

Reading Leadership Implementation Council Meeting
October 15, 2024
Meeting Minutes

Connecticut Department of Education

Reading Leadership Implementation Council Virtual Meeting

450 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, CT

October 15, 2024

2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Present:

- Dr. Matthew Conway, Superintendent Derby Public Schools
- Dr. Margie Gillis, Founder and President, Literacy How, Inc.
- Kim Healy, Selectwoman, Wilton, CT
- Dr. Melissa K. Wlodarczyk Hickey, Director of the Center for Literacy Research & Reading Success (Center), Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE).
- Gary Highsmith, Superintendent, Hamden Public Schools
- Yasmin Ithier-Vicenty, Teacher, Hartford Public Schools
- Dr. Tamu Lucero, Superintendent, Stamford Public Schools
- Dr. Ashley Oldham, Assistant Professor of Education, Department of Special Education, University of Saint Joseph
- Shandra Scott-Brown, Principal CREC Museum Academy
- Dr. James Zavodjancik, Chief Academy Officer, Fairfield Public Schools

Facilitator:

- Dr. Ellen Stoltz, Educational Leadership Consultant, ImproveYourSchools

I. Welcome and Roll Call

Dr. Stoltz convened the meeting at 2:00 p.m. Introduction of new Council member Gary Highsmith. Dr. Stoltz opened floor and made a motion for approval of September 17, 2024, minutes. Discussion ensued. Dr. Lucero approved the motion and Dr. Conway seconded.

II. Council Member Comments and Insights

The floor was opened to any Council member wishing to share any feedback, information or comments they have received from districts during the summer, September, and October months. No updates were provided by Council members. Kim H. shared that she would provide comments during next meeting.

III. Director's Updates Regarding *The K-3 Literacy Plan for the Center for Literacy Research and Reading Success*

Dr. Hickey shared updates with the Council regarding topics such as allocated funding, no cost professional learning opportunities, and ReadConn. ReadConn will be known as ReadConn 2.0, as it is changing to a two-year program with expansion to grade level 12 for districts asking for supports beyond third grade.

Discussion ensued. Yasmin I. asked if districts are making their teachers aware of no cost professional learning. Dr. Hickey stated what has been offered has been on a leadership level, she added that ReadConn is more for teachers and that will be advertised. Kim H. asked how they can get a summary of what districts are saying. Dr. Hickey explained to Council members where to go to view district webinars and links to see quotes from districts. Dr. Hickey suggested that in the next Council meeting we take time and watch some of the webinars together.

IV. Crucial Conversations in Action: 2024-26 Goals of the Council

The Council reviewed 2022-23 Council goals. Dr. Stolz elaborated on the difference between a smart goal and a goal. Smart Goals are specific, measurable, achievable, and timely. Council shared goal thoughts and ideas. Council agreed that Dr. Stolz and Dr. Hickey will create draft Council goals to share at next Council meeting.

V. Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:03 p.m.

The next Council meeting will be December 17, 2024, from 2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.