



Allan Taylor <taylor.allan238@gmail.com>

The Dalio gift

1 message

DesRoches, David <d-desroches@ctpublic.org>

To: Allan Taylor <taylor.allan238@gmail.com>, "allan.taylor@ct.gov" <allan.taylor@ct.gov>

Tue, Jul 2, 2019 at 2:36 PM

Hi Allan,

I hope all is well. I just learned that the CSDE wasn't involved, and continues to not be involved, in the development of the program being funded, in-part, by Dalio Philanthropies. I'm wondering if you could comment on that? The governor and the legislature set education policies that the State Board of Ed then implements, so maybe this is not abnormal. Perhaps it makes sense to leave out the CSDE here. Then again, there's a lot of knowledge in the department that could help determine how to best use the money. What can you tell me?

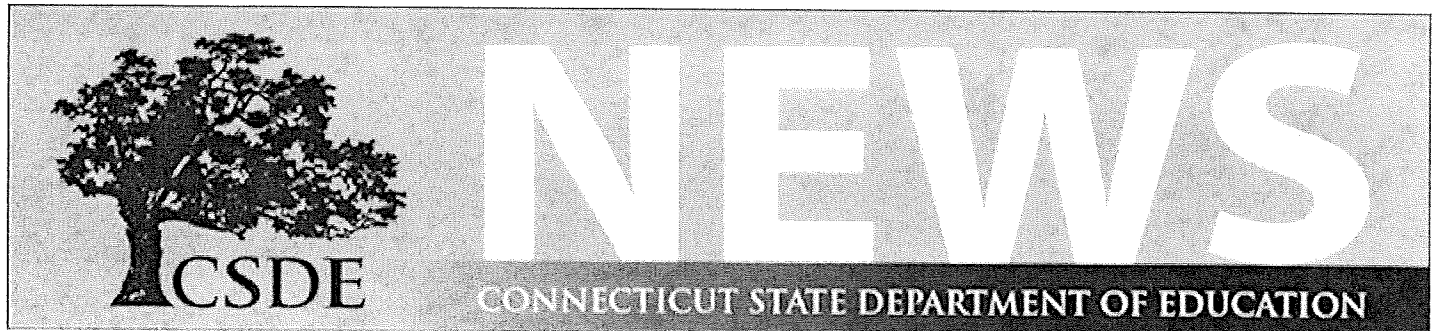
Give me a call if you like. 203-522-0368. Thanks!

david

Education Commissioner Wentzell's Statement on State of Connecticut Partnership with Dalio Philanthropies

Yazbak, Peter <Peter.Yazbak@ct.gov>
To: "Yazbak, Peter" <Peter.Yazbak@ct.gov>

Fri, Apr 5, 2019 at 4:20 PM



DR. DIANNA R. WENTZELL, COMMISSIONER

Education Commissioner Wentzell's Statement on State of Connecticut Partnership with Dalio Philanthropies

(HARTFORD) - Education Commissioner Dianna R. Wentzell issued the following statement on today's announcement of the partnership between the State of Connecticut and Dalio Philanthropies to strengthen public education and promote greater economic opportunity for vulnerable student groups in under-resourced communities:

"As Governor Lamont has so rightly said 'education is the opportunity engine for all of our young people'. We could not agree more with the Governor because there is likely nothing more crucial to setting up a child for success in college, career and life than that child's educational foundation.

"Connecticut's future economic success depends on a well-educated workforce. From start to finish, we must ensure students remain engaged and develop the skills they need to graduate ready to meet the needs of employers and compete in our global economy; however, increasing opportunities for our most vulnerable student groups to do so requires collective effort, which is why we are so grateful for the unprecedented collaboration announced today.

"It represents and confirms the state's commitment to fulfill the promise of equity and excellence for all Connecticut students by bringing together a diverse set of stakeholders to provide the support, resources and pathways necessary to create learning environments that engage students and transform the educational experiences and outcomes of thousands of young people across the state especially traditionally underserved students and communities.

"We wish to thank Governor Lamont for his vision and leadership on making real progress to further strengthen our education system so that all Connecticut children are prepared to succeed in college, their careers and life. We also want to thank the Dalios for the support of Dalio Philanthropies – and especially Barbara Dalio for her ongoing interest and commitment to our students and our teachers - as well as their passionate and strong and steadfast advocacy focused on making sure that every child has access to opportunities that lead to success."

