Report of the 2023 CABE Government Relations Committee

2024 Proposed Resolutions



Delegate Assembly

Thursday, November 16, 2023 3:30 p.m. Registration 4 - 6 p.m. Delegate Assembly Mystic Marriott Hotel, Groton



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Dear CABE Member:

This report is designed to assist member boards, their delegates and alternate delegates to the CABE Delegate Assembly prepare for the discussion and deliberation which will take place on important issues affecting public education, public boards of education and the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education.

Prior to the Delegate Assembly, all members of CABE member boards receive this copy of proposed <u>new</u> resolutions (Regular Calendar), existing resolutions to which modifications are proposed, and resolutions recommended for deletion. Copies of all existing resolutions are available on CABE's website.

Resolutions adopted at the annual CABE Delegate Assembly become the official positions of the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education. Further, from these positions, the State Relations Sub-Committee of the Government Relations Committee will develop some concepts into a specific legislative package.

The CABE Government Relations Committee will present to the Delegate Assembly this report of proposed resolutions for 2024. Prefacing the report is a section to help the delegates and alternates to prepare for the Delegate Assembly and a section outlining the operating procedures for the Delegate Assembly.

In order to expedite the business of the Assembly, the delegates will be asked to vote on the Consent Calendar (resolutions taken from existing resolutions and not substantially revised) of the report as a unit and without debate. Any delegate may request the removal of a resolution from the Consent Calendar and, when removed, the resolution will be considered on the Regular Calendar (resolutions which are new and require full discussion, and those taken from existing resolutions that have been substantially revised.)

We wish to express our sincere thanks to those local and regional boards of education that submitted resolutions this year and to the members of the Resolutions/Government Relations Committee, whose names appear elsewhere in this booklet, for their commitment of time and hard work toward developing the substance of this report.

We urge you to attend the CABE Delegate Assembly on November 16, 2023, at the Mystic Marriott Hotel in Groton. Registration for the Assembly will begin at 3:30 p.m. and the business of the Assembly will begin at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Your CABE Government Relations Committee

Meg Scata, Vice President for Government Relations, Portland Laurel Steinhauser, Resolutions Chairman, Portland Becky Tyrrell, Federal Relations Chairman, Plainville Jaime Barr Shelburn, State Relations Chairman, East Lyme

PREPARING FOR THE DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

1. Appointment of Delegates

Appoint your delegate(s) as provided for in CABE Bylaws, Art. 3, Sec. 3.2, from among the members of your board to represent your board of education.

2. Appointment of Alternates

Appoint alternate delegate(s) from among the members of your board, to assist your delegate(s) and to vote should your delegate(s) be absent.

3. Non-voting Participants

Any member of a member board of education and any other member of the Association may participate in discussion (CABE Bylaws, Art. 8, Sec. 8.2) at the Delegate Assembly.

4. Position Development

Schedule time at your next board meeting to discuss the resolutions included in the report and to give guidance to your delegate(s) and alternate delegate(s) so that they may best represent the views of your board. For your convenience, sheets containing the titles of consent and regular calendar resolutions with columns for recording your board's position on each, have been included in the back of this booklet.

OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR THE DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

1. Parliamentary Authority

Unless otherwise specified in the CABE Bylaws, the latest edition of "Robert's Rules of Order" shall govern the transaction of business (CABE Bylaws, Art. 8, Sec. 8.3).

2. Non-voting Participants

Any member of a member board and any other member of the Association may participate in discussion of the resolutions or amendments to the resolutions but only local and regional board of education designated delegates or their designated alternates may vote (CABE Bylaws, Art. 8, Sec. 8.2).

3. Voting

Each CABE member board in good standing, is entitled to at least one vote on each motion (CABE Bylaws, Art. 3, Sec. 3.2). The vote of a majority of delegates present and voting shall be required for the adoption of a resolution. A designated alternate delegate may vote in the absence of the designated delegate.

4. Resolutions

Only resolution proposals that have been included in this Report of the **2023** CABE Government Relations Committee, mailed to local boards at least four weeks before the Delegate Assembly, will be acted upon by the Delegate Assembly (CABE Bylaws, Art. 7, Sec. 7.5c1). No additional resolutions may be submitted for Delegate Assembly action. Resolutions which contain a broad, overriding position of the Association are designated "Belief" and will be acted on in the same manner as all

other resolutions. While each resolution contains title, issue and rationale sections, ONLY THAT SECTION CLEARLY MARKED RESOLUTION OR BELIEF WILL BE VOTED UPON.

