



For Immediate Release:

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Commissioner Pryor Calls for Investigation of Family Urban Schools of Excellence (FUSE) and Jumoke Academy

Matter will be discussed at Special Meeting of State Board of Education on June 30th

(HARTFORD, CT)—Connecticut Commissioner of Education Stefan Pryor today called for the appointment of a special investigator to examine the operations, finances, governance, and other issues related to recent revelations regarding Family Urban Schools of Excellence (FUSE) and Jumoke Academy.

The State Board of Education will discuss and act upon this and related matters at a special meeting on Monday, June 30, 2014, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in Room 307 of the State Office Building in Hartford.

The investigation would be led by attorney Frederick L. Dorsey of the Hartford law firm Kainen, Escalera & McHale, P.C. Mr. Dorsey has decades of experience as an education lawyer advising boards of education in the full range of legal matters. A onetime school district business administrator for the Waterford Board of Education, Mr. Dorsey has special expertise in the governance and finances of public education organizations. Mr. Dorsey was selected for inclusion in the publication *The Best Lawyers in America 2014* in the practice area of education law, and was also named the Hartford Education Law “Lawyer of the Year” for 2014. Previously, the Department retained Mr. Dorsey to investigate suspected irregularities in the 2010 Connecticut Mastery Test administration at Hopeville School in Waterbury. And in 2013, Mr. Dorsey was retained by Vernon Public Schools to conduct a forensic audit of financial and bookkeeping practices of the district’s school lunch program.

When launched, the investigation will cover the finances, governance, and operations of FUSE and Jumoke Academy. Interviews of members of the organizations’ staff and governing boards will be conducted, as well as analysis of relevant documents. Mr. Dorsey will work with the State Department of Education’s Office of Internal Audit to coordinate the financial audit of Jumoke Academy being conducted by O’Connell, Pace & Company. Mr. Dorsey will also advise the State Board of Education and Education Commissioner on recommended actions and policies.

Commissioner Pryor said, “We are deeply concerned about recent revelations regarding FUSE and Jumoke Academy. Like all operators of public schools, these organizations have an obligation to meet high standards of organizational governance. That way, we ensure that our students and parents are being served well. I am confident that, working with the State Board of Education, and with the

assistance of a professional of Mr. Dorsey's capability, we can achieve a full understanding of the totality of the situation – and of the next steps required.”

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