



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Connecticut State Advisory Council for Special Education

Membership Committee

Wednesday, January 13, 2021

******* 12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. *******
Teams Meeting

MINUTES

Members Present: M. Jeffry Spahr (Chair), Doris Maldonado, Monica Hatton, Jen Lussier (SAC Vice-Chair), Tom Cosker (Past Chair) and Bryan Klimkiewicz (SDE non-voting)

Members Absent: Sue Lemke and Rick Raucci

I. Call to Order:

Meeting called to order by Jeffry Spahr at 12:30 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. Dyslexia Task Force Report

a. Consideration of SAC Response

The Dyslexia Instruction and Training Task Force report (December 31, 2020) was briefly discussed. This report was provided to the Committee only shortly before the meeting. It was felt that additional time would be needed and devoted to reviewing the Report before Committee members would provide thoughtful commentary on its contents. The purpose of the review was so that the members could decide whether or not the Committee should or could register its support for the Task Force's findings and recommendations. It was agreed that the members would review the Report and provide informed feedback by no later than Friday, January 22, 2021 (focus could be given to the 'Charges with Findings & Articulated Recommendations' at pp.7- 15).

IV. 2021 Legislative Session Logistics

- a. Committee Communications
- b. Committee Responses

Committee Procedural Strategies are as follows.

At the outset, a discussion was held reviewing the means of and channels for communication by and between the Committee, the Director and the various legislative contacts. The need for timely and contextualized notice of proposed and/or pending legislation was emphasized. One channel for this information would be through communications between the Director and Laura Stefon, Legislative Liaison, of the CSDE. She will communicate in a timely manner with the Director, who will pass on these communications to the members of the Legislative Committee.

The desirability of receiving information from outside sources (such as advocacy groups) was also recognized. In all, it was deemed best that as much information be gathered from a variety of reputable sources.

The role of the Legislative Committee after the receipt of this information was also discussed. Generally, the Committee could assign a value of #1 to that proposed legislation that it felt should be supported by the Committee, a value of #2 to that legislation that the Committee expressed neutral support of, and a value of #3 to that legislation opposed by the Committee.

It was also acknowledged that the members of the SAC were diverse and, as such, may have multiple and diverse viewpoints and interests – all of which should be acknowledged and considered whenever a recommendation on a piece of legislation is to be given.

The speed with which the legislation may be announced and acted on was discussed. Consequently, the need for fast action on the part of the Committee was recognized. As a result, it was determined that thoughtful recommendations from the Committee would be made without the need to have the full body of the Council vote and approve such recommendations.

V. Action Items:

VI. Adjourn:

The Legislative Committee was adjourned as the members were called back to the general meeting of the Council at around 1:30pm