

Joseph J. Vrabely, Jr.
Nominee for Reappointment to the State Board of Education
Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee
April 28, 2015

Good day, Senator Duff, Representative Janowski, Senator Kane, Representative Buck-Taylor and other distinguished members of the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to address you today regarding my nomination to the State Board of Education.

My name is Joseph J. Vrabely, Jr. and I reside in Glastonbury, CT. I am employed and the owner of Atlantic Steel & Processing, a Waterbury-based manufacturing company. Fifteen years ago, we were a manufacturing "start-up" company and today, we employ twenty people.

In 2010, I was appointed by Governor Rell in the interim to the State Board of Education and then nominated by Governor Malloy for a full four year term in 2011.

During the past 4.5 years, I have never missed a monthly board meeting. I state this to show my commitment to this position and how seriously I take education in our State of Connecticut.

While a member of the SBE, I served as Chair of the CTHSS Committee, and later as Vice-Chair of the Connecticut Technical High School Board. I served on the SBE's Legislation and Policy Committee; served on a Task Force; and served on search committees for the Superintendent of the CTHSS and the Commissioner of Education. In addition, I have attended numerous SBE-related meetings and functions. I have been a very active member.

I supported our Governor's educational reforms and continue to advocate for these principles and initiatives. I studied the issues of the day to take an informed position on the discussion of the issues including charter reform, Connecticut Core Standards, Smarter Balanced Assessments, educator evaluation and support systems, state intervention and supports, Pre-K, racial balance plans and general policy making.

I believe in Connecticut's teachers at all levels. My wife and I raised and educated three daughters in Connecticut, with two attending the University of Connecticut. And, I am happy to say that they all reside and work in Connecticut.

If reappointed, I will serve on the State Board of Education with the same passion that I have in the past. I have a strong voice for our youth. I will serve with the same underlying premise that I have in the past which is:

All kids in our State are entitled to an excellent education regardless of their zip code.

Thank you for the opportunity to address you today. I look forward to answering any questions you might have.