

**State Advisory Council on Special Education
Legislative Committee
DRAFT Minutes
March 23 2011, Special Meeting**

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Sullivan called the meeting to order at 1:53 PM

Present via conference call:

Stephanie Johnson
Nancy Prescott

Informed Absence: Ben Strong

Present: Kathy Musto

II. Report of Chair:

B. Sullivan welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting on short notice and stated that they were meeting to review the list of pending bills and decide which bills to present to the Executive Committee for approval.

B. Sullivan made a motion to move action item A. Consideration of Minutes of March 10, 2011 to be the first item on the agenda and call a vote.

Motion was seconded by S. Johnson.

K. Musto made the motion to approve the minutes of March 10, 2011 as written.

Motion was seconded by S. Johnson and was passed unanimously.

S. Johnson left the meeting at 2:10.

III. Discussion:

Members reviewed and discussed several bills on the list.

The following is the list the committee decided to recommend:

Bill 20 - An Act Concerning Insurance Coverage for Hearing Aids for ages 13 – 18 population.

- Support entire Bill.

Bill 5428 - An Act Concerning Prompt Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect in an Educational Setting

- Propose a recommendation to the Committee on Human Services they add stronger language to the bill requiring the reporting of abuse or neglect in all educational settings.

Bill 6326 - An Act Concerning the Response of School Districts and the Departments of Education and Children and Families to Reports of Child Abuse and Neglect

- Support section 10-220
(f) Each local and regional board of education shall maintain in a central location all records of allegations, investigations and reports that a child has been abused by a school employee employed by the local or regional board of education, as defined in section 53a-65, conducted pursuant to sections 17a-101a to 17a-101d, inclusive, as amended by this act, and section 17a-103. Such records shall include any reports made to the Department of Children and Families. The Department of Education shall have access to such records.
- Propose recommendation to Education Committee that they add additional language to this section “in all school settings, public and private.”

Bill 930 - An Act Concerning the School Entrance Age

- Bill died in committee, however; this committee felt strongly that SAC should make a public statement regardless stating ***“we support requiring a child to be five years of age by October 1st before they register for kindergarten.”***

Rational: A sampling of kindergarten teachers was done by a K. Musto and there was an overwhelming unanimous response in support of this bill. This committee felt that students less than 5 years should enter or remain in universal pre-school until age 5. If child is already identified via child find they should be currently enrolled in Birth-Five and in a pre-kindergarten special education program their district.

Bill 1012 - An Act Implementing the Governor’s Budget Recommendations Concerning the Transfer of Functions from the Board of Education and Services for the Blind and the Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired to the Departments of Education and Social Services.

- Oppose Bill – Services for the Blind and the deaf need to remain under one centralized agency that can provide direct services with a high level of expertise.

Bill 6432 - An Act Concerning Closing the Academic Achievement Gap

- Propose a recommendation to the Education Committee that they add language that includes students in special education.

IV. Items Requiring Action:

Official Legislative Bill Recommendation to the SAC Executive Committee:

B. Sullivan made a motion to approve the following Legislative Bills with the committees' comments and recommendations to the Executive Committee:

- Bill 20
- Bill 5428
- Bill 326
- Bill 930
- Bill 1012
- Bill 6432

The motion was seconded by K. Musto and the motion passed unanimously.

B. Sullivan made a motion to extend the meeting until 4:00 PM to continue to discussing bill on the Legislative Committees Bill Tracking Report.

K. Musto seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

V. Adjournment

B. Sullivan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:00 PM.

K. Musto seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.