

Reading Leadership Implementation Council Meeting  
May 20, 2025  
Meeting Minutes

**Connecticut Department of Education**

Reading Leadership Implementation Council Virtual Meeting

450 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, CT

May 20, 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
- 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 2:20 p.m., following a delay due to technical issues.

**II. Robert's Rules to Accept Minutes from March 18, 2025**

Dr. Stoltz opened the floor and made a motion for approval of the minutes from March 18, 2025. M Conway approved the motion and K. Healy seconded.

**III. Council Member Comments and Insights**

No action or discussion occurred under this agenda item as Council members did not request to share comments or insights.

**IV. Expanding State Literacy Strategy: Disciplinary Learning in Grades 4-12 with Council Question-and-Answer Session**

Guest speaker Dr. Rachael Gabriel, Professor and Director of the Reading and Language Arts Center at UCONN, presented to Council members about disciplinary literacy and discussion ensued.

**V. Connecticut's K-3 Literacy Strategy Expansion to Include Grades 4-12**

Discussion of this item was deferred to the meeting on June 17, 2025, due to time constraints.

**VIII. Meeting Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

The next Council meeting will be held virtually on June 17, 2025, from 2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.