



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Connecticut State Advisory Council for Special Education

Executive Committee

Wednesday, January 20, 2021

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

MINUTES

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

Members Absent: Sean Cronin (SDE non-voting) and Susan Lemke.

I. Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at 12:15 pm. by Tammy Raccio

II. Public Comment:

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

III. Council Matters:

Regroup about last week about next week membership and legislative meetings. Bryan talks about hearing good feedback from full Council on Tammy's presentation. Tammy goes on to talk about Mary Jean's presentation on Due Process and asks about the SAC's involvement with them. Bryan responds on the SAC assisting with submitting information to the federal government. He also talks about how the presentation can be revised at any time if the SAC would like to address particular themes, actions and follow-ups. Tom comments on presentation, what he found helpful and where we could consider future changes. Tammy asks about the Due Process complaints and why they are not online and Bryan responds in detail. Jen asks if complaints are considered public documents that anyone in the general public could request. It was a clarifying question to understand the need for redaction if it was a public administrative state complaint that anyone could get access to. Her purpose in asking to see if the SAC could request it as information needed (for example, like when the group has submitted forms while working in priority workgroups about data/info needed from CSDE). In response, Bryan provides suggestions on how to get the reports versus putting in a request through the Legal Office. Tammy says feels like there is a lot of redacting being done when there is a FOI and she feels there is a lot parents/districts can learn about writing complaints. Bryan

says that he thinks there should be a better approach than using final complaints as examples. Nachi talks about DCF and complaints, how the complaints help the families and then discusses a few points on why their legal office redacts information especially with confidentiality. Nachi goes on to talk about complaints, their helpfulness to the agency and parents but he knows resources create issues around that area. Bryan says the BSE is always thinking of ways to reduce complaints and claims. Says that it is important to get to the underlying issue of why parents file and compares CT to other states. We would not post complaints in the near future and Bryan cannot give any dates on that request. If necessary, they can form a subgroup that can advise and report the full SAC on Due Process.

Tom moves the meeting along to talk about the meeting and RoundTable. He received a few questions and so did Jen Lussier on reps from agencies who were a little confused on what to report out due to the new format they tried.

Tom talks about the distractions of the chat box and how it gets confusing. Nachi responds mentions how some of the challenges we face are part of a new way of meeting, which is online. He also provides suggestions on how to address that issue at future meetings. Tammy agrees with Nachi that they like the chat. They feel it is better to have people put information there versus interrupting the meeting with questions and comments.

Bryan talks about the meetings in general and the agenda, how did everything work out and should we be making any changes on meetings etc.?

Tom talks annual report due date and presentations to the State Board. Bryan responds to Tom and says the suggestions are acceptable and he will check on them with the SDE.

Bryan talks Legislative Committee logistics and suggests the group meet weekly for the next few weeks to discuss current legislation/SAC matters.

IV. **Summary/Action Items:**

Jolie to:

- Send full SAC final version of 2021 Special Education Annual Report and Due Process links as requested full Council meeting on January 13.
- Post report to SAC webpage.
- Schedule this group's meetings bi-weekly until March 3.
- Schedule Legislative meetings until mid-February.

V. **Adjourn:**

Meeting adjourned at 1:03 pm.