

**CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION FOR READING RESEARCH**  
**Summary of the Connecticut State Board of Education (CSBE) Meeting**  
**February 3, 2021**

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

Absent: Janet Gates (Ex-Officio), Miguel Cardona, Commissioner

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Carol Ciotto, member of the AACTE Legislative and Policy Committee, and an Assistant Dean in the School of Education and Professional Studies at CCSU, asked the Board to look beyond the immediate concerns of the pandemic and continue to work collaboratively with the AACTE on policy in order to produce highly effective teachers for CT schools.

Roger Shulman of Fairfield submitted a letter requesting that the Board turn its attention to the district's defunding of the Covid Related Remote Learning Academy. He noted experts' assessments that the worst days of the pandemic are ahead, and appropriate caution must be maintained.

**REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER**

No report

**ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION**

- A. Principles, Procedures, and Standards for the Approval of Private Special Education Programs. Private programs receiving funding from the SDE must comply with all legislative mandates. This document has been updated to reflect legislative directives and current best practices and procedures for serving identified students. The most important updates include positive behavioral supports, and presentation and intervention strategies. The updates were approved.
  
- B. Adoption of Position Statement on Culturally Responsive Education. This statement reflects the Boards ongoing understanding of the importance of culturally responsive education as a component of all school curricula, activities, and services. It formalizes the newly developed guidelines and models presented at the January 2021 meeting of the CSBE. In response to questions by the Board members, Ingrid Canady, SERC Director, reported on the requests that SERC has already received from schools and community groups for help in building their own programs for social justice. The position statement was approved.

## **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

No report

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

No items

## **REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER**

No report

## **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

- Agency Update. Charlene Russell-Tucker and Kathy Demsey Chief Financial Officer, reported on the funds made available to the State by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA). In total the State has received over \$608,000,000--90% of which must be appropriated to the districts. The CSDE has established four priorities for the funds,
  - Providing opportunities to address academic loss and facilitating recovery of those most vulnerable. These may include summer programs
  - Developing family and community support through community connections
  - Providing enhanced school safety and well-being, including social/emotional support for students and teachers
  - Providing remote learning support for both students and staff (PD) that goes beyond providing devices
- Report on Student Discipline in CT Public Schools. Ajit Gopalakrishnan, Chief Performance Officer, and John Frassanelli, presented the 2020 report. Data show major strides in reducing exclusionary discipline action (expulsion) though discrepancies in suspension rates across ethnic and minority populations remain a serious concern. Remedies are aimed at ensuring social/emotional learning and development of local programs is supported through the adoption of the CSDE blueprint for integrating social and emotional learning across the curriculum. In addition, progress has been made in procuring a universal tool to assess at risk behaviors providing follow up for that focuses on establishing positive school climates. Lastly, the CT School Discipline Collaborative has been established to advise districts

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Marie Mulready