

Reading Leadership Implementation Council Meeting  
April 16, 2024  
Meeting Minutes

**Connecticut Department of Education**

Reading Leadership Implementation Council Hybrid Meeting

450 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, CT

April 16, 2024

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

**Present:**

- Dr. Maureen Brummett, Superintendent, Newington Public Schools
- Dr. Michael Coyne, Department Head Educational Psychology, Professor of Special Education, NEAG School of Education, UCONN
- Dr. Margie Gillis, Founder and President, Literacy How, Inc.
- Kim Healy, Selectwoman, Wilton, CT
- Stephanie Lockheart, Principal, Avon High School
- Dr. Tamu Lucero, Superintendent, Stamford Public Schools
- Thomas Nuccio, Children’s Policy Analyst, Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity
- Fran Rabinowitz, Executive Director, Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS)
- Bianca Rivera, Former Teacher, Fairfield and Bridgeport Public Schools
- Lisa Tomas, Retired Educator, Chairwoman, Coventry Town Council
- Dr. Melissa K. Włodarczyk Hickey, Director of the Center for Literacy Research & Reading Success (Center), Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE).

**Facilitator:**

- Dr. Ellen Stolz, Educational Leadership Consultant, ImproveYourSchools

**Staff Present:**

- Irene Parisi, Chief Academic Officer, Connecticut State Department of Education
- Mrs. Katyria Rivera, Administrative Assistant, Connecticut State Department of Education

**I. Welcome with Roll Call**

Dr. Stolz convened the meeting at 1:00 p.m., and Roll Call commenced.

**II. Roberts Rules To Accept Minutes from March 19, 2024**

Dr. Stolz made a motion to approve minutes of March 19, 2024. Kim Healy approved the motion with corrections. Discussion ensued, including questions regarding February minutes. To keep to the agenda timeline, it was agreed to table discussion to May agenda.

### **III. Roles and Responsibilities of the Council**

Attorney Michael McKeon, CSDE, discussed the legislated roles and responsibilities of the Council including the legal explanation of Connecticut General Statutes Sections 10-14gg, 10-hh, and 10-14ii.

### **IV. Implementation Successes and Challenges**

To assist districts in moving towards full implementation, the Council members shared successes and challenges pertaining to implementation with the goal of working together to develop a process.

Council Members shared the following Successes:

- 34 Districts teams participated in master class 500 participated in ReadCon, 129 teams ARPA Right to Read, HILL for Literacy support
- Close to finalizing TNTP
- Districts reaching out to the Center looking for guidance
- Conversations about science of reading, equity work
- Professional learning opportunities give entry points to access
- Access to high quality instructional materials
- Equity work, best way to teach reading
- Kids' performance has improved, material helpful to instructions
- 15 districts volunteered for webinars

Council Members shared the following Challenges:

- Complex partial implementation
- How do we know it's working for kids?
- Not finding equity in the programs and ML
- Cultural misrepresentation
- Tutors
- Funding/Expenses/Cost
- Data to support added programs
- Define successes (reading scores)
- Waiver was properly read or critique, adult process programs weren't looked at
- Teacher training for implementation and on-going professional learning
- Districts do not know the difference between curriculum and program.
- Difference between curriculum and program...standards powered to know what is important than other, many lessons how do districts ascertain what the curriculum needs to be.
- Programs should be resources that compliment curriculum
- Adult decisions, after the fact

- Logistics: not treated equitably in waiver process. Districts told not to submit pieces of programs.
- Reliant on computers, not enough books in hands of children

## **V. Consensus Decision-Making Process**

Council Members reviewed Robert's Rules of Order. Council members agreed to use Robert's Rules for minutes and use consensus processes when making decisions. Fran Rabinowitz shared a diagram with members on levels of the consensus process:

- 1) Complete Endorsement
- 2) Support with Minor Reservation
- 3) More Information Needed
- 4) Don't like, but will Support
- 5) Significant Disagreement – Veto

## **VI. Guest Speaker Request Form DRAFT**

Council members were shown a draft guest speaker request form. Members, also, discussed the role of speakers including speaking on a specific need or to give advice towards the goals of the Center.

## **VII. For the Good of the Order**

Time did not permit discussion of this agenda item. As this is a standing item it will be revisited at our next meeting on May 21, 2024.

## **VIII. Meeting Adjourned**

Our next hybrid Council meeting will take place on May 21, 2024, 1:00-2:30 p.m. at 450 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, CT