5. Amendments

Amendments to proposed resolutions must be submitted in writing to the Delegate Assembly (CABE Bylaws, Art. 7, Sec. 7.5c1). Amendments to proposed resolutions may be submitted to the Delegate Assembly by a delegate or, in the delegate's absence, by his/her alternate delegate.

SPECIAL RULES FOR THE DELEGATE ASSEMBLY: TO BE ADOPTED AT THE OUTSET OF THE DELIBERATIONS OF THE DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

1. Speaking Time

Total speaking time for each Assembly participant on each resolution shall be limited to five minutes.

2. Consent Calendar

Prior to voting on the Consent Calendar as a unit and without debate, any delegate may request the removal of a resolution from the Consent Calendar and, when removed, the resolution will be considered on the Regular Calendar.

3. Regular Calendar

Voting will proceed item by item on the resolutions included on the Regular Calendar unless there is unanimous consent of the Assembly to consider and vote upon any group of regular calendar resolutions as a unit.

4. Amendments

Each amendment shall be submitted in writing, to the Chairman of the Resolutions Committee, prior to the discussion of the amendment in the Delegate Assembly.

5. Voting

All voting shall be by a show of hands. Each delegate will be given a voting sign and will raise the voting sign to register his/her vote. Upon request of a voting member of the Delegate Assembly, or at the discretion of the presiding officer, tellers will count the vote.

2024 PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

Title: II.1 CREATING EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE THROUGH ECONOMIC, RACIAL AND ETHNIC INTEGRATION

Belief: CABE believes that each child must have equal access to effective

free, public education and to the services of well-educated and skillful teachers. Boards of education, working with state and local leaders and community members, can play a key role in ending systemic racism.

CABE supports efforts by the State of Connecticut:

- 1. to address and solve the issues of social and economic isolation in the areas of housing, transportation, employment, access to health care and social services; and
- 2. to make the necessary funding available to urban, suburban and rural school districts across the state to develop and sustain:
 - a. community conversations to build understanding and support for diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives.
 - b. integrated educational programs and exchanges that create educational excellence; and
 - c. infrastructure that supports safe and healthy environments for learning.
- 3. to promote the development of academic pathways, instructional activities, extracurricular opportunities, and field experiences that provide a richer awareness of culture and racial diversity, including but not limited to:
 - a. review of curriculum in grades K-12 through the lens of multicultural and diverse perspectives.
 - b. the elimination of Indigenous Americans as mascots.

CABE urges all boards of education to:

- affirm that all children can learn and accept the challenge to educate each child to his/her fullest potential;
- 2. enter into interdistrict partnerships which create integrated educational excellence and promote social, cultural, ethnic and racial exchange and interaction among diverse groups;
- 3. facilitate culturally responsive teaching and supervision that promotes understanding of and respect for the many diverse cultures which strengthen our democratic society;
- 4. continue their efforts to increase the recruitment of qualified individuals who reflect this state's diversity to the teaching profession and administration:
- make parents as well as the greater community full partners in the education of all children; and
- 6. recognize their critical role in creating policies, providing training, and maintaining oversight to ensure that students have equal educational opportunities and are treated equitably as provided by the laws of the State of Connecticut, including but not limited to, §10-15c and §46a-58, regardless of [gender], race, color, [creed] SEX, religion, NATIONAL ORIGIN, alienage, sexual orientation OR DISABILITY, gender identity or [gender] expression.

Explanation

of change: Update language.

From an existing resolution/The Government Relations Committee recommends adoption.

Title: II.2 SCHOOL CLIMATE, CULTURE, SAFETY AND SECURITY

Issue: The need to address school climate, culture, safety and security in a

comprehensive manner.

Resolution: CABE urges all school boards to:

- 1. address the influence of violence affecting children using school board policies, parent education programs, peer mediation, student assistance teams, and the school district curriculum to maintain an environment that fosters learning and growth.
- 2. review and maintain safety plans that address prevention, preparedness, mitigation and emergency response and recovery.
- 3. [address environmental, health and safety risks, as well as potential security breaches in coordination with appropriate local, state and federal agencies.]

