

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.