

CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION FOR READING RESEARCH
Summary of the Connecticut State Board of Education (CSBE) Meeting
October 7, 2020

Attending: Bonnie Bauer, Erin Benham, Miguel Cardona (Commissioner), Eric Clemons, Karen Dubois-Walton, Elwood Exley, Janet Gates (for Marc Ojakian, Ex-Officio), Estela Lopez (Vice-Chair), Donald Harris, Martha Prou, Awilda Reasco, Malia Sieve, Robert Trefry (Ex-Officio).

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Dr. Steven Hegidis, Dean of the SCSU Department of Education, and President of the AACTE, offered the Board assistance with matters related to the expertise of the Association.

ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

- A. Adoption of the Firearm Safety Guide for Connecticut Schools. The Framework was adopted.
- B. Adoption of the Connecticut Comprehensive School Counseling Framework (CCSCPS) Position Statement. The Department submitted the CCSCFPS and requested that the CSBE support the statement which adds 18 new standards to the 2008 document. The statement was approved, allowing the Department to disseminate the Framework to districts for program development within districts.
- C. Inclement Weather During the COVID-19 Pandemic and the Provision of Hybrid and/or Remote Learning Models. The CSDE developed guidelines regarding the cancellation of schools by districts under current COVID-19 conditions. The current use of remote learning may mitigate the need for cancellations, though power outages will continue to be a problem. The Board granted permission for the districts to utilize weather-related remote learning as legal school days for the 2019-2020 school year only.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER

Commissioner Cardona reported on his internal, external, and Legislative activities. Challenges continue due to the pandemic but are being addressed, with current emphasis on connecting with mental health professionals, collecting attendance data, and data related to instructional models—remote, hybrid, and in person instruction. The Commissioner emphasized that there are materials available on the Department’s website, aimed at support for teachers, parents and students.

The Commissioner presented current data related to the pandemic. As of 10/7, 34% of districts are in person, 59% are hybrid, and 6% are fully remote. There have been 159 cases from 10/1-10/7. These cases include remote learners.

Finally, the Commissioner congratulated the new 2019-2020 Blue Ribbon Schools. They are the George Hersey Robertson School in Coventry, Norton

School in Cheshire, South Street School in Danbury, and the Northeast School in Vernon.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

No reports

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of New Educator Preparation Program: University of Connecticut, American Sign Language Education
- B. Adoption of 2019- 2020 Annual Audit Plan
- C. Adoption of 2020-2021 Annual Audit Plan

The agenda was accepted

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- A. Agency Update. (See Item B)
- B. Increasing the Racial, Ethnic, and Linguistic Diversity of the Connecticut Educator Workforce Update and Next Steps. Dr Shauna Tucker, Chief Talent Officer, updated the Board on the status of the program to diversify the teaching force. From October, 2015 to October 2019, the percentage of teachers of color has increased from 8.3% to 9.6%. However, because minority populations have increased, the chances of a child of color having a teacher of color has actually decreased. Several programs have helped to increase the pool of candidates--TEACH CT, the RESC/MTR Alliance grants, the Connecticut Troops to Teachers Program, and Educators Rising. In addition, the Teacher Fellowship Program at CCSU provides opportunities for Teacher Candidates to work in school districts in the early semesters of their college experience in order to decrease attrition from preservice Education majors. *However, it is important to note that a greater number of teachers are leaving the profession than are entering it.*

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Marie Mulready