This morning, Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont was joined by Ray and Barbara Dalio of Dalio Philanthropies, First Lady Annie Lamont, leaders in the General Assembly, students and other stakeholders to announce the launch of a partnership strengthening public education and promoting greater economic opportunity in Connecticut. Through Connecticut's leadership and the support of Dalio Philanthropies, the partnership seeks to raise \$300 million over five years: \$100 million from the State of Connecticut that will be matched by \$100 million from Dalio Philanthropies and another \$100 million from other philanthropists and business leaders. Press Release

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For Immediate Release: April 5, 2019



Peter A. Yazbak

Director of Communications

Connecticut State Department of Education

O: 860-713-6528

M: 860-471-3518



Allan Taylor <taylor.allan238@gmail.com>

CT RISE Network.doc

1 message

Robert Rader <rrader@cabe.org>
To: Allan Taylor <taylor.allan238@gmail.com>

Thu, Dec 6, 2018 at 8:59 AM

Hello, again, Allan

Nice getting to see you twice in one day, yesterday!

Attached is the article I wrote, with help from RISE. The Dalio Foundation funds a number of different initiatives and is probably the biggest contributor to the schools—though I don't know how much Graustein still contributes.

Let me know if I can be of help on anything else.

Bob

Robert Rader
Executive Director
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CABE: Dedicated to strengthening public education through advocacy, professional development and service to boards of education.



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This article first appeared in the November CABE Journal.

Connecticut RISE Network: Lifting Student Success through Collaboration

By Robert Rader, Executive Director, CABE

An exciting and promising new partnership to raise student achievement is sponsored by the **Dalio Foundation** and connects teachers, counselors, and leaders advancing similar goals in different communities across the state. Known as the **Connecticut RISE Network**, the partnership's mission is to empower educators to achieve breakthrough results, helping all students realize and achieve their full potential.

The Dalio Foundation is well-known to many educators in Connecticut. The family foundation has many interests in philanthropy. **Barbara Dalio** is the leader of the Dalio Foundation's work to strengthen public education through collaboration. She believes in "the intrinsic abilities of young people who are often overlooked and underserved and recognizes that solutions will come from young people themselves, as well as educators, leaders, and communities."

RISE convenes educators working in **Meriden, East Hartford, Hartford, and New Haven** Public Schools to advance shared goals for high school students. RISE partners include teachers, school counselors, school leaders, and district administrators. RISE currently serves almost 5,700 students. 18% percent of the students are in special education, about 14% are English Learners, and 82% are of color. The Dalio Foundation recently introduced me to **Emily Pallin**, the Director of CT RISE. She explained how educators across the RISE Network are working together to improve student success. Their collective efforts advance the "RISE by 5 Strategies" that underpin RISE efforts:

1. **On-track data teams** support educators with information, tools, and resources to leverage their expertise for the benefit of all students. Collaborative team structures help schools meet the holistic needs of every student.
2. **On-track coaching opportunities** engage all students in one-on-one conferences. On-Track and College and Career Coordinators support students through personalized and data-driven coaching for student success.
3. **Summer transition programs** offer meaningful opportunities to help students navigate transitions to high school and beyond, form strong relationships, and gain confidence and skills to achieve their goals.
4. **College and career supports** provide sophomores with college visits to build future aspirations, juniors with SAT prep programs to increase post-secondary readiness, and seniors with post-secondary planning support.
5. **Educator-inspired innovations** receive support from the RISE Advisory Council and Innovation Fund, empowering educators to pinpoint needs, pilot ideas, and promote promising practices through collaboration.

I asked East Hartford Superintendent **Nathan Quesnel** about his district's work with RISE. He said that:

"As a founding member of the CT RISE Network, East Hartford educators, administration and students have truly benefited from a collaborative approach to improving student achievement.

