

Reading Leadership Implementation Council Meeting
February 27, 2024
Meeting Minutes

Connecticut Department of Education

Reading Leadership Implementation Council Meeting

February 27, 2024

1:45 – 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
- Kim Healy, Selectwoman, Wilton, CT
- Dr. Melissa Jenkins, District Administrator, Bridgeport Public Schools
- Dr. Tamu Lucero, Superintendent, Stamford Public Schools
- Thomas Nuccio, Children’s Policy Analyst, Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity
- Bianca Rivera, Former Teacher, Fairfield, and Bridgeport Public Schools
- Lisa Tomas, 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

Staff Present:

- Irene Parisi, Chief Academic Officer, Connecticut State Department of Education
- Mrs. Katyria Rivera, Administrative Assistant, 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 11:03 a.m., and roll call commenced. Dr. Hickey introduced Thomas Nuccio to the council members as well as Dr. Stolz who shall be facilitating future council meetings starting with the March 19, 2024, meeting.

II. Approval of Minutes from November 14, 2023, and December 1, 2023

A motion to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2023, meeting was made by Dr. Hickey. Lisa Thomas approved the motion. Discussion ensued. Minutes were approved as corrected.

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2023, meeting was made by Dr. Melissa Hickey. Lisa Thomas approved the motion. Minutes were approved.

III. Connecticut 2023-30 K-3 Statewide Literacy Plan (Draft)

Kim Healy asked if council members can be copied on communications with districts that reference the work of the Council, as she is being reached out to and asked questions, so she can better inform them and communicate appropriately. Dr. Hickey requested that Kim send her the emails she is receiving. Dr. Hickey gave an update on the draft Connecticut Literacy Plan. The CSDE is working with the Federal government to receive support and coaching to create a Connecticut literacy plan. The CSDE will be meeting with other states who have developed a plan or are working on developing a plan of their own. This support will end June 2024; however, the work of creating a Connecticut Literacy Plan will continue.

IV. ARPA Right to Read Funds and Professional Learning Opportunities

Dr. Hickey opened the floor for Dr. Lucero regarding her question from our last meeting, she mentioned it's her understanding that ARPA funding is not able to be used for certain types of professional development and can only be used for professional development that is given from the program that you purchased. Lisa Thomas also asked a similar question, she has districts reaching out with their concerns, they were told if districts accepted the grant, they had to send a certain number of staff for professional development training.

Dr. Hickey answered Lisa Thomas' question and clarified, if districts choose to utilize the ARPA Right to Read funds, they will need to attend the professional learning that is once a month (virtually), this is mandated for those districts that choose to use the ARPA Right to Read funds. Dr. Hickey goes explaining how that day will look for those who are attending professional learning.

Dr. Hickey answered Dr. Lucero's question, stating that the ARPA Right to Read grant supports districts with their program, curriculum models and their assessments. This increases professional learning with the HILL for Literacy and Literacy How. The grant cannot be changed as people are already utilizing the funds.

V. Discussion of Path Forward

To begin the discussion regarding the legislated work of the council that includes the review of the implementation of a comprehensive reading curriculum model or program including technical assistance to those local and regional boards of education that have been denied a waiver, Dr. Hickey shared the current and upcoming professional learning and coaching opportunities that are provided by and shall be provided by the CSDE at no cost to districts and Charter Schools. Also, she shared the CCERC studies that shall assist the council in looking at the impact of the Science of Reading Masterclass.

VI. Future Agenda Items and Topics

Council members discussed March 19, 2024, as being a hybrid opportunity and showed by a raise of hands that they preferred a hybrid meeting. Also, council proposed:

- Meeting in person.
- Conducting hybrid meetings for all meetings.
- Receiving the slides in advance.
- Allowing for public comment at the council meetings.

VII. Closing/Meeting Adjourned

Our next Council meeting will take place on March 19, 2024, 1:00-2:30 p.m.