CABE supports state efforts to study and:

- 1. recommend best practices for reducing school based arrests for all students.
- recommend best practices for addressing the higher incidence of school based arrests for students of color.
- 3. [make] recommend[ations] [for] training for staff and students on de-escalation techniques and cultural sensitivity.
- 4. recommend a uniform reporting system for school based arrests so all districts are reporting numbers the same way.
- 5. identify possible grant funding to support accelerated reductions in school based arrests.
- identify restorative practices and institute behavioral health supports as foundational and proactive protocols that promote a healthy and collaborative learning environment with the added intentional purpose of minimizing if not eliminating the need for school based arrest.

CABE urges:

- the state and federal government to provide greater and sustained resources for locally determined programs that are critical to school safety, including emergency preparedness and response training, school resource officers, school counseling, and [inter agency coordination] ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.
- [2. for greater and sustained resources that expand access to mental health services and support comprehensive wraparound services to schools that include a range of community resources to address safety and intervention.]
- [3. the General Assembly to direct the State Department of Education to develop resources for teachers dealing with students that have experienced trauma.]

Explanation

of change: First #3 deletion – these are a part of plans

Second #3 deletion – technical

Third #1 deletion, incorporated from #2 Third #2 deletion – incorporated into #1 Third #3 deletion – has been accomplished.

From an existing resolution/The Government Relations Committee recommends adoption.

Title: II.3 CERTIFIED EDUCATOR SHORTAGES

Issue: The need for action to address shortages of educators.

Resolution: CABE urges school boards, higher education institutions, the State

Department of Education and the General Assembly to take action to expand the pool of qualified educators for Connecticut's public schools,

particularly in areas where shortages have been identified.

CABE SUPPORTS [Among the actions to be considered should be] expanding the alternate route to certification programs, **APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS**, enhancing professional development

opportunities, [expanding] reciprocity between states, [reducing bureaucracy for educators certified in other states,] encouraging students at an early age to consider the teaching profession and actively recruiting underrepresented groups.

[CABE urges the state to establish and seek available federal funding to establish a high quality paid registered apprenticeship for teachers which will increase collaboration across workforce and education systems.]

Explanation

of change: The second paragraph language was updated.

Deletion of the third paragraph – has been accomplished.

From an existing resolution/The Government Relations Committee recommends adoption.

Title: II.4 EDUCATOR EVALUATION AND SUPPORT

Issue: Educator evaluation and support guidelines.

Resolution: CABE urges the:

1. State Department of Education through the Educator Evaluation and Support Council (EES) to [continue to review] **IMPLEMENT** the Educator Evaluation and Support guidelines.

2. State Department of Education and General Assembly to support a strong teacher induction and performance program to improve the retention of new teachers in Connecticut.

Explanation

of change: language was updated in #1.

From an existing resolution/The Government Relations Committee recommends adoption.

Title: II.5 THE FEDERAL ROLE IN PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Belief: CABE urges the federal government to recognize education as a state

and local function, while identifying, promoting and supporting the

national interest in public education.

CABE supports a program of federal support for elementary and secondary public education that provides increased flexibility and funds that go directly to the local level **AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR ALL FEDERAL MANDATES**.

Explanation

of change: Self-explanatory.

From an existing resolution/The Government Relations Committee recommends adoption.

Title: II.6 Promoting Statewide Policy and Funding for Minority Teacher
Recruitment

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Issue: The need to establish statewide strategies and appropriate state funding

for policies related to the recruitment, retention and support for a diverse

workforce for all state public schools.

Resolution: CABE urges the Legislature to relieve the Alliance school districts from

the compounding impact of the fiscal obligations of the language of CGS 10-156gg, the Minority Candidate Certification, Retention or Residency Year Program.

