

Nominations Committee Opening Remarks – Michael Caminear

Good morning/afternoon Senator Duff, Representative Janowski, Senator Kane, Representative Buck-Taylor and esteemed members of the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee. My name is Michael Caminear and it is my utmost pleasure, and it is an honor, to appear before you today and be considered as one of Governor Malloy's nominees to the State Board of Education. I have been a life-long resident of Branford, Connecticut, I currently attend Branford High School, and I am proud to say that I have been lucky enough to be immersed in all that the Connecticut Public Schools Education system has to offer. Whether it is being a part of Student Government and embracing challenging curriculum, giving a speech in front of Model Congress committee, or just marching with the band in a parade, I will always appreciate the educational environment I have grown up in and the opportunities that I have been presented with. In addition, because of this, I have been exposed to a wide array of viewpoints, which has helped show me what my interests are.

I have always had a personal interest in the education process of our state. I currently hold the position of student representative on my local Board of Education in Branford, and it is that very position that has led me to where I am today on the State Board. Back prior to when I had applied for this position, I looked to expand my knowledge on what I had already been exposed to at the local level, such as Common Core implementation, new standardized testing methods, and teacher preparation programs. There is no better way for me to do such a thing than being an active member of the State Board of Education. I am afforded the opportunity to see how everything trickles down from the passing of a new education policy; such has the new Social Studies Framework that was just passed, to how it will impact my district. It has been a unique and gratifying position to serve on the Board, I look to continue to serve for duration of my term.

At State Board meetings, I listen intently to all discussions and ask questions and offer comments on matters before the Board. If a topic is directly related to students or other related subjects, I do my best to picture how it may directly affect students and what will happen if certain policies were implemented. It is not only personally rewarding to do things like this, but it is also extremely meaningful.

In the amount of time that I have already served on the board, I have learned so much about how the State operates in regards to education. Whether it be using teacher feedback or calling upon a superintendent to give a presentation, the things that I have witnessed have been intriguing and enlightening to say the least. My goal is to take the knowledge that I learn at the State level and try to pass it on to any students or teachers with whom I come in contact so that they can also learn new things that will improve their education altogether. As a member of the State Board I will be able to do this to the highest degree.

Being a student member of the State Board is, and will be, a privilege like no other; to be among some of the most respected educators in the state while also learning how to productively contribute to the great state of Connecticut is invaluable.

Thank you all so much for your time and I would be happy to answer any questions that you have.