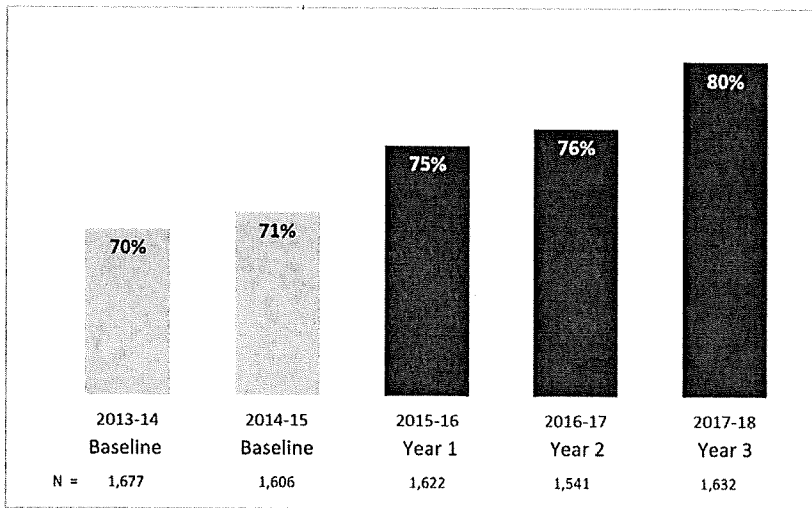
Rather than perpetually re-inventing the wheel, the RISE Network is a dynamic collection of talented individuals who work on meaningful tasks, are grounded by a focus on data and who deeply believe in their power as educators to change outcomes for kids.

Our faculty leaves these Network collaboration opportunities inspired, encouraged and driven to take the learning back to the classroom and back to our kids. As our achievement results continue to show dramatic achievement trends, we are encouraged to keep working hard and keep working together!”

Mark Benigni, Superintendent of Meriden Public Schools added the following:

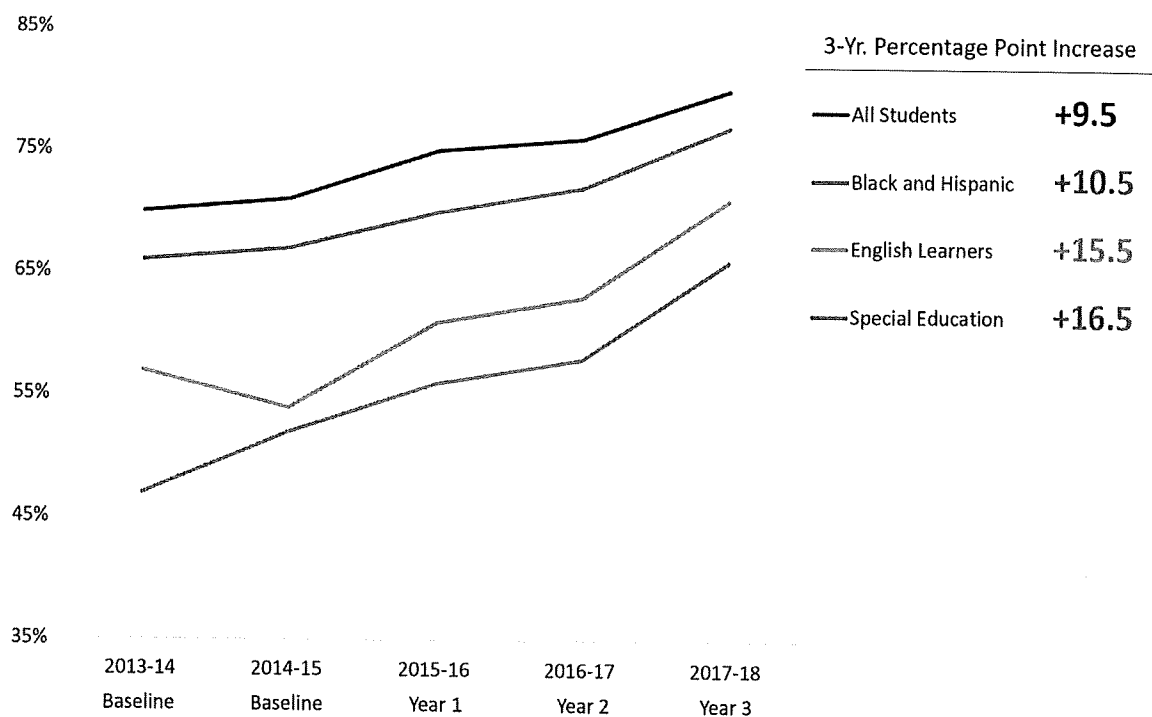
“The CT RISE Network has been a terrific partner in our district's transformation. Our students, staff and community have benefitted from creative support programs, specialized professional learning opportunities, and collaboration with other RISE districts. Together we are using data to increase student achievement and college and career readiness for all of our students. Our improved results on state accountability measures and college and career readiness indicators are validating the work we are doing as a RISE district. We are excited to continue this partnership and ensure we are providing an equitable learning environment for all our eight thousand Meriden Public School students.”