Rationale:

The current structure of the statutory language limits the focus of the state's efforts to Alliance Districts. Historically these Districts have been successful in Minority Teacher Recruitment (MTR). We believe the MTR is a state obligation and should not be focused solely on and funded by the Alliance Districts. The current law erodes funding to the Alliance Districts and "withholds from Alliance Districts... 10 percent of any increase in funding for fiscal year ending June 30, 2020". If fully implemented by 2028, \$135 million will be taken, placing an undue burden on the already distressed districts. In addition, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) has established rules regarding the use of the funds that is too narrow and cannot be used for high yield, research based MTR initiatives. Additionally, this funding will be difficult to expend if the current lack of MTR candidates does not improve. The candidate pool must be addressed for recruitment to be successful.

Submitted by: Waterbury Board of Education 9/23. The Government Relations

Committee recommends adoption.

Statement of reason for recommendation:

The purpose of this resolution is to relieve the Alliance school districts from restrictive mandate on funding programs to increase the pool of

diverse educators.

Title: II.7 Posting of Nutritional Value of School Lunches and Breakfasts

Issues:

The Thomaston Board of Education, like the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, supports matters of Governance related to the Legislative-School Board Partnership that urge school boards to provide legislators with objective analysis of proposed legislation. This resolution ventures to provide such analysis of General Assembly

Proposed Bill No. 6030.

The impetus behind this resolution is to foster and provide as an example to all local and regional boards of education and Legislators, the innovative learning practices of Thomaston Public Schools' L.E.A.P. program by supporting the initiative taken by the L.E.A.P. students who proposed legislation to inform all students of the nutritional value of school lunches and breakfasts. HB6030 is of exceptional interest to the Thomaston Board of Education and, therefore, demanding Thomaston Board of Education action.

Resolution: Be it resolved that chapter 169 of the general statutes be amended to

require each local and regional board of education to post the nutritional values of school lunches and breakfasts in the school cafeteria or other

central place of consumption.

Submitted by: Thomaston Board of Education 9/23. The Government Relations

Committee recommends rejection.

Statement of reason

for recommendation: This creates a mandate that some districts may struggle to implement.

DELETIONS

Title: III.1 21st CENTURY SKILLS

Issue: The need to prepare students for the global workplace.

Resolution: CABE urges the state and federal government to support programs and

research that focus on problem- solving, creativity, critical thinking, and other high-level 21st century skills that are import- ant for success in a global workplace. The state and federal government should support school district capacity to provide the technology and tools necessary to foster innovative learning practices, instructional methods and a mastery- based grading system that bridges school and real-world experiences, provide for greater personalization of education, and

prepare students for college and/or career.

Explanation

of change: Deletion - this is an ongoing imbedded practice

Title: III.2 REMOTE LEARNING

Issue: The need for a comprehensive online learning platform.

Resolution: CABE urges the State Department of Education to develop a vetted,

comprehensive remote learning platform, offer the platform and coursescontained therein at reasonable cost to districts, and provide trainingto district personnel to facilitate and assess student learning via said-

platform.

Explanation

of change: Deletion – study of issue found not feasible.

Title: III.3 E-LEARNING AND SNOW DAYS

Resolution: CABE urges the state and federal government to consider the effect of

weather related events that affect setting the graduation date, the end of

vear activities and beginning of summer schools and camps.

Recognizing that weather events, power outages, other man-made disasters cause disruption tocontinuous delivery of education in America's public school districts, districts want the discretionto-choose e-learning days for those school days affected by weather events and other disruptiveevents.

School districts are encouraged to provide an advanced plan in place for meals for children if possible in a safe manner.

Explanation

of change: Deletion – the issue is unlikely to gain support with SDE.

Title: III.4 FLEXIBILITY TO EMPLOY INDIVIDUALS IN CAREER AND TRADE

FIELDS AS INSTRUCTORS

Issue: Boards of education are working to provide career preparation

opportunities within the comprehensive high school system but are finding it very difficult to employ individuals with both certification and trade experience. Our students will benefit greatly from learning from current practitioners in the trades. The opportunity to explore career pathways, combining education and training prepare students for a full range of postsecondary education options, including apprenticeships, fits

Connecticut's educational goals.

Resolution: CABE urges the State Department of Education and the General-

Assembly to take action to provide flexibility to comprehensive high schools to employ individuals in career and trade fields as instructors with professional certification in a specific trade similar to that provided

to the Connecticut Technical and Education Career System.

Explanation

of change: Deletion - This has been accomplished.

