

Connecticut State Department of Education

Reading Leadership Implementation Council Meeting

January 17, 2023

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Present:

- Dr. Maureen Brummett, Superintendent, Newington Public Schools
- Dr. Michael Coyne, Department Head Educational Psychology and Co-Director for the Center for Behavioral Education and Research (CBER), NEAG School of Education, UCONN
- Dr. Margie, Gillis, Founder and President, Literacy How, Inc.
- Ms. Kim Healy, Wilton, CT
- Dr. Melissa Jenkins, Chief Academic Officer, Bridgeport Public Schools
- Ms. Frances Rabinowitz, Executive Director, Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS)
- Ms. Lisa Thomas, Retired Educator
- Mr. Steven Hernandez Esq., Executive Director, Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity (CWCSEO)
- Dr. Stephanie Lockhart, Principal, Avon High School, Avon Public Schools

Absent:

- Ms. Christina Tietz, English Teacher, Waterbury Public Schools
- Ms. Cristina Kingsbury, Instructional Coach, Naugatuck Public Schools

Facilitator:

Dr. Melissa K. Wlodarczyk Hickey, Director of the Center for Literacy Research & Reading Success, Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE)

Staff Present:

- Irene E. Parisi, Chief Academic Officer, Connecticut State Department of Education
- Dr. Jule McCombes-Tolis, Bureau Chief, Connecticut State Department of Education
- Leslie Navarrete, Education Staff Assistant, Connecticut State Department of Education

I. Welcome and Roll Call

The Council's facilitator Dr. Melissa K. Wlodarczyk Hickey, Director of Literacy Research & Reading Success, State of Connecticut Department of Education (CSDE), convened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. and the Council's Clerk called attendance. Dr. Melissa K. Wlodarczyk Hickey welcomed the Council and reviewed the Council norms.

II. Acceptance of Minutes from November 16, 2022

The Council accepted the minutes and final will be posted to [Reading Leadership Implementation Council \(ct.gov\)](https://www.ct.gov/reading-leadership-implementation-council).

III. CSDE Updates

a. Staffing:

Dr. Melissa K. Wlodarczyk Hickey gave a review to the Council on the job openings that have been posted for the Center for Literacy Research and Reading Success, Academic Office – 5 Associate Consultants and 1 Administrative Assistant. She also introduced the new Bureau Chief of the Office of Dyslexia and Reading Disabilities, Talent Office, Dr. Jule McCombes-Tolis. Dr. McCombes-Tolis gave a staff update for the Office of Dyslexia and Reading Disabilities and informed the Council on the work and responsibilities of the new Office of Dyslexia and Reading Disabilities. [Please see January 17th's presentation](#) for more information.

b. Literacy Professional Learning and Supports:

Dr. Melissa K. Wlodarczyk Hickey gave an overview to the Council on the CSDE professional learning and supports for literacy including: Connecticut's Literacy Model Strategy with University of Connecticut, Hill for Literacy, and Literacy How; ReadConn with Public Consulting Group (PCG); Region 2 Comprehensive Center (WestEd) Networked Improvement Community; and the Science of Reading Masterclass with Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents. Dr. Melissa K. Wlodarczyk Hickey referred to Council member Frances Rabinowitz to further discuss the Science of Reading Masterclass with Connecticut Association of Public School. Council member Frances Rabinowitz extended an invitation to the Council to join the upcoming February 8, 2023, Science of Reading Masterclass plenary session. The Council was given an opportunity to ask questions and provide input.

c. Reading Curriculum Models and Programs:

Dr. Melissa K. Wlodarczyk Hickey provided the Council with the dedicated webpage for Connecticut Approved K-3 Reading Curriculum Models or Programs and a link to the 2022 Application Requesting a Waiver of Connecticut Approved K-3 Reading Curriculum Models and Programs. [Please see January 17th's presentation](#) for more information. Council members had the opportunity to ask questions and provide input.

d. Higher Education Collaborations:

Dr. Melissa K. Wlodarczyk Hickey reported on the current progress with the higher education and Literacy Research & Reading Success Center (Center) collaborations. On October 14, 2022, she had a dean's meeting where they scheduled another meeting for January 26, 2023, higher education literacy group meeting. There will be over 30 higher education institutions participating in the January meeting to discuss literacy, not limited to how literacy is taught in pre-service teacher education programs and legislation to strengthen support for pre-service teacher education programs.

e. Connecticut's Literacy and Statewide Literacy Plan:

Dr. Melissa K. Wlodarczyk Hickey reported on the current progress of the Connecticut's Literacy and Statewide Literacy Plan.

IV. Future Agenda Topics

The Council decided to have an in-person meeting on March 21, 2023, at 450 Columbus Blvd., Hartford, CT. Room to be posted on the [Reading Leadership Implementation Council webpage](#).

V. Closing/Meeting Adjourned

Meeting was adjourned at 2:23 p.m.