

**CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION**

Reading Leadership
Implementation Council Meeting

March 24, 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
Ms. Christina Tietz, English Teacher, Waterbury Public Schools
- Absent:** Ms. Cristina Kingsbury, Instructional Coach, Derby Public Schools
Dr. Michael Coyne, Dean of the Neag School of Education UCONN
- Facilitator:** Dr. Melissa K. Wlodarczyk Hickey, Reading/Literacy Director, Connecticut State Department of Education
- Staff Present:** 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
Laura Stefan, Chief of Staff. Connecticut State Department of Education
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, Reading/Literacy Director, State of Connecticut Department of Education, convened the meeting at 1:01 p.m. She welcomed the Council and reviewed the Council norms.

II. Roll Call

The Council's Clerk called attendance.

III. Acceptance of Minutes

The Council consented to approve the minutes from the January 13, 2022, meeting.

IV. Review of Roles and Function of the Council

Dr. Melissa K. Wlodarczyk Hickey, Reading/Literacy Director, State of Connecticut Department of Education, reviewed the roles and function of the Council according to PA-21-2 and the timeline for deliverables. Irene Parisi, Chief Academic Officer, Connecticut State Department of Education, provided an up-to-date report of the recruitment process for the Director of the Center for Literacy Research and Reading Success.

V. Council Discussion of the CSDE Open Review Process for Reading Curricula Models and Programs

Dr. Melissa K. Wlodarczyk Hickey, Reading/Literacy Director, State of Connecticut Department of Education, presented to the Council the preliminary draft of the CSDE Open Review Process for Reading Curricula Models and Programs (Draft), which is one of the deliverables per statute. The Research-based Universal Screening Reading Assessments for Grades K-3 along with Massachusetts and Mississippi State Department of Education and other state department of education served as a model framework for the Draft. Dr. Melissa K. Wlodarczyk Hickey, Reading/Literacy Director, State of Connecticut Department of Education, went on to provide the Council an overview of the development process of the Draft and the review and assessment process of the CSDE Open Review Process for Reading Curricula Models and Programs. With a CSDE Open Review Process for Reading Curricula Models and Programs in place districts and publishers can submit reading curricula and programs for the CSDE to review for district implementation per PA 21-2. The anticipated effective date for the CSDE Open Review Process for Reading Curricula Models and Programs is April.

A discussion on the preliminary draft of the CSDE Open Review Process for Reading Curricula Models and Program and its genesis took place. Council members provided their feedback and proposed amendments to the Draft. Further feedback and amendments from Council members must be submitted to Dr. Melissa K. Wlodarczyk Hickey, Reading/Literacy Director, State of Connecticut Department of Education, and Irene Parisi, Chief Academic Officer, State of Connecticut Department of Education, by Friday, March 25, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

VI. Presentation of Statewide Literacy Survey

Irene Parisi, Chief Academic Officer, State of Connecticut Department of Education, introduced guests from Hanover Research to the Council. Julie Shenfield, Director, Account Management, Hanover Research Services, deferred to Emily Beeson, Senior Director, K-12 Research and Professional Services, Hanover Research Services, to provide an overview of Hanover Research Services and the CSDE's partnership that included work and membership services of Hanover Research, project work and recommendations to-date, recommended next steps, and an outline of the statewide literacy needs assessment survey. Irene Parisi, Chief Academic Officer, State of Connecticut Department of Education, added that there will be an opportunity for the Council to review higher education institution's teacher preparation program of science of reading. Melissa suggested that the Council can consider making this item of discussion a goal.

The Council members asked questions to both presenters.

VII. Future Meeting Calendar Review

Dr. Melissa K. Wlodarczyk Hickey, Reading/Literacy Director, State of Connecticut Department of Education, presented a proposed meeting calendar. Additionally, Dr. Melissa K. Wlodarczyk Hickey, Reading/Literacy Director, State of Connecticut Department of Education, communicated to Council members about the opportunity for them to be part of the internal review process of the CSDE Open Review Process for Reading Curricula Models and Programs and for future works related to the Council's charge.

Council members had the opportunity to provide input. Council members are given a week to review the proposed meeting calendar. Also, Council members interested in being part of the internal review process of the CSDE Open Review Process for Reading Curricula Models and Programs and for future works related to the Council's charge should reach out to Dr. Melissa K. Wlodarczyk Hickey, Reading/Literacy Director, State of Connecticut Department of Education, and Irene Parisi, Chief Academic Officer, State of Connecticut Department of Education.

The Council will reconvene on April 26, 2022, to approve the meeting calendar and discuss annual goals.

VIII. Consensus Building

Consensus Building was not discussed.

IX. Closing/Meeting Adjourned

*Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2022, 1:00-2:30 p.m.