



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Connecticut State Advisory Council for Special Education

Executive Committee

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

******* 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. *******

Microsoft Teams Meeting

<https://youtube.com/live/ExecutiveCommittee322>

Minutes

Members Present: Susan Yankee (Chair), Jennifer Lussier (Vice Chair), Catherine Summ (Membership Chair), Jeffry Spahr (Legislative Chair), Nachi Bhatt, Tammy Raccio (Past Chair), Bryan Klimkiewicz (non-voting), Jolie Medina (non-voting) and Sean Cronin (non-voting)

Members Absent: N/A

I. Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at 9:03 am by Susan Yankee.

Public Comment: N/A

SAC meetings are public meetings and members of the public may participate.

Call-In Number: 866-880-0098

Participant Code: 89689633

II. Consent Agenda:

- a. Approve February 22 Executive Meeting Draft Minutes

Remove "the" from in front of Susan Yankee's name on page 2 under Annual Report section.

Catherine S. makes motion to approve minutes with amendment and Jennifer L. seconds, all in favor.

III. Committee Matters

- a. March 29 Full SAC Meeting Agenda

Tom Boudreau will be presenting for 30 minutes

Round Table was missed last meeting. Add to agenda.

Action item in past of meeting discussed staying later at one of the meetings to work on priority work. Jennifer L. adds that people would possibly be willing to stay if we are in person for the April meeting. Susan Y. thinks it would be better for people to stay after a 90-minute meeting versus a April long meeting. Also, she asks about lunch for the Council the day they stay later. Jolie M, Jennifer L. and Sean C. respond that we can ask Bryan K. for more details but the BSE generally would provide a working lunch and has been specific to SAC member training in July of each year.

Ask people if they would stay on past the 90 minutes

April meeting location, where? Jolie M. asks Susan Y. to send Jolie M. and Bryan K. an email to secure a location and share details with SAC members as soon as possible.

Division Director Report, Bryan K will provide report. Susan Y. responds.

Note that Susan Y. will not be available to stay after the meeting and Nachi B. will be leave early due to work commitment.

b. Membership Matters

1. SAC Membership Survey Applicant Appointment

Catherine S. provided update.

Three parent applications received, would like to have accepted all but had to narrow down due to vacancies and demographics. A member is recommended to the Executive Committee for consideration of appointment.

2. Legislative Flyer

Jolie M. and Bryan K. to finalize the flyer and send back to the Membership Committee.

3. SAC Vacancies and Member Terms Expiring

Catherine S. emailed members whose terms are expiring.

c. Legislative Matters

Jeffrey S. reviews Legislative Committee matters

Nachi B. responds he has a lot to respond, happy where we are but know we (CT) can do better. Seen good and bad. Has seen districts with items to help children regulate and dedicated to assisting these children. Are in a secluded environment but does not require restraint if leaving room. Anytime physical contact with a child it is considered a major situation. Thinks districts are diligent in taking steps to prevent another interaction. There are positive aspects of the process when a child/student can remain in school. Thinks the way that the children perceive those situations can be different and cause them to reflect and bring themselves down.

Sean C. talks about quality, accessible mental health needs and education. BSE collecting good data on how students are being restrained. Thinks Hurst is doing a really hood job.

Constantly examine what works and does not – thinks now, we are doing good. Something we should always be looking at.

Bryan K. responds to include Nachi's response. Talks about looking training, Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) or it can be a study, can talk about seclusion rooms versus the seclusion itself, point to data collected through annual reports, knows Education Committee is working on this now and it is a good time for the SAC to respond.

Susan Y. talks about the Google doc that Committee members are working on.

Bryan K. responds Susan Y. about the BSE Parent Call Center.

Jennifer L. talks behavioral assessments and basic processes that can prevent restraint/seclusion. If there seems to be lots of interactions with a student, why not do a FBA She is passionate on the subject due to reporting and accountability. Parents are limited to what school provides for documentation. Documents are not going to be clear and or include all details.

Nachi B. says he is passionate as well and when it comes to the students he serves. Says that everything the Committee is discussing are causes for concern and how do we fix all of it to be able to implement education?

Jeffry S. responds to Jennifer L. and references a statute on restraint and seclusion. Talks current and language be added which will provide more specific details to the parents. Jennifer L. , thanks him for the information and responds to clarify – says that is more specific to restraint. She thinks schools should have to call parent about a restraint and not only notify by email.

Catherine S. talks about the benefits of having written documents to reference. Knows schools are stretched with staff and it is good to have documentation.

Jeffry S. talks about the Committee members voice and experience is beneficial when it all comes together during the meetings. Bryan K. clarifies that SDE staff do not have an educator role or perspective, an organization and agency that provides legislative testimony but not educator data.

Susan Y. talks about school crisis teams, Bryan K. responds about training.

Bryan K. and the group talk about the Education Committee and bill no. 1200. Says there will be good discussion tomorrow for the Legislative Committee.

Action Items:

Bryan K. and Jolie M. to finalize April meeting location. Susan Y. will send us an email.

Jolie M. to make edit to the February 22 meeting minutes in Annual Report section and remove from the February 2022 minutes Bryan's response per Robert's Rule of Order.

Jolie M. will send the Legislative Committee agenda after Executive meeting ends today.

Adjourn:

Meeting adjourned at 10:13 am.

Catherine S. makes a motion to adjourn and Nachi B. seconds. All in favor.