

Testimony of Hannah Klein
State Board of Education
February 18th, 2010

Good afternoon Senator Looney and Representative Janowski, members of the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee, I'm pleased to appear before this distinguished committee as Governor Rell's nominee to the State Board of Education. My name is Hannah Klein and I have been serving as one of the student representatives on the Board of Education.

Before being selected as Governor Rell's nominee I went through a stringent application process where I submitted letters of recommendation, was interviewed by the previous student representatives and Pamela Bergin (of the Department of Education) as well as members of the Governor's staff. During the different stages of this selection process I was asked why I thought I would be the best choice out of the many well-qualified applicants. I answered that I come from a unique high school experience. During the mornings I attend Amity High School in Woodbridge and then spend the afternoons at the Educational Center for the Arts in New Haven where I study dance with other students from towns all throughout the New Haven area.

Attending ECA introduced me to a wide variety of students from all economic, social, and religious backgrounds. I was made aware of the issues that affected other districts besides my own. The combination of being a student in two schools has allowed me to understand the needs of students in public schools and in magnet schools.

I found my interest in education during a history project where my classmates and I devised a new schedule for our school by researching school policy, meeting with the administration, and conducting student and teacher surveys.

Incorporating my experiences as a student with my own interest in education in Connecticut, I have found being a member of the Board of Education both informative and rewarding. The issues the Board has dealt with so far have taught me about education struggles and the successes. I have been given so many opportunities to experience the educational system in Connecticut and in the country, particularly with the recent work for the Race to the Top Grant.

Thank you for your time and I am more than happy to answer any questions you may have for me.