

Reading Leadership Implementation Council Meeting
November 14, 2023
Meeting Minutes

Connecticut Department of Education

Reading Leadership Implementation Council Meeting

November 14, 2023

1:00 – 2:00 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.
- Kim Healy, Selectwoman, Wilton, CT
- Dr. Tamu Lucero, Superintendent, Stamford Public Schools
- Ms. Fran Rabinowitz, Executive Director, Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS)
- Susan Witkowski, Thompson Selectman, Thompson
- Lisa Thomas, Retired Educator; Chairwoman, Coventry Town Council

Facilitator:

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

Staff Present:

- Irene Parisi, Chief Academic Officer, Connecticut State Department of Education
- Mrs. Katyria Rivera, Administrative Assistant, Connecticut State Department of Education
- Mrs. Erin Edwards, Associate Education Consultant, Connecticut State Department of Education
- Mrs. Cody Fusco, Associate Education Consultant, Connecticut State Department of Education
- Ms. Candice LaConti, Associate Education Consultant, Connecticut State Department of Education
- Ms. Deirdre Savarese, Associate Education Consultant, Connecticut State Department of Education

I. Welcome with Roll Call and Introductions of New Members

The council member Dr. Hickey, Director of the Center. CSDE, convened the meeting at 1:03 p.m., and Roll Call commenced. Dr. Hickey welcomed our new council member Susan Witkowski.

II. Approval of Minutes from September 19, 2023

Motion was made to approve September 19, 2023, minutes, motion approved.

III. Finalize Draft Center Goals

Dr. Hickey reviewed Center Goals and timeline. Between September 2022 -December 2022 Council members completed Connecticut K-3 Literacy Strategy and was posted on February 2023. Between January 2023 and November 2023, the Council drafted The Center for Literacy Research and Reading Success: Connecticut's 2023-30 K-3 Statewide Literacy Plan and requested feedback from departments across the CSDE. Dr. Hickey would like to move the drafted goals to the commissioner's office. She asked members if there were any questions or corrections needed from review, no corrections were needed, draft will be moved and shared with commissioner's office.

IV. Update Regarding the Waiver of Connecticut Approved K-3 Reading Curriculum Models or Programs Review Process and Upcoming Supports

Districts were notified on December 15, 2022, of the waiver application. On February 28, 2023, districts submitted their completed waiver application. In May we partnered with PCG to assist and review the application process. This included creating a Waiver Application Review Tool.

On October 23-31, 2023, 76 one-on-one virtual meetings took place with those waiver applicants requesting a meeting to discuss initial findings and feedback regarding individual waiver applications, review their waivers and ask any clarifying questions. Noticed some districts submitted their applications twice, each submission was reviewed and checked to make sure that they were not duplicates. Dr. Melissa Hickey reached out to those districts that did not want a one-on-one to ensure that they did not a one-on-one. Districts were notified that they will hear back by December 1, 2023.

The floor was open to any questions. Lisa Thomas asked the following questions: ~~Definition of small town?~~ Once waivers are released, she wants to see a list of towns who received? Those who receive waivers how will it be utilized? List of towns that received funding and the amount they received. Dr. Melissa Hickey did send over the information that was requested.

At the February 27, 2024, meeting Lisa Thomas requested that her comments be revised to capture her intent to ask about the definition of a small town for purposes of grants.

Closing/Meeting Adjourned

Our next Council meeting will take place on January 16, 2024, 1:00-2:30 p.m.