

Reading Leadership Implementation Council Meeting
May 21, 2024
Meeting Minutes

Connecticut Department of Education

Reading Leadership Implementation Council Hybrid Meeting

450 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, CT

May 21, 2024

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Present:

- Dr. Maureen Brummett, Superintendent, Newington Public Schools
- Dr. Michael Coyne, Department Head Educational Psychology, Professor of Special Education, 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
- Thomas Nuccio, Children's Policy Analyst, Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity
- Fran Rabinowitz, Executive Director, Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS)
- Dr. Melissa K. Włodarczyk Hickey, Director of the Center for Literacy Research & Reading Success (Center), Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE).

Facilitator:

- Dr. Ellen Stoltz, Educational Leadership Consultant, ImproveYourSchools

Staff Present:

- Irene Parisi, Chief Academic Officer, Connecticut State Department of Education
- Mrs. Katyria Rivera, Administrative Assistant, Connecticut State Department of Education
- Dr. Joanne R. White, Educational Consultant, Academic Office, Connecticut state Department of Education

I. Welcome with Roll Call

Dr. Stoltz convened the meeting at 1:00 p.m., and Roll Call commenced.

II. Roberts Rules To Accept Minutes from April 16, 2024

Due to lack of quorum, reviewing of minutes could not occur.

III. Update on CSDE English Language Arts K-8 Model Curricula

Dr. Joanne White and Irene Parisi shared with Council members the English Language Arts K-8 Model Curricula serving as a road map that can be used by districts for communicating essential learning outcomes for mastery by the end of a grade or grade band. All the models, guidance, and resources can be found through [GoOpenCT](#).

IV. The Center for Literacy Research and Reading Success: Connecticut's 2023-30 K-3 Statewide Literacy Plan and Goal 1

Dr. Hickey shared with Council that Center goals have been finalized and can now be found at our implementation website under resources. Dr. Hickey shared with Council members that the Center is in the process of creating the State Literacy Plan (SLP), although it has been placed on hold due to the Center is going through applying for a Federal Comprehensive Literacy Grant. Dr. Hickey opened the floor for any questions. Kim H. asked if there will be a penalty for districts that were not compliant, will they need to take legal action? Dr. Hickey responded they should consult with their legal counsel.

V. CSDE Professional Learning and Coaching Updates

Dr. Hickey gave an overview of the different professional learning opportunities along with each program's partners, audience, and their purpose. For example, HILL for Literacy K-3 Literacy Model Curricula and Program Adoption Process and Implementation Plan

- Partner: Hill for Literacy
- Audience: 14 Districts
- Purpose: Assist districts in reviewing, choosing, and/or implementing from the approved list

VI. Council's 2022 Statements Regarding Curricula and Programs

Dr. Hickey shared the definitions created by the Council in 2022 regarding curricula and programs. Fran R. feels that having programs and curriculum may cause confusion. A further explanation was given by Dr. Mike C. saying that a curriculum is a scope and sequence. Dr. Hickey shared that EL, ARC, Saavas, HMH are examples of approved model curricula.

VII. 2023-24 Legislative Update Pertaining to the Center for Literacy Research and Reading Success

Dr. Hickey informed Council members the following:

- Senate Bill No. 154: An Act Concerning Schools The initial terms of the members of the council shall expire on June 30, 2024, and the subsequent appointments shall be made by July 1, 2024. Members shall serve two-year terms and may serve consecutive terms.
- Substitute Senate Bill No.14 An Act Assisting School Districts in Improving Educational Outcomes And serving as a collaborative center for institutions of higher education and making available to the faculty of teacher preparation programs ~~{(A)}~~

~~the science of teaching reading, (B) the intensive reading instruction program, and (C) samples of available comprehensive reading curriculum models or programs reviewed and approved pursuant to section 10-14ii; and (8) reviewing and publicly reporting on progress made by teacher preparation programs to include comprehensive reading curriculum models or programs reviewed and approved pursuant to section 10-14ii]~~ (A) resources and research supporting scientifically-based reading research and instruction, and (B) Connecticut's K-3 Literacy Strategy, developed by the center.

Dr. Hickey thanked all Council members for their time and commitment, and for their work in creating Council goals, and center strategy documents.

VIII. For the Good of the Order

Kim H. brought up the following for discussion, which were answered by Dr. Hickey and Irene P.

- Possibilities of auditing waiver decisions
- Having speakers come to Council meetings
- Clarity on submitting agenda items

Dr. Hickey stated no speaker forms were submitted for Council discussion. Irene P. asked Kim H. to clarify her question regarding the audit of waiver decisions. Council discussed.

Irene P. clarified when submitting any future agenda item, first present potential agenda item here, during the “For the Good of the Order”, then the Council will use the consensus model to determine whether the agenda item will move forward and be part of a future agenda.

IX. Meeting Adjournment