



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



**Connecticut State Advisory Council for Special Education**

**Executive Committee**

**Wednesday, July 1, 2020**

**\*\*\*\*\* 12:30 p.m. to 1:15 p. m. \*\*\*\*\***

Microsoft Teams Meeting

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Tom Cosker, Jen Lussier, Bryan Klimkiewicz (Non-voting) Commissioner Miguel Cardona (CSDE Guest)

**Members Absent:** Jolie Medina, Sean Cronin and Margaret (Meg) Walsh

- I. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by Tom Cosker at 12:31 p.m.
- II. **Public Comment:** Commissioner Cardona thanked the SAC for their recommendations regarding students with disabilities for the re-opening plan, "Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together."
- III. **Council Matters:**

Tom Cosker thanked the Commissioner for the opportunity for the SAC to give stakeholder feedback for the plan. He gave the Commissioner a brief overview of the SAC's functions and diverse membership, encouraging him to continue to actively utilize the council for stakeholder feedback. Tom spoke of the importance of proactively and intentionally planning for students with disabilities from the beginning of planning for all students and not as an afterthought.

Commissioner Cardona excused himself from the meeting.

There was a discussion regarding the re-opening plan, and the need for additional special education guidance with clear expectations, standards and accountability measures. As school buildings re-open in the fall, timely assessment of students with disabilities and planning for recovery services should be a priority. Jen Lussier shared concerns that the lack of appropriate and well-defined special education timeline guidelines for assessing a student's loss in skills and individualized needs for additional or recovery services, there could be a significant delay in the provision of FAPE for students. She asked for consideration of the impact of such a delay on students with high needs, experiencing significant regression, who may have had access to remote educational opportunities, but because they were not appropriate for the student's individual learning needs, they did not have educational benefit from remote opportunities.

**Summary/Action Items:** Bryan and Jolie will follow up on membership appointment letters.

**Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned by Tom Cosker at 1:04 p.m.