Old Saybrook, asked the Board to investigate the disciplinary action taken by a teacher against their son, and the subsequent reinstatement of that teacher.

David Low, Ranya Subravaranian, Jose Cuapio, spoke in support of the Charter renewal for Elm City Montessori (ECM).

Tim Sullivan, CREC Superintendent, Lisa Cordora, Marlene Lavamov, Tim Barber, and Cymone Douglas, teachers and administrators in the CREC system, spoke in support of approving the CREC Alternate Route to Elementary Certification.

Jessie Pierce, Kelly Santana, Milagros Vega, parents of children at the Parkville School, and Gwen Samuels, president of the CT Parents Union, asked the Board to investigate the behavior of the Hartford Board of Education members and the Parkville faculty at the April meeting of the Hartford Board of Education.

Latisha Williams, Kayla Waters, Annette Armstrong, Melissa Baez, and Carl Hardwick, parents and teachers at the Achievement First Academy (AF), spoke in support of the Charter renewal for Achievement First Hartford.

Heather LaSelle, clinical social worker, reported to the Board on the use of restraints and seclusion on one of her clients, a kindergartner, and asked the Board to demand more transparency from school systems isolation rooms.

ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

A. Renewal of State Charter-Elm City Montessori School, New Haven

Desi Nesmith, Chief Turnaround Officer, presented the request for ECM charter renewal. Following a site visit, document review, focus group sessions, and a public hearing CSDE recommended renewal for 3 years with conditions. Board questions centered on the lack of participants in Smarter Balanced Assessment Data. The school relied on alternative student assessment data that is not congruent with State approved assessment instruments. Academic results were a concern, with Grade 3 reporting negative growth in Mathematics. Renewal was approved, with conditions. A corrective action plan must be submitted to the CSDE by May 31, 2019 and interim data by October 2019.

B. Renewal of State Charter-Park City Prep

Desi Nesmith, Chief Turnaround Officer, presented the request for PCP charter renewal. Following a site visit, document review, focus group sessions, and a public hearing CSDE recommended renewal for 3 years with conditions. Questions centered on Smarter Balanced Testing results showing achievement/growth levels at or below that of

the home district (Bridgeport), and State. (The school serves grades 5-8). Renewal was approved, with conditions. A corrective action plan must be submitted to the CSDE by May 31, 2019 that includes measures to improve student academic achievement and submit interim benchmark assessments by October, 2019.

C. Renewal of State Charter-Achievement First Academy-Hartford

Desi Nesmith presented the request for AF charter renewal. Following a site visit, document review, focus group sessions, and a public hearing CSDE recommended renewal for a period of three years with conditions. Almost all metrics, academic and social/emotional, show growth greater than state and local averages. Areas of concern include faculty certification compliance, the suspension rate, and the provision of transition programs for bilingual students and the implementation of IEP's compliant with state and federal laws.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

There were no items for discussion.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Alan Taylor recognized the service of Commissioner Diana Roberge-Wentzell, who will be leaving to take a position at the University of St. Joseph.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER

Commissioner R. Wentzell reported on her legislative, internal, and external CSDE activities. She elaborated on her participation at the ceremony inducting David Bosse of Berlin into the National Teacher Hall of Fame.

CONSENT AGENDA

(Any item may be removed from the consent agenda at the request of a Board member). Estela Lopez requested that Item C approving the Alternate Route to Elementary Education. *She questioned the rationale for the program, given the number of elementary candidates from traditional programs who are not employed.* (Italics mine.) The CREC administration cited the inability of minority candidates to enter programs due to the impediments of time and money. Candidates are guaranteed employment.

A. Approval of Charter Management Agreement among Great Oaks Charter School-Bridgeport Inc., and Great Oaks Foundation Inc.

B. Approval of Charter Management Agreement between Stamford Academy, Inc. and Domus Kids, Inc.

C. Approval of New Educator Preparation Program: Capitol Region Education Council, Alternate Route to Certification Program in Elementary Education

D. Amendment to 2019 Meeting Schedule

The Consent Agenda was approved

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Marie Mulready