The graph below shows five years of Network-wide data, illustrating the percentage of students meeting school-specific freshman promotion requirements. Grade 9 on-track rates are up nearly 10 percentage points!



The early results – which are even more pronounced for high-needs subgroups¹ – speak to the power and impact of educators collaborating and using data to personalize student supports.

¹ 3-year percentage point increase represents the difference between 2017-18 and the average of the two baseline years (2013-14 and 2014-15).



*The information above was supplied by Connecticut RISE. Working in collaboration with its current partners, RISE has begun planning for expansion to a second cohort of high schools and districts in time for the 2019-20 school year. Please contact **Emily Pallin**, RISE Director, at epallin@ctrise.org if you are interested in learning more about RISE.*



Allan Taylor <taylor.allan238@gmail.com>

Acting Commissioner

1 message

Estela Lopez <lopezestel@gmail.com>
To: Paul Mounds <paul.mounds@ct.gov>
Cc: Allan Taylor <taylor.allan238@gmail.com>

Sun, Jun 23, 2019 at 9:31 AM

Paul,

Thank you for participating in the Board interviews. I am writing because Allan Taylor and I spoke on Friday about the acting Commissioner position which has to be designated this week.

As you recalled at the end of Thursday interviews I brought up the issue of designating an acting commissioner. I made a recommendation to my fellow board members for a person that will be acting for a short time. I brought up the issue because I believe that the board should have an input and that out of respect all board members should be able to participate in that input. At that time other names were mentioned, but there was no objection about the person I had proposed.

On Friday Allan called to say one member of the Board wants someone else to be acting. I mentioned to Allan that I welcome a conversation with my fellow board members about this issue, but again, out of respect for each other, we should all have a discussion about this issue and not appoint someone without Board discussion.

Allan agreed with me. He had to leave for NY because [REDACTED] and asked as that as Vice Chair of the Board I follow through.

In reading the Bylaws I did not find a reference regarding the selection of the Acting Commissioner. I do recall that in prior years the Board was consulted. Because you, representing the Governor, have been respectful of Board consultation, I am requesting that the Board be consulted in the appointment of an acting commissioner. And that a person should not be selected just because an individual board member so desires.

Thank you in advance for your help and consideration. I hope you and your family are enjoying this beautiful weather.

Regards,

Estela

Sent from my iPad



Allan Taylor <taylor.allan238@gmail.com>

Acting Commissioner

3 messages

Bob Trefry <rjttrefry@gmail.com>
To: "Allan B. Taylor" <taylor.allan238@gmail.com>

Wed, Jun 26, 2019 at 5:22 PM

Allan,
Hope all went well with the [REDACTED].
If Dianna is starting her new job on July 1, what will be the process for appointing an interim Commissioner?
Bob

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Bob Trefry
190 Chatham Road
Fairfield, Connecticut 06825
203-521-8371 (cell)

Allan Taylor <taylor.allan238@gmail.com>
To: Bob Trefry <rjttrefry@gmail.com>

Wed, Jun 26, 2019 at 5:47 PM

Being discussed with the Governor's office and Jessa tomorrow.
[Quoted text hidden]

Bob Trefry <rjttrefry@gmail.com>
To: Allan Taylor <taylor.allan238@gmail.com>

Wed, Jun 26, 2019 at 5:51 PM

Thanks for the update.
Bob
[Quoted text hidden]



Allan Taylor <taylor.allan238@gmail.com>

Please submit to all SBE members: Fwd: Parent and Community Request for Mrs. Charlene Russel Tucker To be "Interim" Commissioner of Education

2 messages

Gwen E. Samuel <gwendolynsamuel@gmail.com>

Fri, Jun 28, 2019 at 1:20 PM

To: SDE.StateBoard@ct.gov

Cc: Gwen Samuel <gwen@ctparentsunion.org>, taylor.allan@comcast.net

Good Afternoon State Board of Education Members.

