

CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION FOR READING RESEARCH
Summary of the Connecticut State Board of Education (CSBE) Meeting
May 13, 2020

Attending: Allan Taylor (Chair), Bonnie Bauer, Erin Benham, Miguel Cardona (Commissioner), Milan Chand (Student Member), Sophia H. Chin (Student Member), 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).

Absent: none

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The public submitted statements via the online portal.

The following provided written statements in support of the RELAY Graduate School of Education:

Georgia Young-Pearl, Program Reading Interventionist, Metacomet School

Jevon Williams, Relay M.A.T. participant

Kara DelGuidice, Relay M.A.T. participant

Cecilia Illescas, Relay M.A.T. participant

Dr. Tonya M. Claiborne

Desiree Napoleon Relay, M.A.T. participant

Samantha Remillard, Relay M.A.T. participant

Valerie Moses, Relay M.A.T. participant

Lynn S. Moorhouse, Relay M.A.T. participant

Santa Regina Mercedes, Relay M.A.T. participant

Christina Philidor, Relay M.A.T. participant

Brianna D'Alessio, Relay M.A.T. participant

Kristin DeGray, Relay M.A.T. participant

Gala D. Joubert, Relay M.A.T. participant

Dr. Mayme Hostetter, President, Relay Graduate School of Education

Maurissa Brady, Relay M.A.T. participant

Lauren Bruno, Relay M.A.T. participant

Traci Camacho, Relay M.A.T. participant

Shauntee Duzan, Relay M.A.T. participant

Shirley R. Castro, Relay M.A.T. participant

Alejandra Corona Ortega, Relay M.A.T. participant

Lygia Davenport, Relay M.A.T. participant

Robert M. Goodrich, Radical Advocates for Cross-Cultural Education

Daniel Luciano, Relay M.A.T. participant

Kelli Thomas, Relay M.A.T. participant

Benedicte Kalala, Relay M.A.T. participant

Reba Stanley, Relay M.A.T. participant

Antoinette M. White, Relay M.A.T. participant

Joselyn M. Acosta-Torres, Relay M.A.T. participant

Cheryl A. Johnson, Relay M.A.T. participant

Gwen E. Samuel, President, CT Parent Union

Andrew Martell, Relay M.A.T. participant

Mabel Soto, Relay M.A.T. participant

Shamari Weaver, Relay M.A.T. participant

Subira Gordon, Executive Director, ConnCAN

Andrea Comer, Executive Director, Educators for Excellence

Jenee Valerie Jefferson, Relay M.A.T. participant

ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

No items

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER

The bulk of the meeting was dedicated to the Commissioner's report. Dr. Cardona reported on internal and external virtual meetings including regular Superintendents' meetings and weekly discussions with the CEA and AFT. He detailed the CSDE responses to issues resulting from the state shut down of schools and colleges. The state task force identified areas of need are: 1) academics and distance learning, 2) the social-emotional needs of students, 3) gathering parent and student input, 4) the failure of substantial numbers of families to participate and log in for instruction.

Initial critical issues for learning in an online environment include connectivity(access), reliable computers, and quality curriculum in an online environment. The Commissioner reported on the donation of 1700 computers for students and the provision of free resources by the CSDE and Scholastic. The SDE in conjunction with the Department of Human Services has provided 4 million meals to students and families.

Discussion centered the CSDE's ability to organize and deliver instruction while meeting the needs of students and parents. Erin Benham emphasized the need to include students on the task force given their superior understanding of online platforms. Sophia Chin and Miland Chan, student representatives, discussed their current instructional experiences, including the use of Google Meet for rapid feedback and the possibilities for improvement.

Kathy Demsey, Chief Financial Officer, provided feedback on the uses and reporting requirements of CARES Act monies.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

No report

CONSENT AGENDA

- Request for Finance Advisory Committee Action
- Request for Finance Advisory Committee –CTECS
- Approval of Commissioner's Network Extension for New Britain High School, New Britain
- Approval of Commissioner's Network Turnaround Plan: Pulaski Middle School, New Britain
- Approval of Commissioner's Network Turnaround Plan: Slade Middle School, New Britain
- Approval of Commissioner's Network Turnaround Plan: Smalley Elementary School, New Britain
- Approval of Commissioner's Network Turnaround Plan: Hartford Public High School, Hartford
- Approval of New Educator Preparation Program: Relay Graduate School of Education, Master of Arts in Education Program.

The Agenda was approved.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

No items

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Marie Mulready