Title: III.5 DAILY SCHEDULE FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Issue: The need to move toward a later start time for Connecticut's high-

schools, with a uniform start time throughout the state or at least within

each of the state's regions.

Resolution: CABE urges the Connecticut Department of Education, working in

coordination with CABE, CAPSS, teachers' associations, parent groups

and other relevant bodies, to conduct a full-scale analysis of:

 Optimal start times for secondary schools, based on relevant medical, neuroscientific and psychological research.

2. Relevant issues including, among others, busing and inter-district athletics, and supplementary programs.

Explanation

of change: Dele

je: Deletion – This is currently being studied.

Title: III.6 REMOVAL OF VERMICULITE FIREPROOFING

Issue: Removal of Vermiculite Fireproofing as Asbestos

Resolution: CABE urges the State Department of Education/ State Department of

Administrative Services to allow the opportunity for asbestos testing to be performed on vermiculite fireproofing prior to it automatically being

considered asbestos.

Explanation

of change: Deletion – Issue is not gaining traction as a resolution.

CONSENT CALENDAR

ITEM BOARD VOTE NO. CABE RESOLUTION YES NO

GOVERNANCE

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1.1	PUBLIC EDUCATION AS A PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITY	
1.2	LOCAL GOVERNANCE OF PUBLIC EDUCATION	
1.3	PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE	
1.4	AUTHORITY OF BOARDS OF EDUCATION	
1.5	CIVILITY	
1.6	ANTI-HATE SPEECH	
1.7	STUDENT DISCIPLINE	
1.8	STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND ASSESSMENT	
1.9	PARENTAL/FAMILY/SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT POLICY	
I.10	EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION LINKING PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT	
1.11	THE LEGISLATIVE – SCHOOL BOARD PARTNERSHIP	
l.12	DRUG, TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL USE	
I.13	STUDENT SUCCESS	
1.14	TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND CAREER HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM	
1.15	PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE ENGLISH LEARNERS	
l.16	PUBLIC SCHOOL DESEGREGATION INITIATIVES	
1.17	HEALTH AND WELLNESS EDUCATION	
1.18	SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING	
1.19	LOCAL PROGRAM POLICY DECISIONS	
1.20	GOVERNMENT REGULATION AND DATA ACQUISITION	
1.21	FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT	
1.22	TEACHER TENURE	
1.23	CONNECTICUT STATE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT	
1.24	PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND EDUCATOR PREPARATION	
1.25	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	
1.26 1.27	TEACHER AND ADMINISTRATION SALARY SYSTEMS	
1.27	NON-PARTISAN BOARDS OF EDUCATION	
1.20	SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD OF EDUCATION ETHICS	
1.30	BOARD OF EDUCATION SERVICE	
1.31	PREVAILING WAGES FOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS	-
	PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY OF CONTRACTORS	
1.32		
	WORKING ON PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS ANCE	
1.33	PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION	
1.34	THE SCHOOL FINANCE SYSTEM	
1.35	PUBLIC EDUCATION FUNDING	
1.36	MINIMUM BUDGET REQUIREMENT	
1.37	BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGETS	
I.38 I.39	PROMOTING EFFICIENCIES AMONG AND BETWEEN DISTRICTS	-
	TAX REFORM	
1.40	MAGNET SCHOOL, CHOICE AND CHARTER FUNDING	-
1.41	FUNDING FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	

CONSENT CALENDAR

ITEM BOARD VOTE NO. CABE RESOLUTION YES NO

LABOR RELATIONS

I.42 TEACHER NEGOTIATION ACT	
1.43 TEACHER TERMINATION HEARINGS	
I.44 IMPACT NEGOTIATION	
I.45 UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION	
I.46 MANDATED BENEFITS	
SPECIAL EDUCATION	
I.47 FEDERAL SPECIAL EDUCATION ISSUES	
I.48 PLACEMENTS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES	
I.49 SPECIAL EDUCATION EXCESS COST GRANT	
I.50 LEAST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT	
I.51 SPECIAL EDUCATION DUE PROCESS	

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11.2	SCHOOL, CLIMATE, CULTURE, SAFETY AND SECURITY	
II.3	CERTIFIED EDUCATOR SHORTAGES	
	EDUCATOR EVALUATION AND SUPPORT	
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