



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
*DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION*



**Connecticut State Advisory Council for Special Education**

**September 22, 2021**

**\*\*\*\*\* 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. \*\*\*\*\***

**Zoom Virtual Meeting**

(Conference Call Information included below)

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Jen Lussier, Rick Raucci, Nachi Bhatt, Kim Williamson, Bryan Klimkiewicz (non-voting), Jolie Medina (non-voting), Sean Cronin (non-voting), Tammy Raccio (Chair), Tom Cosker, Missy Wrigley, Jane Hampton, Joan-Nicoll-Senft, Catherine Summ, Mia Giantonio, Dimpsy Malvania, Jake Shumbo, and Doris Maldonado

**Public Attendee:** Elizabeth Lingvinis (Parent)

**Guests:** Tom Boudreau (Bureau of Special Education)

**Members Absent:** Goviana Morales, Cassandra Reilly, Louis Tallarita, Rep. Tammy Exum, Denise Drummond, Jon Metcalf, Jeffry Spahr, Brian K. Smith, Allison Kopie, Marisa Mascolo-Halm, and Patricia Nunez.

**I. Call to Order and Welcome (9:00 a.m.)**

Meeting called to order at 9:06 am by Tammy Raccio Chair

**II. Introductions/Roles/Welcome**

- a. New Members Announced
- b. Chair/Vice Chair

**III. Council Purpose and Function**

**IV. Public Comment (9:10 am.)**

SAC meetings are public meetings; members of the public may participate by calling in:

- Call-In Number: 1-866-880-0098
- Participant Passcode: 89689633

**Old Business**

**V. Consent Agenda:**

- a. May 12, 2021 Full Council Minutes

Tom Cosker makes a motion to approve the minutes and Nachi seconds. All in favor.

Mia Giantonio (student) emails about the spelling of her last name in the minutes. Jolie makes the edit along with “Scheduled” should be “schedules” regarding student attendance conflicts.

**VI. Executive Committee Report**

a. Meeting Updates

Tammy Raccio discussed the goals and work that the Executive Committee has for the 2021-22 year because of the Covid 19 pandemic. Talks about legislation and the Expulsion and Suspension Committee.

b. Annual Report

c. Committee Options/Appointments

**VII. Membership Committee Report**

Catherine Summ thanks members for their attendance and past members for their work with the SAC. Tammy Raccio and Catherine advise on current members vacancies and talk demographics when recruiting. The Membership Committee reaffirmed its commitment to appoint members who represent the diversity of Connecticut.

Catherine asks Jolie to send the Council the membership survey with Jake’s list of qualities to look for when recruiting student members. Tammy asks for permission to use Jake Shumbo list of qualifications when recruiting student members.

Tammy asks members to consider serving on the sub-committees and provides contact information.

a. Membership Update

i. Attendance

ii. Current/Anticipated Vacancies

**VIII. Legislative Committee Report**

Moving Legislative to afternoon during Director’s report if Jeff is not available. Sean Cronin mentions that Tom Boudreau will be joining the meeting ESSER 2 and special education initiatives.

a. Legislative Summary

**IX. Dispute Resolution Ad-Hoc Committee**

a. Summary of Meetings

Sean Cronin talks about the work of the Committee up to now. Working with reviewing preliminary data and have reviewed complaints last meeting. BSE submits data by November. Also, discussed the Rhode Island Center and LRP representative presentations at these meetings.

**BREAK: 11:30 am. - 1:00 pm. Note that Tammy adjourns for break at 10:50 am.**

**New Business**

**I. Round Table (1:00 pm.) Note that RoundTable moved to 10:40 am.**

a. Agency/Parent Updates

Tom Cosker (Disability Rights) Talks their functions and work. Emphasis on balance within systemic work.

Jane Hampton (CPAC) Discusses homebound students and staff shortage. Sean responds that we have resources (July 15 Guidance) on the website regarding homebound students and Tom asks a question on distribution of guidance to districts.

Catherine Summ (BESBE-ADS) Talks about the staff being excited to work with students in person again. Seeing more students this year that there is more homebound and homeschooled and doesn't usually assign students to caseworkers this late. Mentions they will be continue their virtual fall in-service modules this year due to ongoing concerns with large in-person gatherings.

Doris Maldonado (Parent) Parents are experiencing discrepancies, interpreters, language barriers and immune compromised students. Asks what is being done to assist and how are resources being made aware of so that families are able to access information and resources.

Nachi Bhatt (DCF) Finds that families are finding that early childhood has less slots due to staffing and facility closings. Looking for supporting families and getting children back into school and connecting with their peers. Grateful to districts who work with DCF.

**II. Special Education Division Director Report (2:30 pm.) Note that that ESSER 2 Funding presentation has been moved to 9:55 am.**

Meeting called to order at 1:05 pm and Bryan Klimkiewicz (Director) presents and answers Council members questions. Will send the presentation to members in the meeting follow up email.

Doris Maldonado inserts Sparkler resource:

[http://p12cdn4static.sharpschool.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server\\_546937/File/SPED/Sparkler%20Info.pdf](http://p12cdn4static.sharpschool.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_546937/File/SPED/Sparkler%20Info.pdf)

Jenn Lussier inserts EdSight resource: <https://edsight.ct.gov/SASPortal/main.do> into the group meeting chat.

- a. Back to School
- b. SPP/APR Stakeholder Process
- c. CT-SEDS/IEP Quality
- d. Teacher Shortage / Diverse Workforce
- e. ESSER 2 Funding (Initiatives) – Tom Boudreau presents to the Council, shares a PowerPoint and answers Council member questions.

- i. Special Education Recovery
- ii. Evaluation
- iii. Dyslexia tutoring
- iv. DDS partnership

**III. Priority Break Out Session: Begins at 1:30 pm.**

**1. Special Education Recovery Policies and Procedures**

- o Equitable Access to Acceleration Activities and Recovery

**2. Best Practices for Reengagement**

- a. Social/Emotional/Mental Health (Students and Educators)
- b. Community Access
- c. Routines

**IV. Action Items:**

Jolie to send the membership survey with Jake’s list, Bryan’s presentation, and Tom Boudreau’s ESSER 2 PowerPoint.

Translation of the survey into Spanish.

**V. Adjourn (3:00 pm.)**

**State Advisory Council Meeting Dates/Locations:**

Meeting	Date	Time	Location
1.	September 22, 2021	9:00-3:00	Virtual Meeting
2.	November 17, 2021	1:00-5:00	Virtual Meeting
3.	January 12, 2022	9:00-2:30	Virtual Meeting
4.	March 16, 2022	1:00-5:00	Virtual Meeting
5.	May 12, 2022	1:00-5:00	TBD