

**CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION**

Reading Leadership  
Implementation Council Meeting

January 13, 2022  
2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

- Present:** Dr. Maureen Brummett, Superintendent, Newington Public Schools  
Dr. Michael Coyne, Dean of the Neag School of Education UCONN  
Dr. Margie, Gillis, Founder and President, Literacy How, Inc.  
Mr. Steven Hernandez Esq., Executive Director, Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity (CWCSEO)  
Dr. Melissa Jenkins, Chief Academic Officer, Bridgeport Public Schools  
Dr. Stephanie Lockhart, Assistant Principal, Windsor High School  
Ms. Frances Rabinowitz, Executive Director, Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS)  
Ms. Lisa Thomas, Retired Teacher (Hebron and Windsor)
- Absent:** Ms. Christina Tietz, Watertown, CT  
Ms. Cristina Kingsbury, Waterbury, CT
- Facilitator:** Dr. Melissa K. Wlodarczyk Hickey, Reading/Literacy Director, Connecticut State Department of Education
- Staff Present:** Charlene M. Russell-Tucker, Commissioner of Education, Connecticut State Department of Education  
Desi Nesmith, Deputy Commissioner of Education, Connecticut State Department of Education  
Dr. Melissa K. Wlodarczyk Hickey, Reading/Literacy Director, Connecticut State Department of Education  
Irene Parisi, Chief Academic Officer, Connecticut State Department of Education

**I. Opening Remarks and Introduction**

Charlene M. Russell-Tucker called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. Charlene M. Russell-Tucker, Commissioner, State of Connecticut Department of Education, provided opening remarks and deferred to the Council's facilitator Dr. Melissa K. Wlodarczyk Hickey, Reading/Literacy Director, State of Connecticut Department of Education to facilitate the meeting.

**II. Roll Call**

The Council's Clerk called attendance.

### **III. Introduction of Members**

Dr. Melissa K. Wlodarczyk Hickey, Reading/Literacy Director, State of Connecticut Department of Education, as the facilitator opened the floor to each Council member for introductions.

### **IV. Guest**

Dr. Melissa K. Wlodarczyk Hickey, Reading/Literacy Director, State of Connecticut Department of Education, deferred to the Charlene M. Russell-Tucker, Commissioner, State of Connecticut Department of Education, to welcome and introduce Connecticut State Senator Patricia Billie Miller. Connecticut State Senator Patricia Billie Miller provided opening remarks.

### **V. Review the Purpose and Specific Tasks of the Council**

Dr. Melissa K. Wlodarczyk Hickey, Reading/Literacy Director, State of Connecticut Department of Education, as the facilitator shared the purpose of the Council is to provide consultation to the Director of the Center for Literacy Research and Reading Success. She shared the legislated tasks of the Council is to develop and publish annual goals for the Center, meet at least every two months, consult with Director of the Center for Literacy Research and Reading Success, and support the work of the Center. Important dates to remember are as follows:

- Not later than July 1, 2022, the Director of the Center for Literacy Research and Reading Success, in consultation with the Council, shall review and approve at least five scientifically-based reading curriculum models or programs (focused on Oral language, phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, rapid automatic name or letter name fluency and reading comprehension) to be implemented local and regional boards of education for school year commencing July 1, 2023.
- Not later than July 1, 2022, the Center shall establish and oversee an intensive reading instruction program that provides tiered supports to alliance district elementary schools that enroll students who are not reading at or above grade level.
- Not later than January 1, 2023, shall develop a coordinated state-wide reading plan for K-3 students containing strategies and frameworks that are research-driven to produce effective reading instruction and improvement in student performance.

Dr. Wlodarczyk Hickey reviewed proposed Council norms and opened the floor to facilitate discussion of Council's norms, governance, and decision-making process. Council members were provided with the opportunity to provide feedback on utilizing the Consensus and Gradient Agreement for decision making.

### **VI. Commitment to Literacy and Reading in Connecticut**

Dr. Wlodarczyk Hickey provided an overview on the Connecticut Department of Education's and state's commitment to literacy and reading. Council members and Connecticut Senate Senator Patricia Billie Miller were provided with the opportunity to share their insight and contributions to literacy and reading. Dedicated website to the Council was also shared ( <https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Academic-Office/Center-for-Literacy-Research-and-Reading-Success>)

### **VII. Future Meeting/Calendar**

The next meeting will be March 24, 2022, from 1:00 -2:30 p.m., via Teams Meeting Link

### **VIII. Closing/Meeting Adjourned**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.