



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
*STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION*



**Connecticut State Advisory Council for Special Education**

**Executive Committee**

**Wednesday, August 19, 2020**

**\*\*\*\*\* 12:15 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. \*\*\*\*\***

Microsoft Teams Meeting

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Tom Cosker (Past Chair), Tammy Raccio (Chair), Jen Lussier (Vice Chair), Nachi Bhatt, Susan Lemke, Bryan Klimkiewicz (Non-voting), Sean Cronin (Non-voting) and Jolie Medina (Non-voting)

**Members Absent:** Sean Cronin (Non-voting)

- I. Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by Tammy Raccio at 12:18 p.m.
- II. Public Comment:** N/A
- III. Council Matters:**

Bryan talks about learning model and implementation plan. Tom getting questions from parents and looking forward to guidance to assist parents with decisions. Tammy talks about special ed plans by district and how to make them available for all to access, Bryan will consult with ConnCASE on that request. Bryan has not seen detailed plans like Wallingford and Plainfield, no plan in place to post all detailed plans at this time. Tammy was under impression New Britain did 18 to 21 best practices that was put out for stakeholders to access. Tom responds that it is not easy for SDE to identify districts; Susan Lemke says more of a self-identification. Bryan mentions On SDE site districts can submit any topics but no requirements to do so, also unique situations and he would like to keep the request for all to access on the table and wants to see this happen (will discuss with RESCs). Tom talks about parent communication and references.

Susan in her role has done extensive work on getting out and sharing information as much as possible. Has met with SEPTO and talks about what Simsbury is doing regarding addendum 6 guidance.

Jen talks about the SAC feedback on addendum 6 on fall reopening. Questions on initial evaluation. Spelling error in document. How are schools to prioritize evaluations overall thought it was useful and clear guidance. Parent member worried about accessibility, phrase "greatest extent feasible" was not considered appropriate how used. BK –this is not IEP it is how it is being implemented but if changes being made then it has to be a PPT meeting.

Nachi says document is as detailed as can be and thanks everyone for his or her time working together, and asks for timeline on release. Bryan says directors were told to prioritize because not all

situations will be the same as far as implementation plans. There are webinars on sensible practices and social/emotional needs – per Nachi the group will need support. Also, talks about two-page parent document coming out but working with CPAC on document, which now may be three pages.

Bryan talks about the September 30 meeting and membership appointments for Jake Shumbo and by Steve Hernandez (Council for Women, Children and Seniors). He then consults with Tammy and others on priority topics including fall reopening, which happens prior to meeting and will be a hot topic. The group does not finalize agenda but starts to organize priority work and time schedule.

**IV. Action Items:**

Bryan to reach out to RESCs to consult on district reopening plans to be posted online for parents and other districts to access and Susan Lemke’s membership letter from ConnCASE.

**V. Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned by Tammy Raccio at 1:01 p.m.