



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Connecticut State Advisory Council for Special Education

Full SAC In-Person Meeting

Wednesday, July 19, 2023

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

**Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS)
30 Realty Dr. Cheshire, CT 06410**

Zoom Virtual Meeting: Member Participation

YouTube Live Stream: Public Participant Viewing

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Special-Education/CT-State-Advisory-Council-for-Special-Education/Meeting-Agendas/July-19-2023-Full-Council>

(Conference Call Information included below)

Minutes

Members Present: Bryan Klimkiewicz (non-voting), Sean Cronin (non-voting), Jolie Medina (non-voting), Susan Yankee (Chair), Joshua Martin, Jane Hampton Smith, Nachi Bhatt, Catherine Summ, Jennifer Lussier (Vice Chair), Tom Cosker, Mia Giantonio, Lena Esposito, Ana Wittig, Brian K. Smith, Missy Wrigley, Jonathan Metcalf, Denise Drummond, Lori Fortuna, Jeffry Spahr, Allison Kopie, Louis Tallarita, Michael Scanlon and Tylar Young.

Guest: Clara McKoy (BSE Intern)

Members Absent: Nancy DeCrescenzo, Kim Williamson, Amy Messinger, Goviana Morales, Thomas Melillo, Jake Shumbo, Cassandra Reilly, Dimpy Malvania, Tammy Raccio, and Marisa Mascolo-Halm (At-Large)

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

Meeting called to order at 9:09 a.m. by Susan Yankee.

II. Introductions/Roles

In-person and Zoom members introduce themselves and state their roles.

III. Council Purpose and Function

Susan Yankee reviews the purpose and function of

IV. 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

Old Business

Motion to add April 26, 2023 Council meeting minutes made by Susan Y. Tom C. makes motion and Jane Hampton Smith seconds. All in favor.

Motion to make edits to Consent Agenda. Missy W. makes motion and Catherine S. seconds.

Joshua M., Allison K. and Denise D. abstain due to attendance. All other members in favor.

I. Membership Committee Report (9:15 a.m.)

a. Attendance Update

More attendees during

b. Membership Update

i. Higher Education Representative / ConnCASE / Student (Recommendations/Vote)

Bryan K. introduces Mary Beth Bruder, who is unable to attend. Nachi B. makes motion and Tom C. seconds. All in favor of appointment.

The Council welcome Director Joshua Martin (ConnCASE), Jennifer L. makes motion and Jane S. seconds all in favor of appointment.

Catherine S. introduces student for consideration, John M and Lena E. seconds. All in favor of appointment of John King.

c. Slate of Officers Proposal (Vote)

Catherine S. announces the slate of officers, Susan Y. for Chairperson and Jennifer L. for Vice Chair. The members vote anonymously. Unanimous decision made.

The Council members thank Susan Y. and Jennifer L. for their leadership on the SAC.

II. Executive Committee Report (9:30 a.m.)

a. Special Education Task Force Update

Susan Y. updates members on the last meeting, where Commissioner Russell-Tucker was in attendance. Focus of discussion on attracting and supporting teachers. Bryan K. adds change in legislation regarding preliminary reports.

b. By-Law Revisions

Susan Y. reviews briefly reviews with members, asks for members to make motion to approve revisions for paraeducator role SAC appointment. Missy W. makes a motion and Jennifer L. seconds. All in favor of approval.

The Council discusses revisions further.

Reminder of 2023-24 Meeting Dates

The members talk about calendar invites. Jolie M. to send calendar meeting holds. Tom C. makes a suggestion to

Jane S. comments about being mindful of audio when at the Legislative Office Building.

Missy W. provides options on how to participate via Zoom when having hybrid meetings.

Jolie M. advised that the SDE meeting rooms have overheard microphones to take care of audio inconveniences.

c. Annual Report Timeline for 2023-24

Susan Y. and Bryan K. talk about dates and plan for the new annual report.

Susan Y. reviews what the annual report is, the purpose of report and who it goes to.

Tom C. add that it is good practice and the benefits/planning of sharing the Legislative Information Flyer.

Bryan K. responds to member questions, then provides a brief update on the BSE Back to School meeting scheduled for September 8, 2023, at the Connecticut Convention Center

III. Legislative Committee Report (10:00 a.m.)

a. 2023 Legislative Update

Bryan K. reviews PowerPoint slide with members on Public Act 23-167.

Jeff S. responds on internship programs. Bryan K. will get him information on that, the SDE is working through details and logistics of programs at this current time. Adds comment on American Sign Language being included.

Tom C. talks about funding.

Missy W. mentions the Coalition

Bryan K. talks about Due Process and the hiring and procedures for new mediators. Also, talks audits and general monitoring supports system. Awareness of priorities and results being shifted. Basic requirements are consistent and CT does an excellent job on compliance outside of during Covid.

Adjourn (10:30 am.)

Susan Y. makes motion to adjourn. Joshua M. makes motion Jonathan Metcalf seconds.

Meeting adjourned at 11:11 am.

State Advisory Council Meeting Dates/Locations:

Meeting	Date	Time	Location
1.	September 28, 2022	9:00-12:00 pm	Virtual Meeting
2.	October 26, 2022	9:00-10:30 am	Virtual Meeting
3.	November 30, 2022	9:00-1:00 pm	Legislative Office Building: Hartford, CT
4.	January 11, 2023	9:00-1:00 pm	Change to Virtual Meeting
5.	February 22, 2023	9:00-10:30 am	Virtual Meeting
6.	March 29, 2023	9:00-10:30 am	Virtual Meeting
7.	April 26, 2023	9:00-1:00 pm	In-Person Meeting
8.	May 24, 2023	9:00-10:30 am	Cancelled
	July 19, 2023 (May 24 Reschedule)	9:00-10:30 am	In-Person / Virtual 30 Realty Dr. Cheshire, CT 06410