



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Connecticut State Advisory Council for Special Education

Wednesday, September 30, 2020

******* 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. *******

Zoom Virtual Meeting

(Conference Call Information included below)

MINUTES

Members Present: Jen Lussier, Jeffry Spahr, Nachi Bhatt, Mike Nunes, Brian Smith, Kim Williamson, Tom Cosker, Representative Comey, Bryan Klimkiewicz (non-voting), Jolie Medina (non-voting), Tammy Raccio (Chair), Tom Cosker (Past Chair), Susan Lemke, Marissa Mascolo-Halm, Missy Wrigley, Louis Tallarita, Tammy Raccio, Williamson Monica Hatton, Jane Hampton, Joan-Nicoll-Senft, Catherine Summ, Allison Kopie, Sonia Taylor-Smith, Kasey Considine, Doris Maldonado and Jake Shumbo.

Public Line: Patricia Nunez (Member)

Members Absent: Audra Mae Talbot, Jonathan Metcalf, Representative Barry, Jane Goundrey, Rick Raucci, Monica Hatton, Goviana Morales, Ana Wittig and Sean Cronin (SDE non-voting)

I. Call to Order and Welcome (1:00)

Called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm. by Tammy Raccio

II. Introductions/Roles/Welcome

III. Council Purpose and Function

Tammy reviews purpose and council functions.

IV. Public Comment (1:10) N/A

SAC meetings are public meetings; members of the public may participate by calling in:

- Call-In Number: 1-866-880-0098
- Participant Passcode: 89689633

Old Business

V. Executive Committee Report

Tammy appointed and recognized executive members: Tom Cosker (Past Chair), Susan Lemke, Nachi Bhatt. Catherine Summ has been appointed Chair of Membership/Nominating Committee whose members are Allison Kopie, Brian Smith and Missy Wrigley.

Legislative Committee will be chaired by Jeffry Spahr and members Monica Hatton, Doris Maldonado and Jeff talks about organization of the committee and expectations of the SDE and committee updates, contact with our legislative Liason, Laura Stefon.

a. Meeting Updates

Tammy talks about meeting and frequency of Executive Committee meetings moving forward meeting every other week.

b. Committee Appointments by Chair

Tammy appoints committee members and talks roles and committees briefly between executive report and this agenda item.

VI. Membership Committee Report

a. Vacancies

Jen Lussier announces a full slate of officers and will work off a wait list for interested members.

b. Recommendations for At-Large Vote:

i. Governor's Appointment Parent or Individual

ii. Parent Leadership Training Institute within the Commission on Women, Children and Seniors

New Business

VII. State Advisory Council Priorities 2020-21 (1:30)

a. Special Education Policies and Procedures Related to COVID-19

b. Best Practice Strategies Related to Remote Learning

Joan Nicole-Senft brought to the table an additional breakout topic and Jen and Tammy respond on how it can be rolled into the priority work she had been previously working on and still move forward with special education teacher shortage. Nachi Bhatt agrees that it can be discussed under the best practices group.

c. Least Restrictive Environment

VIII. Agency Updates (1:45)

Bryan discusses the purpose of round table and asks the Council to report.

Kasey Considine (Disability Rights) Discusses compensatory education how it should look if anyone has comments and suggestions regarding the aged out even though the decision was appealed and it will be a long process. Bryan says that SDE has been collaborating with all state agencies September 3 there was information released on this topic and eligibility.

Jane Hampton (CPAC) Talks masks and LRE concerns, large amount of numbers of reports of student/ parents not in communication with students. Awarded PTI grant and will continue to be CT parent information and training center. Bryan asks for information on no contact students because at this time there should be communication between districts and families.

Catherine Summ (ADS/ BESBE) ready to go live with specific program and is participating in a regional online training program available to visual and learning training and how to do it remotely. 6 weeks series and continuing to brainstorm on how to provide learning in this environment.

Allsion Kopie (ADS) Says level up services extended to 22 age and all staff teleworking but meeting with families and students through Teams or phones. Tom Cosker asks about hiring of people for assistance. Allison says they hired 10 SERC associated and has 2 level up counselor positions in Middletown and New Haven offices.

Susan Lemke (ConnCASE) Talks about representation of CT Directors and focus on coming together to assist CT districts and families. Making sure students with disabilities and parents are supported, making sense of PPTs and evaluations due to school closures, meeting timelines of services and supports for students with disabilities. Looks forward to continued work with colleagues and SAC.

Brian Smith (DDS) Collaboration amongst state agencies and others from DRS with Bk trying to coordinate how to respond to the change. As things evolved, getting things organized. Working with parents and families regarding aged out extension and transition for services up to age 22. Not only 300 to 400 for July 1 its all various start dates so work will be continuous. DDS day programs many are going into 75 percent capacity and some staying at 50. Fantastic news with Covid incidents and controlled containment. Made adjustments based on US district court and thanks other agencies.

Nachi Bhatt (DCF) A lot going on with agility to go virtual and to frame in their context. Trying to engage remotely with schools and trying to understand student and schooling situations based on child's needs and district offerings. Most districts have parent portal and social workers are engaging through there to follow up on student schooling. DCF is doing everything they can to ensure students with disability needs are met.

Mike Nunes (DOC) School is up n running detention centers & providers and carefully screening. All going well a few hiccups and quarantined. Went to virtual if could not do in person. Access to juvenile across national center for excellence. Challenge as being released to convert back with school. With all going on posed additional challenges.

IX. Parent Updates

Tom Cosker (Parent) talking mask issues and exemptions, transportation issues and testing/ assessments. How will this look? Also, talks implementation plans and districts not consistent across the state. Bryan thinks that break out session would be a good place to bring this to the table for further discussion.

Missy Wrigley (Parent) Her district is doing well. They go back to school on Monday, October 5. Has two twin students who will be returning, so far on her end she has district support and things are well. As a SERC rep continuing level up work.

Tammy Raccio (Parent) talks about her district and student quarantines and talks immediate implementation plans and had not even had the hybrid in place because it happened so quickly. Teachers trying to make sure models are available but not every plan is in place for every student. Suggests an extra day for teachers to be able to work only on implementation plans. Hosted their first parent support group with CPAC that went well and included implementation plans and review.

X. Special Education Division Director Report (2:15)

a. SSIP Feedback

Tammy mentions state systemic plan and asks if anyone has feedback please pass on to Tammy, Jolie and Bryan. Was looking at data online and saw that she had feedback on technology access.

b. Bureau of Special Education Update

Bryan talks current guidance being released, reviews current several current guidance issues such as LRE and masks, talks about BSE collaboration work, IEPs and new priority work.

XI. Action Items

Follow up on virtual meeting chat requests and connect on materials to be sent to full council by Bryan Klimkiewicz.

XII. Adjourn/Break (2:30)

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.

XIII. Priority Break Out: (3:00) Not a Public Meeting

- i. Special Education Policies and Procedures related to COVID-19
- ii. Best Practice Strategies Remote Learning
- iii. Least Restrictive Environment

State Advisory Council Meeting Dates/Locations:

Meeting	Date		Time	Location
1.	September 30, 2020		1:00-4:00	Virtual Meeting
2.	November 18, 2020 (Snow Date: Nov 25)		9:00-3:00	TBD
3.	January 13, 2021 (Snow Date: Jan 20)		9:00-3:00	TBD
4.	March 10, 2021 (Snow Date: March		9:00-3:00	TBD

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5.	May 12, 2021		1:00-5:00	TBD