

**CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION FOR READING RESEARCH**  
**Summary of the Connecticut State Board of Education (CSBE)**  
**Meeting**  
**May 5, 2021**

Attending: Bonnie Bauer, Erin Benham, Eric Clemons, Karen Dubois-Walton (remote), Elwood Exley (remote), Estela Lopez (Vice-Chair, remote), Janet Gates (Ex-Officio-remote), Donald Harris, Martha Prou, Awilda Reasco (remote), Malia Sieve(remote), Robert Trefry (Ex-Officio-remote), Charlene Russell-Tucker (Acting Commissioner, remote)

(The audio for this meeting was so poor that much of the public participation was incomprehensible.)

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Commissioner Russell-Tucker introduced the students who were finalists for appointment as the student reps to the CSBE for the 2020-2021 school year, but who had been unable to attend through the pandemic. They each made a recommendation to the Board regarding education in Connecticut and shared their college plans in the coming year.

**REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER**

Commissioner Russell-Tucker highlighted her work with the legislature and Governor Lamont in relation to the American Rescue Act. The work of the CSDE is more fully explained in the Agency Update (see Items for Discussion).

**ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION**

- A. Approval of Commissioner's Network Turnaround Plan for New London High School, New London.
- B. Approval of Commissioner's Network Turnaround Plan for Bennie Dover Jackson Middle School, New London.
- C. Approval of Commissioner's Network Turnaround Plan for Wilby High School, Waterbury.

Each of the Turnaround Plans was approved for one year with conditions.

**REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Acting Chair, Estela Lopez, introduced a resolution thanking all the teachers of CT for their outstanding work in meeting the challenges

presented by the pandemic. The resolution notes their willingness to perform above and beyond their expected responsibilities to meet the needs of their students.

### **CONSENT AGENDA)**

A. Request for Finance Advisory Committee (FAC) Action.

B. Reappointment of Members of the Impartial Hearing Board Panel

The consent agenda was approved

### **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

- A. Agency Update. Charlene Russell-Tucker and Chris Soto reported on the work related to Summer Enrichment (American Rescue Grants). \$25,000 in grants will be made available to existing programs to expand participation. Grants will be made for innovations proposed by current summer enrichment providers, and scholarships will increase substantially.

The Learner Engagement and Attendance program will partner with the RESCs to promote school engagement by families in 15 districts. The program will utilize home visits and address barriers to attendance. Some of this will be funded by the Governors Emergency Education Relief Fund. The SDE is providing interim guidance as districts transition from remote learning.

The Department is encouraging more students to take rigorous courses (AP, IB) BY directly communicating with students identified through PSAT and CT Common Core results. Letters are sent to parents and the students.

Currently, 79% of districts are providing fully in-person instruction.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Marie Mulready