

**Connecticut State Department of Education**

Reading Leadership Implementation Council Meeting

October 18, 2022

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

**Present:**

- Dr. Maureen Brummett, Superintendent, Newington Public Schools
- Dr. Michael Coyne, Department Head Educational Psychology and Co-Director for the Center for Behavioral Education and Research (CBER), NEAG School of Education, UCONN
- 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
- Ms. Cristina Kingsbury, Instructional Coach, Naugatuck Public Schools
- Dr. Stephanie Lockhart, Principal, Avon High School, Avon Public Schools
- Ms. Frances Rabinowitz, Executive Director, Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS)

**Absent:**

- Ms. Lisa Thomas, Retired Educator
- Ms. Christina Tietz, English Teacher, Waterbury Public Schools

**Facilitator:**

Dr. Melissa K. Wlodarczyk Hickey, Interim Director of the Center for Literacy Research & Reading Success, Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE)

**Staff Present:**

- Irene E. Parisi, Chief Academic Officer, Connecticut State Department of Education
- Dr. Joanne R. White, Education Consultant, Connecticut State Department of Education

**I. Welcome and Roll Call**

The Council's facilitator Dr. Melissa K. Wlodarczyk Hickey, Interim Director of Literacy Research & Reading Success, State of Connecticut Department of Education (CSDE), convened the meeting and called attendance. She welcomed the Council and reviewed the Council norms.

**II. Acceptance of Minutes from September 20, 2022, and October 3, 2022**

The Council accepted the minutes. Spacing issues were noted on the minutes for October 3, 2022. Those will be corrected, and final will be posted to [Reading Leadership Implementation Council \(ct.gov\)](#).

**III. Current Literacy Professional Learning Supports: Science of Reading Masterclass and Performance Matters Forum 2022: Improving Outcomes through Equity**

Executive Director Rabinowitz shared information regarding the Science of Reading Masterclass. The Masterclass is a statewide professional learning partnership with the CSDE and CAPSS to empower district literacy leadership teams, develop district knowledge of evidence-based, scientifically-based literacy, and build aligned systemic practices to support comprehensive K-3 literacy instruction. The Masterclass was established by Commissioner Russell-Tucker and Executive Director Rabinowitz.

Masterclass Cohort I is currently engaged in the Masterclass professional learning opportunities (virtual and in-person) and coaching supports. Masterclass Cohort I membership includes Bethel Public Schools, Canterbury Public Schools, Derby Public Schools, East Haven Public Schools, LEARN Regional Educational Service Center, Magnet Schools for Goodwin, New London Public Schools, New Milford Public Schools, Stratford Public Schools, Waterbury Public Schools, and Windham Public Schools. A meeting occurred at CAPSS on October 17, 2022, to explain the Masterclass to districts having expressed an interest in participating in Cohort II.

Another recent professional learning opportunity occurred at the October 13, 2022, *CSDE Performance Matters Forum 2022: Improving Outcomes through Equity*. This in-person conference highlighted best practices in K-12 education across Connecticut. Dr. Jenkins shared highlights from the session entitled *K-3 Assessment Approaches and Mapping a Path Forward*. Dr. Jenkins presented in her role as Chief Academic Officer in the Bridgeport Public Schools with representatives from the Hartford and Waterbury Public Schools. During the session, facilitated by Dr. White and Dr. Hickey, Bridgeport, Hartford, and Waterbury shared information regarding their universal reading assessment approaches, literacy professional learning supports, and efforts to increase student literacy learning.

**IV. Review Draft Connecticut's Literacy Strategy**

The Council reviewed and discussed the draft strategy. Council members made suggestions and will submit additional feedback to Dr. Hickey prior to October 25, 2022.

**V. Overview of Universal Screening Reading Assessments for Grades K–3**

Dr. Joanne R. White, Education Consultant, Connecticut State Department of Education shared information regarding the Universal Screening Reading Assessments.

**VI. Update on Staffing and Resourcing of Center for Literacy Research and Reading Success**

Dr. Hickey updated the Council on Commissioner Russell-Tucker's intensive efforts to address staffing capacity across the CSDE. Various positions have been posted recently. Four (4) positions, including the Director of Literacy Research & Reading Success, have been posted and closed. The CSDE is currently recruiting for two Deputy Commissioner positions. Letters of interest for the two Deputy Commissioner positions can be submitted via the CSDE website [Career Opportunities \(ct.gov\)](https://www.careeropportunities.ct.gov).

**VII. Closing/Meeting Adjourned**

Meeting was adjourned at 2:27 p.m.