

**Connecticut State Advisory Council on Special Education**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Wednesday, January 20, 2016**  
**2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**  
**CT State Department of Education**  
**25 Industrial Park Road**  
**Middletown, CT 06457**

In Attendance:

Natalie Jones (CSDE)  
Isabelina Rodriguez (CSDE)  
Maureen Mason (parent)  
Charlyn Olko (parent)  
Kelly Neyra (parent)  
Beth Hart (teacher)  
Colin Milne (P & A)  
Jaquita Monroe (Judicial Department)  
Michael Nunes (Department of Correction)  
Lauren Halpin (Parent)  
Linda Adorno (SERC support)  
John Flanders (CPAC)  
Lynn Fogg-Cornelio (DDS)  
Sheila Crocker (parent)  
Several people on the phone:  
Kathy Musto-SLP  
Brian Klimkiewicz  
Chris Leone

Called @ 2:39 p.m.

- John Flanders was introduced as the new Executive Director from CPAC.
- Introductions around the room

**A. Election of officers**

- Charlyne Olko – explained the Nomination committee met on November 13<sup>th</sup> and again January 20<sup>th</sup> to present a Slate of Officers. The Nomination Committee has a slate to present however, the concern is that there may not be time for members not to offer other names as the slate was created on the same day of the SAC membership meeting.
- Kelly Neyra Motion to table election till next meeting – Second Charlyn Olko
- 13 in favor and motion passed

## **B. Minutes**

- Kelly Neyra Motion to revise the November 18<sup>th</sup> nominating committee meeting minutes-second Maureen Masson
  - Motion to revise the minutes from 11/18/15, Beth Hart originally nominated by the chair and then declined.
  - Motion to accept 11/18/15 minutes as amended
- Discussion regarding November minutes
  - Kelly motioned to accept November minutes as amended – Beth Second
  - 9 in favor 3 abstains
- **Motion passed**
  - Discussion – Regarding the June SAC minutes. Dr. Rodriguez explained she did not have those minutes, Linda Adorno then emailed the June 17 minutes to executive committee. They will therefore be available for the March meeting.

## **C. Report of chair**

- Parent survey results are in.
- John Flanders is taking over for Nancy Prescott

## **D. Report of Bureau**

### **Report of Bureau Chief:**

- Natalie Jones was introduced as Bureau liaison
- Dr. Rodriguez explained that Natalie, SERC, and Dr. Rodriguez will be working with SAC
- Dr. Rodriguez informed the SAC that Mr. Sergio Rodriguez will be the manager of the surrogate parent program, he has moved to Hartford and will be managing the surrogate program
- Mr. Jim Moriarty will be presenting the SSIP at the March meeting.
- Dr. Rodriguez has worked with GMA to plan future Survey report work.
- Hearing data.
  - Gail has come in the past to talk about it—not available this month—will talk to her about coming to the next meeting.
- Tom will be coming in March to discuss IDEA application grant

### **Discussion Items**

#### **A. Committee updates**

- Transition task force update. CT legislature has mandated a “Parent Right’s Brochure” and it is complete and in the pipeline for approval. Maureen spoke on Allison Lombardi’s presentation on envision IT
- School climate: made recommendations at last meeting and those stay the same, will be put into the SAC Annual report

#### **B. John Flanders CPAC**

- Introduced himself as the new Executive Director.

### **C. Office of Protection**

**Colin Milne**

- concerned about the state of transition in the state; cookie cutter program without individualization; districts are constantly retreating from individual programs and talking to the student about what they want to do; ID: transition plan of putting things in boxes; large systemic issue in the state (sheltered workshop)
- Interagency agreements: war between the districts, DCF, and DDS and the kids are losing out----- sometimes it is not always the school's fault (systemic)
- Wants state to do informal survey for the schools of how many are being hospitalized; are they getting educational services in the hospital? What's going on with the interplay of DCF and DDS
- One parent can get a different result than another parent in another district
- Service implementation, lack of individualization (autism)
- Inter- agency problem has been brought up to Dr. Isabelina and she has met with the commissioner regarding the issue.

### **D. Parent survey – Glenn Martin Assoc.**

- Rebecca Walker – Katie colleague
- 2014-25 results
- Providing a brief summary on survey
- Small tweaks have been made through- out the years
- OSEP changes Instead of 20 indicators it is down to 17 indicators
- Ms. Walker Reviewed power point
- Members asked if students over 18 received them. Ms. Walker explained parents and Surrogates receive them. Guardian must still agree if child is between 18-21
- Dr. Rodriguez explained that she has asked GMA to complete a trend analysis of the results over the past 10 years, so to improve the survey to determine:
  - Do we need to ask different questions? Should we try a different way to sample
  - Parents may feel there is no accountability for the districts
  - How do we reach out to the people who are under-represented
  - Parents who do not speak English may be trained not to question the district so results may not be accurate.
- Further discussion on questions resulted on the following responses from GMA
  - Some questions on the survey have been slightly tweaked.
  - Some words changed.
  - Suggestion for Question #22 should have an option of yes or no –
  - Suggestion for question to be revised into two separate questions.
  - Questions should be reframed so that it is simpler for parents to understand/read?
- Some members questioned why they were getting the results now to review and Ms. Walker explained the survey was sent out late, the results have just been received.

**E. PBIS and Indicator 4, Suspension and Expulsion                      Kim Traverso**

- Kim went through the three goals for the SCTG grant: creating a better system so they can have a better outcome. Explained that they are recruiting alliance districts and taking on three a year and providing them with in-house TA.
- Discussion about looking at different types of data. SWIS can track incident reports and see which teacher is filing them.
- Kim gave out a PBIS handout and a fact sheet about SPDG and a data sheet: SCTG website
- Kim explained that we have banner schools, but hard to get to that level, they can do show and tell.
- Currently working a new mission and 5 year strategic plan

**Adjournment**

- Kelly Neyra motioned to adjourn. Beth Hart second. All in favor and motion carried.
- Adjourned at 5:15 pm

Approved: March 16, 2016.