



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



## Increasing Educator Diversity Policy Oversight Council Meeting

Thursday, October 9, 2025

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Virtual Meeting

### MINUTES

**PRESENT:** Ryan Donlon, Faith Sweeney, Hamish MacPhail, Jade Gopie, Werner Oyanadel, Patrice McCarthy, Rebecca Good, Sal Escobales, Megan Comb, Daniel Pearson, Kiara Waller, Elizabeth Sked, Shuana Tucker, Melissa Jenkins, Victoria Malvey, Michelle Belcher-Felton

**ABSENT:** Terrell Hill, Jason Teal, Nancy Sudhoff, Aynsley Diamond, Jason Irizarry, Kevin Walton, Madeline Negron, Noha Abdel-Hady, Sam Galloway, Steven Hernandez

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER/OPENING REMARKS

- Jade Gopie called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. The agenda was reviewed and accepted without objection.

#### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- The minutes of the June 12, 2025, meeting were approved as presented.  
*Motion by:* Hamish MacPhail  
*Seconded by:* Rebecca Good  
*Vote:* Motion carried unanimously.

#### 3. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

- **Research Presentation:** Megan Comb (Boston University Wheelock Educational Policy Center) presented research on seniority-based reduction-in-force policies and their potential impact on teacher diversity.
- **Talent Office Update:** Jade Gopie provided updates on 2025 legislative proposals and proposals for the 2026 legislative session.
- **Funding and Program Updates:**  
Jade Gopie provided an overview of recent changes to the 10% set-aside in Alliance District funding and discussed recommended uses of these funds to support educator recruitment, retention, and diversification initiatives shared with the Alliance districts.

- **Educators Rising Updates:**

Connecticut Educators Rising achieved Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) status. Upcoming events were shared.

- CT EdRising produced a video called “Why I Want to Teach”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?si=0OdtggdjrTiO1ud2&v=QpoX96YVGLM&feature=youtu.be>

#### **4. RESIGNATION AND APPOINTMENT**

- Rebecca Good notified the IED Council of her resignation as the IED Council’s representative to the Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board. The IED Council accepted the resignation by unanimous consent.
- Jade Gopie opened the floor for nominations for the position of the IED Council’s representative to the Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board. Hamish MacPhail was nominated. No further nominations were received. Hamish MacPhail accepted the nomination. There being no other nominations, nominations were closed. A vote was taken, and Hamish MacPhail was elected unanimously.

#### **5. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **Educators Rising Events:**

- Leadership Symposium – November 20, 2025, Wesleyan University
- State Conference – March 17, 2026, Southern Connecticut State University
- Signing Day – April 30, 2026
- National Conference – June 20–23, 2026, Portland, Oregon

#### **6. FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE**

- The Council will meet virtually on the following dates:
  - January 8, 2026 – 9:00 am to 10:00 am
  - 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 10:33 a.m.