



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Connecticut State Advisory Council

On Special Education

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

******* 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. *******

Town Municipal Center (John Weichsel Building)
200 North Main Street
Southington, CT 06489

Recorder of Minutes: Terry-Jo Pitter, BSE

Members Present: Kelly Neyra*, John Flanders *, Joan Nicole-Senft*, Shiela Crocker*, Louis Tallarita*, Tomas Cosker, Nachi Bhatt, Meg Walsh, Lynn Fogg-Cornelio, Mike Nunes, Nancy Alisberg, Catherine Summ, Siobhan Peng, Megan Collins, Bryan Klimkiewicz

Staff: Terry-Jo Pitter

Members Not Present: Susan Davis, Allison Kopie, Kathy Musto, Audra Mae Talbot, Hilda Santiago

Members At Large Present: Jennifer Lussier, Cate Tower, Jeffrey Spahr, Craig Drezek*, Jonathan Metcalf

Members At Large Not Present: Gladys Hogan

Public/Guest: Brian Smith, Ellen Steinbrick, Alex Steinbrick (Visiting Student), Yvonne Muniz,

Presenters: Mary Jean Schierberl, Thomas Boudreau

I. Call to Order and Welcome

With a quorum present Siobhan Peng (acting Chair) called the meeting to order at 3:05pm.

All members present introduced themselves.

Old Business

II. Review Council Purpose and Function

Siobhan Peng put forth the motion to combine items II and III. Mike Nunes seconded it. Motion passed.

III. Membership Update

Bryan provided a handout and a short summary of the current membership status.

IV. Approval of June 21, 2017 and November 15, 2017 Minutes

A Motion was made to approve the June 21, 2017 and November 15, 2017 minutes. Siobhan asked for discussion and asked for the proper definition of Ad-Hoc as it relates to the November 15 minutes. Bryan clarified the definition. Siobhan suggested revision to the November 15 minutes within the membership updates to read: “present members, and members at large” replacing “prospective members, and current AdHoc members”. Margaret Walsh seconded it. All were in favor. The motion passed.

V. Public Comment

Bryan introduced Alex Steinbrick, a student that is interested in the CT State Advisory Council on Special Education. Alex shared some information about himself and indicated that he would be very interested in becoming a member of the Council.

VI. Slate of Officers

Slate of Officers was presented by Standing Chair of the Nominating Committee, John Flanders. Current members voted on the slate of nominees. Terry-Jo Pitter collected and tallied the submitted votes. By unanimous vote Tom Cosker was nominated as Council Chairperson and Kelly Neyra was nominated as Council Vic Chairperson. Both Tom and Kelly accepted the nomination.

Tom Cosker assumed the role of Chair and presided over the remainder of the meeting.

VII. Due Process/Complaint Resolution Review:

Mary Jean Schierberl, Due Process Consultant in the Special Education Bureau presented the Council with data related to Due Process Hearing findings and decisions. Three areas of the presentation included: Complaints (formal/informal), Mediation, and Due Process Hearings. The Bureau of Special Education must report data to OSEP on an annual basis as part of the State Performance Plan (Indicator 15, Resolution Sessions, and 16, Mediation).

The Council asked questions and had discussions on topics including: the qualifications and training of mediators; burden of proof in a due process hearing; transcript/record requests; and settlement agreements.

Mary Jean also shared current supports and technical assistance centers that the Bureau currently utilizes.

VIII. IDEA Grant Overview

Tom Boudreau, Educational Consultant and 611 Coordinator presented the Council information related to the IDEA grant. Areas of the presentation include: The current Federal IDEA Grant application/positing, Public Comment/Feedback Locations/Dates, LEA Grant Application Process, and Supplement not Supplant information.

The Council asked questions and had discussions related to the topic including: Maintenance of Effort, Process for Requesting Copies of LEA Grants, and Activities included under “Other State Activities”.

IX. By-Laws Review

The Council Reviewed the Draft By-Laws. Revisions were suggested and documented. By-Laws revisions will be made and presented to the Council for approval during the following Council Meeting.

Tom suggested rescheduling the date of the next (3rd) Full Council Meeting due to the impact that the weather had on the scheduling of the current (2nd) meeting. The Council Agreed. Terry-Jo will send out a Doodle Poll to the group and an attempt will be made to hold the next meeting in March.

Tom asked for a motion for adjournment. A motion was made to Adjourn by Siobhan Peng and second by Nachi Bhatt. All were in favor and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.