

Connecticut State Department of Education

Reading Leadership Implementation Council Meeting

May 10, 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. Cristina Kingsbury, Instructional Coach, Derby Public Schools

Absent: Ms. Christina Tietz, English Teacher, Waterbury 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:
Dr. Melissa K. Wlodarczyk Hickey, Reading/Literacy Director, Connecticut State Department of Education
Irene Parisi, Chief Academic Officer, 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 1:02 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 April 26, 2022, meeting.

IV. The CSDE Updates

Irene Parisi, Chief Academic Officer, State of Connecticut Department of Education, provided the Council with an update on the Open Review Process for Grades Pre-K-3 Reading Curricula Models and/or Programs – applications are being submitted and districts and publishers have until May 25, 2022, to submit. Ms. Parisi notified the Council that the deadline for submission was moved to May 25, 2022. Ms. Parisi will notify the Council and members interested to be part of internal review process of when this process will start. Additional members who want to be part of the internal review process can reach out to Ms. Parisi by the end of the week. Findings on the Open Review Process for Grades Pre-K-3 Reading Curricula Models and/or Programs will be presented to the Council.

She also gave an update on the hiring status for the Director of Literacy Research & Reading Success position- the CSDE is in its final phase, working with HR to move this position forward.

V. Guest Speaker

Dr. Melissa K. Wlodarczyk Hickey, Reading/Literacy Director, State of Connecticut Department of Education, introduced guest speaker Dr. Margie Gillis and she led a conversation around neuroscience as it related to the science of reading. A neuroscience and process of reading video was played and a discussion regarding the science of reading occurred where Council members had the opportunity to provide input and ask questions.

VI. Council Discussion of Draft Science of Reading Connecticut State Board of Education Position Statement

Irene Parisi, Chief Academic Officer, State of Connecticut Department of Education, provided an overview on the Draft Science of Reading Connecticut State Board of Education Position Statement and its development and opened the floor for discussion. Council members had the opportunity to provide their recommendations and ask questions.

VII. Closing/Meeting Adjourned

*Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 31, 2022, 1:00-2:30 p.m.