

Reading Leadership Implementation Council Meeting  
February 25, 2025  
Meeting Minutes

**Connecticut Department of Education**

Reading Leadership Implementation Council Virtual Meeting

450 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, CT

February 25, 2025

2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

**Present:**

- Dr. Matthew Conway, Superintendent Derby Public Schools
- Dr. Michael Coyne, Professor, Neag School of Education the University of Connecticut
- 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
- 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.

**II. Robert's Rules to Accept Minutes from December 17, 2024**

Dr. Stoltz opened the floor and made a motion for approval of December 17, 2024, minutes. Dr. M. Gillis approved the motion and Dr. A. Oldham seconded.

**III. Council Member Comments and Insights**

Dr. Stoltz shared with Council members the agenda items that will be in discussion at our next Council meeting in March. Agenda items will include speaker request form, approving updated goal statement, and discussing the work from the breakout group discussion on Expanding Connecticut K-3 Literacy Strategy to include Grades 4-12.

**IV. Voices from the Field: District Implementation Journeys**

Dr. Hickey welcomed district guests from Cheshire Public Schools, Region 18 Public Schools, and Southington Public Schools. Each district shared a presentation regarding their implementation of Connecticut's Approved K-3 Reading Curriculum Models or Programs. After the district presentations discussion ensued between Council members and district staff.

District Staff:

- Cheshire: Superintendent Dr. Jeffrey Solan, Assistant Superintendent Marlene Silano, Patricia Castle, and Kevin Hanlon
- Region 18: Director of Curriculum Michelle Dean
- Southington: Superintendent Steven Madancy, Stephanie Lawlor, Jill Chapman, and Carrie McDougall

## **V. Meeting Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

The next Council meeting will be held virtually on March 18, 2025, from 2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.