



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Increasing Educator Diversity Policy Oversight Council Meeting

Thursday, April 9, 2026

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

PRESENT: Faith Sweeney, Hamish MacPhail, Jade Gopie, Patrice McCarthy, Kevin Walton, Nancy Sudhoff, Shuana Tucker, Victoria Malvey, Michelle Belcher-Felton

1. CALL TO ORDER/OPENING REMARKS

- Jade Gopie called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. The agenda was reviewed and accepted without objection.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- The minutes of the January 8, 2026, meeting were approved as presented.

Motion by: Nancy Sudhoff

Seconded by: Patrice McCarthy

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

3. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

- **Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board (CEPCB) Update:**
Hamish McPhail provided an update on the work of the Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board to update the early childhood education certification pathway and the pathway forward for the CEPCB as they evolve their work.
- **Talent Office Update:** Jade Gopie provided updates on the following:
 - The following educators were honored:
 - 2026 Teacher of the Year: Brian Betesh
 - 2025-2026 Milken Award Winner: David Mason
 - 2026 Anne Marie Murphy Paraeducator of the Year: Vanessa Taylor
 - Aspiring Educators Scholarship
 - CT Educators Rising State Conference – March 18, 2026
 - Educators Rising Signing Day and Teacher Registered Apprentice Graduation – April 29, 2026

- Educators Rising Teacher Leader and Male Educator Leadership Summit – May 20-21, 2026
- Educators Rising National Competition – June 20-23, 2026
- Paraeducator Preparation Academy
- Proposed Paraeducators to Special Education Certification Pathways- pending funding
- 2026 Legislative Session Proposal Updates
- TEACH Connecticut Reduction/Pause in Programming and Services for Financial Reasons
- Teacher Recruitment Resource Webinars hosted by TEACH Connecticut:
 - For HR/Talent Directors – April 14, 2026
 - For Educator Preparation Programs – April 21

6. FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

- The Council will meet virtually on the following dates:
 - 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.