



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Increasing Educator Diversity Policy Oversight Council Meeting

Thursday, October 8, 2026

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

PRESENT: Faith Sweeney, Jade Gopie, Patrice McCarthy, Nancy Sudhoff, Victoria Malvey, Madeline Negron, Louis Bronk, Werner Oyandel, Ryan Donlon, Rebecca Good, Sal Escobales, Jason Foster, Daisy Torres-Hill, Christina Swaidan, Michelle Belcher-Felton

1. CALL TO ORDER/OPENING REMARKS

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

2. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

- **IED Council Responsibilities and Membership:**
 - The statutory responsibilities of the IED Policy Oversight Council were reviewed.
- **Two members were welcomed to the IED Policy Oversight Council:**
 - Dr. Christina Swaidan, Chair, Education Department, University of Hartford
 - Dr. Daisy Torres- Hill, Assistant Dean and Certification Officer, Central Connecticut State University
- **Talent Office Updates:**
 - 2027 Legislative Proposals
 - Teacher Registered Apprenticeship Program
 - Paraeducator Preparation Academy
 - Special Education Registered Apprenticeship Federal Grant
 - Aspiring Educators Scholarship
- **Connecticut Educators Rising Update:**
 - Jason Foster provided an overview of the Educators Rising program.

3. APPOINTMENT

- Nominations were opened for the positions of IED Council's representative and alternate to the Educator Evaluation and Support Council. Faith Sweeney was nominated and selected. Sal Escobales was nominated and selected as the alternate. A vote was taken, and both nominations were approved unanimously.

6. FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

- The Council will meet virtually on the following dates, 9:00 am – 10:00 am:
 - January 14, 2027
 - April 8, 2027
 - June 10, 2027

7. ADJOURNMENT

- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:07 a.m.