



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Digital Citizenship, Internet Safety and Media Literacy Advisory Council
July 21, 2020
Virtual Meeting
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.

The meeting was held on July 21, 2020. The meeting convened at 9:05 a.m. and the following members were present:

Present: Melissa Wlodarczyk Hickey (Chair)
Jennifer Dolan
Charles Dumais
Barbara Johnson
Gregory Lawrence
Kristie McGarry
Marcus Stallworth
Jennifer Falotico
Mary Ellen Minichiello
Bob Mitchell
Jamie Sepa
Mike Rell

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 9:05 a.m.

II. Current Charges

Council discussed the January 2020 Connecticut Board of Education (Board) meeting. At this meeting Board members expressed need for information regarding:

- A. free speech issues; and
- B. mental health tools to respond to online cyberbullying, preventative measures regarding safety and social media, students needing help online and tools to respond to upsetting information.

III. CASL and Computer Educators Update

Barbara Johnson shared updates on CASL and Computer Educators Update. She discussed the supports offered by the organizations during the online COVID-19 situation including "Try this on Monday" sessions to support teachers, library media specialists, etc., with vetted resources and professional learning. Distance learning resources and information available at www.ctcasl.org.

IV. Welcome 2 Reality Update

Marcus Stallworth, Anthony Gay, Qur-an Webb from [Welcome 2 Reality, LLC](http://www.welcome2reality.us) shared the work they have been doing nationally and with Connecticut schools (e.g., Granville Academy, Waterbury; Capital Prep, Hartford; CT River Academy, East Hartford; New Haven Schools; Kaynor Tech, CTECS).

They have created 10 sessions for schools including:

- What is reality?
- What are you watching?
- The Matrix (social media)
- Who's in your beats?
- Who are you talking to?
- Sexting and cyber-bullying?
- Who's in control?
- Control your reality
- Back to reality

Early Exposure to Education: worked with eighth graders in the New Haven Schools. Worked with a community Canada regarding youth mental health challenges and suicides.

They are partners with Media Literacy Now a national advocacy organization for media literacy education policy. Media Literacy Now provided template to get the Connecticut legislation passed.

Free resources available on their website www.welcome2reality.us. They will share a model for the Council to review.

Jennifer Dolan suggested using sessions five through nine as guidance for our Council.

V. Next Steps

Council had discussion on next steps to provide information about free speech issues; and mental health tools to respond to online cyberbullying, preventative measures regarding safety and social media, students needing help online and tools to respond to upsetting information. The Sandy Hook: Start with Hello program is utilized by many schools and perhaps we can get them to come present to tie that work with the request regarding mental health tools as this may be a natural fit to incorporate what schools are currently doing (not an add-on). COVID-19 has impacted visitors, so perhaps providing guidelines to current staff.

- A. Melissa will get clarity on free speech statement from Connecticut Board of Education.
- B. Mike Rell will talk to Sandy Hook Promise Foundation to contact Melissa about speaking to the group in October 2020.
- C. As a Council, review document from Welcome 2 Reality.

Next meeting will occur October 2020, around 2:00 p.m. Barbara Johnson and Mary Ellen Minichiello will present on the National School Library Standards for

Learners, School Librarians, and School Libraries (American Association of School Librarians, 2018).

Meeting adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

P.O. BOX 2219 | HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06145
An Equal Opportunity Employer