

Connecticut State Advisory council on Special Education  
Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, November 16, 2016  
2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
State Department of Education  
25 Industrial Park Road  
Middletown, CT 06457

In Attendance:

Natalie Jones (CSDE)  
Isabelina Rodriguez (CSDE)  
Jaquita Monroe (Judicial Department)  
Siobhan Peng (parent)  
John Flanders (CPAC)  
Mike Nunes (DOC)  
Lynn Fogg-Cornelio (DDS)  
Charlyne Olko  
Audra Talbot  
Tom Cosker  
Kelly Neyra

Via phone:

Bryan Klimkiewicz,  
Colin Milne (P&A)  
Sheila Crocker (parent)  
Katherine Musto (SLP)

Report of the Chair

Kelly Neyra introduced Audra Talbot and Tom Cosker as two new council members.

John Flanders motion and Kathy Musto seconded the motion to accept them as new members of the Council.

- Kelly Neyra asked if SDE had any written internal policies and procedures in place that outlined how SDE consultants investigate special education complaints.
- Isabelina Rodriguez clarified that there is a standard process in place for complaint investigation.
- Natalie Jones offered to meet to discuss specific concerns. Parents feel there is a bias towards the districts.
- SAC, in accordance with federal and State regulations, requested SDE seek SAC input when issuing guidelines to LEAs regarding the provision of special education services to students with disabilities

- Isabelina Rodriguez reported on the reauthorization of ESSA implementation. She is on senior leadership. There will be opportunities for focus group representation. A survey is on the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) Web site. CSDE is looking for cross endorsement in special education areas.

Charlyne Olko Joined the meeting at 3:01 p.m.

- Funds have been allocated for parental training through CPAC.

Monitoring System

- PD planned at different levels for Dyslexia. Looking cross endorsement.

Committee update:

- Nominating Committee – Charlyne Olko was nominated a Chair and Siobhan Pong as Vice Chair. Voting should take place at the January meeting. Kelly Neyra suggested having a special meeting in December for the purpose of voting. Special meeting will be set up for December.

CPAC update:

- John Flanders reported that the contract with the Bureau of Special Education (BSE) has been renewed. Support and training will be provided to parents. They are concentrating on Birth to 3 transition, and getting parent engagement in schools. Please share any ideas for parent training and/or professional development with Mr. Flanders.
- CPAC staff will be shadowing BSE staff.

Protection and Advocacy update:

- Colin Milne reported that they have been working with stakeholders to do brief on CCJEF decision. They are bringing special education to the table. Families and student stories will be included as appendix to the brief. There is concern about the downplaying of social and emotional needs.
- An RFP was accepted for the transition of Office of Protection and Advocacy on November 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be public hearings once the Governor has designated a successor. There is concern about short turnaround time.
- Colin Milne raised concerns about the perception of students with deficits in the area of social skills whose needs are not being addresses by LEAs. He inquired whether SDE had any written guidance to districts on how to appropriately manage the needs of students with deficits in social skills.

Parent Survey

- Natalie Jones reported that the group met and they came up with 25 questions for the survey. The next step is to bring back to the bureau leadership and get approval to move forward. All comments should be sent to Natalie by noon Thursday.

OSEP Annual Performance Report & SSIP

- Jim Moriarty presented on SPP/APR. He explained that this became 1 document. Members questioned how one checks the validity of data. He introduced the draft District Literacy Evaluation tool being proposed for the SSIP process. Members were asked to review the document and provide feedback to Mr. Moriarty. It will be used to address districts who are in need and provide a level of support to improve student literacy achievement. Please send feedback and questions by end of month.
- SAC members raised concerns about the accuracy of the results surrounding restraint and seclusion, and inquired how the SDE monitors whether districts are accurately reporting the incidences of restraint and seclusion.