



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Connecticut State Advisory Council for Special Education

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

******* 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. *******

Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Avenue #5100
Hearing Room 1C
Hartford, CT 06106

(Conference Call Information included in Meeting Invitation)

Minutes

Members Present: Tom Cosker, Kacey Considine, John Flanders, Monica Hatton, Bryan Klimkiewicz (non-voting), Jennifer Lussier, Joan Nicoll-Senft, Mike Nunes, Doris Maldonado, Jolie Medina (non-voting), Jonathan Metcalf, Rick Raucci, Brian Smith, Sonia Taylor-Smith, Catherine Summ, Nachi Bhatt, Margaret Walsh, Ana Wittig.

Members Absent: Sheila Crocker, Jeffrey Spahr, Jane Goundrey, Melvette Hill, Cassandra Reilly, Allison Kopie, Patricia Nunez, Jake Shumbo, Alex Steinbrick, Audra Mae Talbot, Louis Tallarita, Kim Williamson

Legislative Representative: Liz Linehan, Joseph Curry

CSDE Consultant: Sean Cronin

Public: Tammy Raccio

- I. The Meeting was called to order at 1:12 P.M. by Tom Cosker and amended the Agenda to correct Public Comment Time (1:20 P.M.) and Review of Executive Committee Minutes to September 11, 2019.
- II. The Council Members introduced themselves and their role on the Council.
- III. Tom Cosker reviewed the council purpose and function.
- IV. Public Comment N/A

Old Business

- V. Tom Cosker was presented to the Council by the Nominating Committee to be considered for Chair and Jen Lussier was presented to the Council by the Nominating committee to be considered for Vice-Chair. John Flanders made a motion to accept Tom Cosker and Jen Lussier as the Council Officers as presented by the Nominating Committee. The motion was seconded by Jon Metcalf. The motion passed unanimously.
- VI. Bryan Klimkiewicz reviewed the Committees and their functions.
 - a. Executive

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- b. Membership/Nominating
- c. Legislative

Members were asked to share their interest or continued interest in a Committee. Tom Cosker will appoint members to the various committees during the next Executive Committee meeting (with consent of the Council).

VII. Executive Committee Report

Tom Cosker shared information related to the previous Executive Committee report, shared information about the previous annual report submitted and the use of a template to prepare the next annual report which is due in February. A motion was made by John Flanders to accept the September 11, 2019 Executive Committee Minutes it was seconded by Meg Walsh. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Membership Committee Report

Bryan Klimkiewicz reviewed the duties of the Membership Committee. The Committee reviews attendance and works to fill vacancies. The Committee presented two recommendations for consideration for the full Council. Public School Teacher Representative: Rick Raucci and Parent Representative Monica Hatton. Monica and Rick addressed the Council briefly to introduce themselves and their interest in the Council.

Jen Lussier made a motion to accept Monica Hatton as a Parent Representative on the Council with At-Large status pending an appointment letter. It was seconded by Joan Nicoll-Senft. The motion passed unanimously.

John Flanders made a motion to accept Rick Raucci as a Public School Representative on the Council with At-Large status pending an appointment letter. It was seconded by John Metcalf. The motion passed unanimously.

The Council congratulated Monica and Rick.

A motion was made by John Metcalf, to accept the June 19, 2019 Membership Minutes, it was seconded Catherine Summ. The motion passed unanimously.

- IX.** A motion was made by Jen Lussier to accept the Full Council May 22, 2019 Minutes. It was seconded by Brian Smith. The motion passed unanimously.
- X.** Tom and Bryan described the priority work that occurred during the previous year regarding the following:
 - a. Meaningful Inclusion
 - b. Mental Health/Special Education
 - c. Parent/School Partnerships
 - d. Secondary Transition

The groups were asked to convene and summarize activities into a one-page document to include the topic, need, and recommendations from the group in each priority area. The groups were provided 50minutes to complete the task.

