



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Connecticut State Advisory Council for Special Education

Executive Committee

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

******* 12:15 p.m. to 1:00 p. m. *******
Teams Meeting

MINUTES

Members Present: Tom Cosker (Past Chair), Tammy Raccio (Chair), Jennifer Lussier (Vice-Chair), Bryan Klimkiewicz, Jolie Medina (SDE non-voting), Nachi Bhatt and Susan Lemke
Members Absent: Sean Cronin (SDE non-voting)

I. Call to Order:

Meeting called to order by Tammy at 12:20 pm.

II. Public Comment: N/A

SAC meetings are public meetings and members of the public may participate.
Call-In Number: 866-880-0098
Participant Code: 89689633

III. Council Matters:

Tammy begins discussing membership and nominating committees and member interest in filling roles.

Bryan and Tom respond to Tammy's concern on Legislative Committee and explain the roles of the members involved. It is a role that picks up in Feb to May during legislative session and making sure the members understand the expectations and commitment of the role. Bryan also mentions legislative he is aware of and wants the SAC to participate in responding.

Bryan and Tammy will not be attending next week's executive meeting.

Bryan talks from SDE perspective updates on guidance regarding transportation and masks. Tom

Tammy talks about Superintendents meeting yesterday at 8 am. Talks about the plans for accommodations that are being proposed in this reference regarding masks and students who cannot wear them or keep them on long.

Susan will have the feedback regarding mask questions to the SAC that will be reviewed at 9/30 meeting.

Bryan talks about Department of Health and districts being pleased with the options they have to continue educating depending on the circumstances with COVID related and reported situations at the districts.

Addendum 13 food and nutrition will be released soon. OEC has released guidance on pre-K and masks. In addition, he talks Governor's orders The SDE is shifting towards technical assistance but they are also waiting for districts to be able to report and he talks about the dynamics of this project. Talks about SDE plans to schedule sessions for assistance for school and district based levels.

Bryan responds to Tom about district concern and talks recent parent attorney concerns, after review by SDE there is no violation and many people used our guidance. There are concerns for the students that will need to be considered and he also talks about permission slips for parents for allowing the remote learning and allowing the IEP to support that learning.

State understand logistical issues regarding student quarantine and remote learning for a student who had been in class prior to diagnoses.

Tom and Jen talk about the fact that we are in a pandemic since March of 2020 and things need to be planned out by now and that the districts need to be following and implementing guidance. Susan talks intent and practical nature. Would like to see this get to the point where focus is heading back towards being about education and not all about compliance, which does distract educators from being efficient. Parent collaboration and agreement is important and likes detailed processed for implementing IEPs and student plans. Sue says that she may have misinterpreted but many districts have not taken this into consideration and they are behind. Very busy and focused on paperwork part of reopening. Jen talks about students not receiving services because of understaffed districts and kids who do not get what they need. Bryan responds talking about interruptions are going to happen no avoidance and talks about parent/ district communication, he goes on to talk about IEP implementation and what BSE reviews in complaints.

IV. Summary/Action Items:

Jolie sends updated member contact list to Tammy. Tammy and Jolie connect on minutes and SAC meeting reminder email for 9/30/20 meeting.

V. Adjourn:

Meeting adjourned at 1:02 pm.