



For immediate release
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Commissioner Names Six to Bridgeport Board of Education

HARTFORD—Consistent with the State Board of Education’s resolution of July 6, 2011, Acting Commissioner of Education George A. Coleman announced his selections for the newly reconstituted Bridgeport Board of Education at Bridgeport City Hall today.

The new members of the board are as follows:

Robert Trefry (Chair). Recently retired, former President & CEO Bridgeport Hospital

Judith Bankowski. Vice President & Chief Information Officer, Sikorsky

GE Appointment (Pending) GE Corporation

David Norton. Sr. Executive Vice-President, Peoples Bank, Bridgeport

Jacqueline Kelleher, Ph.D. Parent; Resident; Professor (Teacher Preparation), Sacred Heart University; Doctorate in Educational Psychology; special education and data-driven decision-making specialties

Michelle Black Smith-Tompkins. Resident; Enrolled in Yale Divinity School; Princeton Graduate; Multi-cultural interest and scholarship; Founder of New Beginnings Family Academy (Charter School)

Kenneth Moales, Jr. Resident; Sr. Pastor, Cathedral of the Holy Spirit - operates 2 accredited daycare facilities and grade K-7 program; C.R.E.A.M. Enterprise, Inc. CEO; Pepperidge Farm, Inc., Sr. Tax Specialist; Mercedes Benz Credit Corp, Accounting Forensic Specialist; Deloitte & Touché, LLP., Jr. Auditor; Businessman

“Reconstitution of the Bridgeport Board of Education is the responsible and appropriate thing to do to ensure the success of Bridgeport’s students,” Commissioner Coleman said. “This new board is committed to improving the school system and allowing Bridgeport’s students to be competitive among their peers statewide. Board members will begin to work immediately on creating opportunities for Bridgeport’s students to make satisfactory progress toward mastery of academic skills necessary to succeed in life.”

The Bridgeport Board of Education requested the state reconstitution of the board of education last month. The July 6 resolution authorized the Commissioner to reconstitute the board in accordance with the provisions of Section 10-223e(h) of the Connecticut General Statutes. The new board members submitted resumes and were interviewed by a group of State Department of Education staff chosen by the Commissioner. Finalists were selected based on their commitment to improve the education of Bridgeport’s students.