



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Connecticut State Advisory Council for Special Education

Full SAC In-Person Meeting

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

******* 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. *******

Zoom Virtual Meeting: Member Participation

YouTube Live Stream: Public Participant Viewing

<https://youtube.com/live/FullSACMeeting091323>

(Conference Call Information included below)

MINUTES

Members Present:) Sean Cronin (non-voting), Jolie Medina (non-voting), Susan Yankee (Chair), Joshua Martin, Jane Hampton Smith, Catherine Summ (Membership Chair), Jeffry Spahr (Legislative Chair), Jennifer Lussier (Vice Chair), Kim Williamson, Ana Wittig, Brian K. Smith, Missy Wrigley, Jonathan Metcalf, Denise Drummond, Lori Fortuna, Allison Kopie, Amy Messinger, Goviana Morales, Jake Shumbo, Cassandra Reilly, Dimpy Malvania, Rep. Robin Comey and Tammy Raccio.

Members Absent: Bryan Klimkiewicz (non-voting), Louis Tallarita, Mia Giantonio, Nachi Bhatt, Nancy DeCrescenzo, Tom Cosker, Tylar Young, Thomas Melillo, Lena Esposito, Michael Scanlon and Marisa Mascolo-Halm (At-Large)

I. Call to Order and Welcome (9:00 a.m.)

Susan Y. calls meeting to order at 9:01 am.

II. Introductions/Roles

The members introduce themselves.

III. Public Comment (9:10 a.m.) N/A

SAC meetings are public meetings; members of the public may participate by calling in:

- Call-In Number: 1-866-880-0098
- Participant Passcode: 89689633

*Susan Y. goes over Council purpose and functions

IV. Consent Agenda

Jennifer Lussier should be Vice Chair

Remove extra comma by Tom Cosker

Round Table - Bryan K. response incomplete.

Kim W. not at meeting

Motion to approve with edits by Jennifer L. and Goviana M. seconds motion.

Those not in attendance abstain and all others in favor.

a. July 19, 2023, Full Council Minutes

Old Business

I. Executive Committee Report

a. 2023-24 Council Meeting Dates

Susan Y. discusses dates and locations.

May date is no longer tentative.

After Council review Jolie M. will post meeting dates on the website.

Rep. Comey responds to Susan Y.'s question on the best time for a Legislative breakfast. She comments that we can meet during or outside of session and that after February will be ideal.

Jolie M. can connect with Senator Comey on meeting space for October 25.

Brian K. Smith offers space in a Department of Developmental Services office in Wallingford.

b. Round Table Resource / Procedures for Communications

Susan Y. reviews with the Council.

c. 2023-24 Committee Sign-up and Appointments

Susan Y. has Committee chairs review the purpose and function of committees.

Jolie M. will send out link for padlet sign-up after meeting.

i. Legislative Committee

Jeff S. comments

ii. Membership Committee

Catherine S. comments

iii. Nominating Committee

Should be a part of membership as they are now combined committees.

iv. Ad Hoc Committee: Dispute Resolution

Sean C. briefly comments.

d. 2023-24 SAC Workgroups

i. Least Restrictive Environment

Susan Y. to ask Bryan K. to distribute the notes from July 19 meeting.

ii. Restraint and Seclusion

Is it going LRE or is it going under a different group? Jennifer L. mentions Social Emotional and Mental Health.

Sean C. will check with Bryan K.

II. Membership Committee Report (9:35 a.m.)

Catherine S. reviews who new members are. John King (student), Joshua Martin (ConnCASE), Representative Robin Comey (General Assembly) and Mary Beth (Higher Ed)

Updating Legislative flyer for Representative vacancies.

III. Legislative Committee Report (9:40 a.m.)

Jeffrey S. talks restraint seclusion and education committee.

New Business

IV. Council Priority Review (9:45 a.m.)

V. Round Table (10:00 a.m.)

a. Agency/Parent Updates

Susan Y. (Parent) Educational audiologist talks language communication plans and IEP. Not being consistently done.

Missy W. (Parent) Talks committees she sits on – introduction to high school meeting for 8th graders. Mentions student success plans and resources. Meetings will be in person this year.

Cassandra R. (Charter) Discusses funding and the challenges of the affects on the school functions due to school staffing, related services, and school psychologist. Do not have specific testing yet and it is concerning regarding language services. Appreciates support and problem-solving suggestions.

Bryan K. Smith (Department of Developmental Services -DDS) Thanks SDE for funds just received for additional supports to families and youth in CT. Additional funds for after school programs received as well. Talks legislation passing and shifting of aging out processes for the agency – transition into adult services. Lots of collaboration with many agencies such as Bureau of Rehabilitation Services, looking to targeting youth.

Catherine S. (BESBE) In process of planning fall in service trainings – in a different place than last year and now is fully staffed. Hopeful to add additional positions and analyzing budget/staffing needs. Has events planned for students and families.

Jennifer L. (Parent) Talks paraeducators and decrease in staff. One district she spoke with started the year fully staffed and soon after lost most of the staff due to pay. Pay rate needs to be looked at and a minimum wage implemented.

Tammy R. (Parent) Mentions change in age for children starting Kindergarten and challenges it creates due to children now needing to be 5 by start of September. Says that their can be Legislative work in the area of not sending a kid backwards after two years in preschool – will cause regression.

Jane Hampton Smith (CPAC) mentions upcoming events, has an Equity event with 10 different language translators available. Very busy with back-to-school parent calls.

VI. Special Education Division Director Report – Sean C. reviews for Director Bryan K.

- a. 2023 Legislative Session New Requirements
- b. Back to School Summary

VII. Adjourn (10:30 am.)

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.

Jake S. makes motion to adjourn and Missy W. seconds. All in favor.

State Advisory Council Meeting Dates/Locations:

Meeting	Date	Time	Location
1.	September 13, 2023	9:00-10:30 pm	Virtual Meeting
2.	October 25, 2023	9:00-1:00 pm	In-Person Meeting Location: TBD
3.	November 29, 2023	9:00-10:30 pm	Virtual Meeting
4.	January 17, 2024	9:00-1:00 pm	In-Person Meeting Location: TBD
	January 24, 2024		Snow Date
5.	February 28, 2024	9:00-10:30 am	Virtual Meeting
6.	March 27, 2024	9:00-10:30 am	Virtual Meeting
7.	April 24, 2024	9:00-1:00 pm	In-Person Meeting Location: TBD
8.	May 22, 2024	9:00-10:30 am	Virtual Meeting