

**State Advisory Council on Special Education
Legislative Committee
DRAFT Minutes
Monday May 9, 2011, Regular Meeting**

I. Call to Order:

Chairperson Sullivan called the meeting to order at 4:11 PM

Present via conference call:

Stephanie Johnson

Informed Absence: Nancy Prescott

Kathy Musto

Kelly Neyra

Uswah Khan

Ben Strong

U. Khan had to end her call at 4:15

**II. Consideration of Minutes of
April 11, 2011 SAC Legislative Regular Meeting**

A motion was made and seconded by K. Musto to accept the minutes as written. Motion was passed with one member abstaining.

III. Report from the Chair

B. Sullivan reported that the Executive Committee had voted to have the Legislative Committee follow up with members with the General Assembly on amending SAC's membership state statute. This amendment would add three new members from the following agencies and organizations:

- Bureau of Rehabilitation Services
- Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with a Disability
- State of CT Parent Training Information Center (or CPAC)

B. Sullivan further reported that the Executive Committee was also following up on other recommendations as well, but wanted this committee to begin talking to Members of the Legislature for assistance on amending our membership statutes.

B. Sullivan and B. Strong were tentatively scheduled to visit the Capitol on May 18, 2011.

IV. Items for Discussion

S. Johnson updated the committee on Proposed Bill 1038 An Act Concerning Special Education Programs. The following are the concerns:

- Is inconsistent with the Individualized Education ACT (IDEA)
- Allows districts to place students in private schools without the parents consent.
- Relieves the responsibility of districts to provide special education services to students who are home schooled because of medical and mental health problems.
- Require districts to provide parents copies for only the first “initial evaluation” instead of *all* evaluations throughout the student’s school career.

S. Johnson made a motion to formally oppose this bill for the above listed reasons. The motion was seconded by K. Musto and passed unanimously.

B. Sullivan will write the draft letter and present it to the Chair J. Burke and the rest of the Executive Committee for approval.

Raised Bill 1138 - An Act Concerning Strengthening of School Bullying Laws

B. Sullivan presented the members with U. Kahn’s comments on this bill. The general comments from the committee are as follows:

- The intent of the bill is good
- There are concerns raised by committee members on enforcement – the bill is silent on penalties if school personnel do not properly report.
- Confusion between the proposed Bill and the Commissioner’s Circular Letter C-8 2008-2009 on the definition of “verified Bullying incident”. Is the Commissioner’s definition and the proposed law match?
- Should this be rolled into the CT State Performance Plan and create another indicator.

It was decided more research was necessary before a formal recommendation could be made to the Executive Committee. B. Sullivan tabled the matter until the following meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 PM