This is Gwen Samuel, President, and Founder of the CT Parents Union.

Since there is no public comment at today's special meeting at 2 pm to choose the interim Commissioner of education, I respectfully ask you to consider our recommendation below.

The email below was sent to Paul Mounds, COO to Governor Ned Lamont and the deputy COO Ben Arsenault. In addition to members of the Black and Puerto Rican caucus.

Thank you in advance for ensuring a transparent process to build trust in CT communities especially with marginalized families. We trust that you will always prioritize the safety, education and overall well being of children with the decisions that you make.

Have a great family and friend-filled summer

Gwen Samuel.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Gwen E. Samuel** <gwen@ctparentsunion.org>

Date: Fri, Jun 28, 2019 at 11:04 AM

Subject: Parent and Community Request for Mrs. Charlene Russel Tucker To be "Interim" Commissioner of Education

To: <paul.mounds@ct.gov>, <ben.arsenault@ct.gov>

Cc: <Gary.Winfield@cga.ct.gov>, <Brandon.McGee@cga.ct.gov>

Good Morning Mr. Mounds and Mr. Arsenault

My name is Gwen Samuel, I am the president and founder of the Connecticut Parents Union (CTPU), a membership organization whereby parents, guardians and families are connected with the educational resources and support system necessary to ensure that neither race, zip-code nor socio-economic status is a predictor of a child's success.

As you may know, Commissioner Dianna Wentzell of education last day as Commissioner is today, June 28, 2019.

I and other parent and community leaders believe that it is critical for the educational needs of Connecticut families and children that the position of Commissioner of Education stays intact, with no break in service.

As a result, we respectfully request you consider current State Department of Education Chief Operating Officer Charlene Russel Tucker as the interim Commissioner to ensure streamlined support for Connecticut's children, while SDE is in the process of hiring a permanent commissioner of education. Especially, with summer educational activities currently taking place, implementation of new educational laws and back to school right around the corner

Mrs. Charlene Russel's Tucker has clearly demonstrated a track record of ensuring educational success for the diverse children of Connecticut. We at CTPU would recommend she be considered as interim Commissioner.

As previously stated, Charlene Russell-Tucker is the Chief Operating Officer for the Connecticut State Department of Education (Department). She also serves as the Division Chief for the Department's Office of Student Supports and Organizational Effectiveness. In the diverse communities of Connecticut, many strongly believe she is a visionary and forward-thinking education leader with very clear interpersonal skills which are clearly needed in building effective and sustainable home/school and community partnerships that lead to both educator and student success in the classroom and beyond.

I thank you in advance for considering this request as I know the Governor has the final say so in this process.

Have a blessed, safe family and friend filled summer.

Best Regards

Gwen Eaddy Samuel

President and Founder
Connecticut Parents union
Mobile: 203-443-3203
gwen@ctparentsunion.org

"Taking responsibility for our children's K12 academic and life journey is something we must do, not something that is done for us – but with us." – **Gwen Samuel, Founder of the Connecticut Parents Union.**

StateBoard, SDE <SDE.StateBoard@ct.gov>

Fri, Jun 28, 2019 at 3:45 PM

To: "Taylor, Alan" <taylor.allan238@gmail.com>, "Harris Jr., Donald" <dharris@blmfld.org>, "Erik M. Clemons" <erikclemons@yahoo.com>, "Clemons, Erik" <eclemons@connct.org>, Erin Benham <edb22@sbcglobal.net>, Estela López <lopezestel@gmail.com>, "Sieve, Malia" <maliasieve@gmail.com>, "Mark Ojakian, Ex Officio" <ojakianm@ct.edu>, "Robert Trefry, Ex Officio" <rjtrefry@gmail.com>, "Wentzell, Dianna" <Dianna.Wentzell@ct.gov>, "Davenport, William" <bdavenport@ctreg14.org>

Cc: "Hitchery, Ann Marie" <AM.Hitchery@ct.gov>

Good afternoon, Board members,

Please e-mails below from Gwen Samuel regarding the nomination of Chief Operating Officer Charlene Russell-Tucker for Interim Commissioner of Education.

Thank you,

Aldith-

[Quoted text hidden]