



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Increasing Educator Diversity Policy Oversight Council Meeting

Thursday, January 8, 2026

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

PRESENT: Faith Sweeney, Hamish MacPhail, Jade Gopie, Werner Oyanadel, Patrice McCarthy, Rebecca Good, Sal Escobales, Aynsley Diamind, Ryan Donlon, Kevin Walton, Louis Bronk, Shuana Tucker, Victoria Malvey, Michelle Belcher-Felton

1. CALL TO ORDER/OPENING REMARKS

- Jade Gopie called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. The agenda was reviewed and accepted without objection.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- The minutes of the October 9, 2025, meeting were approved as presented.

Motion by: Rebecca Good

Seconded by: Hamish MacPhail

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

3. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

- **Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board Update:** Hamish McPhail provided an update on the work of the Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board to update the special education certification pathway and potential changes to the waiver process.
- **Talent Office Update:** Jade Gopie provided updates on the following:
 - Aspiring Educators Scholarship
 - CT Educators Rising State Conference – March 18, 2026
 - Proposed Paraeducators to Special Education Certification Pathways- pending funding
 - 2026 Legislative Session Proposal Updates
 - Last In, First Out Policy Brief
 - TEACH Connecticut Reduction in Support for Financial Reasons

- **National Council on Teacher Quality Dashboard:** Rebecca Good provided an introduction to the National Council on Teacher Quality Dashboard, which is intended to provide information on trends in increasing teacher diversity.

6. FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

- The Council will meet virtually on the following dates:
 - April 9, 2026 – 9:00 am to 10:00 am
 - June 11, 2026 – 9:00 am to 10:00 am

7. ADJOURNMENT

- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:02 a.m.