- XI.** The Council took a break for 10 minutes.

New Business

XII. Tom Cosker described the Summer Orientation/Training Priority Setting Session that occurred on July 10 at the Red Lion Hotel in CT. Each member was provided with a written summary of the session. Tom opened up a discussion regarding the 2019-2020 priorities moving forward. Tom suggested that Bryan provide the Bureau of Special Education report to assist Council members in determining priorities for the upcoming year.

XIII. Bryan provided his Bureau of Special Education update and included information related to the New Draft IEP document, Annual Performance Report Highlights/Accomplishments, Pre School Least Restrictive Environment Data, Least Restrictive Environment Data, Special Education Prevalence Rates, Training related to Planning and Placement Team training, the Special Education Procedures and Practices Manual, Specific Learning Disabilities/Dyslexia data, IDEA grant information, Assistive Technology Resources, and Related Services Communities of Practice.

XIV. Round Table

- John Flanders: (CPAC) Transition Symposium this past weekend was a success. Thank you to all involved. CPAC has hired a parent consultant who is fluent in Haitian/Creole/French. AT needs public attention.
- Catherine Summ (ADS): Announced that DORS will be known as ADS (Aging and disability services) moving forward.
- Meg Walsh: (ConnCASE) First ConnCASE meeting occurred last week. They are excited about the IEP form, Meg is looking forward to the new focus areas for SAC moving forward, standard agenda items suggestion, and advocacy for all students needing AT.
- Ana Wittig: (CAPSEF) Excited and ready for the new year. CAPSEF is focusing on working with districts on contracts and formalizing contracts, standardizing contracts across districts so they don't receive multiple variations. Working as a group on measureable outcomes for schools, which is challenging because of the various populations of students and schools (positive outcomes may differ). Planning an annual conference related to curriculum and making the curriculum accessible to students with differing needs.
- Tom Cosker: (Parent) Parent Advisory Council (SEAYC) at the local level. Piloted in Rocky Hill, going very well, starting on second year; there is great buy in within community members (police/fire/resource officers). Teacher Prep, AT and Restraints came up to be the areas SAC concerned with priority settings.
- Sonia Smith-Taylor (Parent): Excited about the new IEP however has concerns moving forward about the quality and the content of the new IEP. It is not enough to have a new form, it must also be coupled with extensive training and guidance on the quality of the content.
- Nachi Bacht: (DCF): DCF actively encourages and supports fatherhood engagement. Research indicates that when fathers are involved in the lives of their children, especially their child's education, children learn more readily and perform better in school. DCF will hold the 7th annual "Dads Matter Too" community awareness day at the Waterbury Police Activity League on 9/28/19 from 10:00-2:00.
- Monica Hatton (Parent): would like to start a SEAYC in her town. There is an advocacy workshop next month (ARC). She is interested in empowering parents and working on partnership with the school district.

- Doris Maldonado: Webinar, parent to parent interaction, parents with special needs, genetics, NAMI (annual conference Oct 18) please attend, we have a wonderful panel, DDS ambassador, connecting with parents administrators and teachers. Her son won Lieutenant Gov. citation, gently used luggage donations, went to Washington DC to present.
- Mike Nunes: Recently hired 26 positions, 21 are in the training academy (5 already trained).
- Brian Smith: Transition Symposium (thank you to all those that participated, planned, or came to it) It was a nice facility and the committee received a lot of positive feedback. We are looking forward to regrouping and planning for next year. There are 12 new case managers statewide but vacancies still remain. Other topics addressed include: life course planning, overseeing transition advisors, monthly meetings, regional transition network meetings. There has been a lot of engagement about our services and connecting people services with professional development.

XV. The Council had further discussions regarding 19/20 priorities. Tom gathered the information and indicated that he would discuss the topic during the next Executive Committee meeting. Tom will then communicate final priority areas to the full Council.

XVI. The meeting was adjourned at 5:02