

**Connecticut State Department of Education**

Reading Leadership Implementation  
Council Meeting

July 26, 2022  
1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

**Present:**

Dr. Maureen Brummett, Superintendent, Newington Public Schools  
Dr. Margie, Gillis, Founder and President, Literacy How, Inc.  
Ms. Kim Healy, Wilton, CT  
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 Public Schools  
Ms. Frances Rabinowitz, Executive Director, Connecticut Association of Public  
School Superintendents (CAPSS)  
Ms. Lisa Thomas, Retired Educator  
Dr. Michael Coyne, Department Head Educational Psychology and Co-Director  
for the Center for Behavioral Education and Research (CBER), NEAG School of  
Education, UCONN

**Absent:**

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

**Facilitator:**

Dr. Melissa K. Wlodarczyk Hickey, Interim Director of Literacy Research & Reading Success ,  
Connecticut State Department of Education

**Staff Present:**

Leslie Navarrete, Education Staff Assistant, Connecticut State Department of Education

**I. Welcome & Review of Council Norms**

The Council's facilitator Dr. Melissa K. Wlodarczyk Hickey, Interim Director of Literacy Research & Reading Success, State of Connecticut Department of Education, convened the meeting at 1:02 p.m. She welcomed the Council and reviewed the Council norms as well as the purpose and role and tasks of the Council.

**II. Roll Call**

The Council's Clerk called attendance.

**III. Acceptance of Minutes**

The Council consented to approve the minutes from the May 10, 2022, meeting.

#### **IV. Review and Updates**

Dr. Melissa K. Wlodarczyk Hickey, Interim Director of Literacy Research & Reading Success, State of Connecticut Department of Education, provided the Council with an update on the State Board of Education approved *Menu of Research-Based K-3 Universal Screening Reading Assessments* (Menu) and a brief overview of its process. She went over the added and deleted assessments that local and regional boards of education for school year commencing July 1, 2023, are required to pick one and adopt one.

Assessments added:

- Acadience RAN;
- aimswebPlus RAN;
- Amira Learning;
- mCLASS RAN; and
- mCLASS Vocabulary.

Council members had the opportunity to ask questions about and provide feedback on the *Menu*.

Dr. Melissa K. Wlodarczyk Hickey went on to provide an update on CONnecticut REview Process and its timeline – currently in the auditing and analyze data collected phase of the 52 submissions. Council members had the opportunity to ask questions about and provide feedback on the CONnecticut REview Process.

Dr. Melissa K. Wlodarczyk Hickey, Interim Director of Literacy Research & Reading Success, State of Connecticut Department of Education, then provided an overview to date on the Science of Reading Statement and its timeline – currently in the reviewing and revision by Council phase and will be moving to the Gathering Additional Feedback from Stakeholders phase. She noted this process is not legislated but recommended by Council. The Council was also briefed on the status of the statewide literacy needs assessment. The assessment is expected to be released fall 2022. Council members had the opportunity to ask questions about and provide feedback on the abovementioned agenda items. She also gave an update on the hiring status for the Director of Literacy Research & Reading Success position – the CSDE is restarting the hiring process and will close the job posting on August 3, 2022.

#### **IV. Discussion of Council Goals and Next Steps for the Center for Research and Reading Success**

Dr. Melissa K. Wlodarczyk Hickey, Interim Director of Literacy Research & Reading Success, State of Connecticut Department of Education, went over the Council's legislated next steps and Council goals for June 2022-June 2023 with the Council members (please see PowerPoint Presentation). The Council participated in a Peel the Onion exercise for the development of a b-12 reading success strategy that is aligned to the two-generational initiative in order to delve deeper into this Council goal.

#### **V. Closing/Meeting Adjourned**

\*Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, August 16, 2022, 1:00-2:30 p.m.