



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



**Connecticut State Advisory Council for Special Education**

**Full SAC Virtual Person Meeting**

**Wednesday, September 18, 2024**

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

**Zoom Virtual Meeting: Member Participation**

**Public Participant Viewing**

**[https://youtube.com/live/SAC\\_Full Council Meeting 091824](https://youtube.com/live/SAC_Full_Council_Meeting_091824)**

(Conference Call Information included below)

**Minutes**

**Members Present:** Susan Yankee (Chair), Tom Cosker, Representative Robin Comey, Mary Beth Bruder, Missy Wrigley, Jane Hampton, Catherine Summ (Membership Chair), Dawn Dickau, Joshua Martin, Lena Esposito, Jennifer Lussier, Jolie Medina (non-voting), Nachi Bhatt, Tom Cosker, Jake Shumbo, Denise Drummond, Kimberly Williamson, Allison Kopie, Goviana Morales, Jeffry Spahr, Lori Fortuna, Representative Comey, Mary Beth Bruder, Luis Tallarita, Ana Wittig and Brian Smith.

**Members Absent:** Sean Cronin (non-voting), Tylar Young, Amy Messinger, Jonathan Metcalf, Goviana Morales, Cassandra Reilly, Michael Scanlon, Dimpy Malvania, Rita Halkias, Mia Giantonio and Nancy DeCrescenzo.

**Guest:** Christine Kuehlewind and Holli Ryan (SERC)

**I. Call to Order and Welcome**

(9:00a.m.)

Susan Y. calls meeting to order at 9:02 am.

**II. Purpose and Functions of the Council**

Susan Y. reviews with Council.

**III. Introductions/Roles**

Members and guests introduce themselves.

**IV. Public Comment (9:05 a.m.) No comment**

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

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

**V. Consent Agenda**

- a. May 22, 2024, Full Council Minutes for Approval Jake S. makes motion and Joshua M. seconds Denise D. Abstains. All others in favor
- b. All in favor of moving July 10 SAC Meeting Minutes to the October Council meeting.

Tom Cosker and Brian K. Smith seconds. Denise D. abstains. All in favor of approval.

**Old Business**

**I. Executive Committee Report (9:15 a.m.)**

a. Executive Committee Activities

i. Special Education Task Force Update

Change agenda and website January – in person meetings are 10 am to 2 pm to accommodate and increase members' attendance.

Asking Subcommittee Chairs to create a checklist of their procedures,

Susan Y. asks Rep. Comey when to meet at LOB for Legislative Breakfast – she recommended we meet in January.

**II. Membership Committee Report (9:30 a.m.)**

Catherine S. notifies members and

One parent and three student vacancies. Asks for members to encourage students who meet criteria to apply.

Susan Y. asks about updating the membership survey. Catherine S. responds to say that will take place at our next membership meeting.

**New Business**

**I. Round Table (9:35 a.m.)**

a. Agency/Parent Updates

Catherine S. (BESBE-ADS) Talks about staffing and hiring new teachers, mentions teaching certifications – tricky hiring people from other states, talks a specific individual was doing their part but delayed by employer. Says there is a little bit of a glitch in the certification process and is willing to work with Certification Bureau. Wanted to share that while prioritizing staffing, it means they have less funds to spend on supplies for their braille students.

Lori F. (Parent) Discusses unified sports. Asks if there is a way to “soften” the rules of engaging. They are not allowed to pay in the high school and parents are having a hard time finding programs due to funds.

- Susan Y. responds and mentions Olympic funds. Tom C. provides a brief description of how those funds can work and suggests that Lori connect with him for more information.

Missy W. (Parent) Hoping there will be more conversations on Transition. Working on new legislation and transition programs.

Jeffrey S. (Parent) October is ADHD Awareness Month. Their will be a proclamation by the Governor and event at Norwalk Public Library with educational materials available.

## II. BSE Update (10:00 a.m.)

- Back to School Summary

## III. Priorities and Recommendations

## IV. Action Items:

Outline task force

Outline of priorities

Corrected 2024-24 SAC meeting in person schedule

Send meeting PowerPoint to Members

Data requests – break down of LRE by disability category against grade level.

Differentiation of placement, and seclusion rates by facility.

## V. Adjourn (10:30 a.m.)

Missy makes motion to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 10:31 am.

### **State Advisory Council Meeting Dates/Locations:**

Meeting	Date	Time	Location
1.	September 18, 2024	9:00-10:30 pm	Virtual Meeting
2.	October 16, 2024	10:00-2:00 pm	CREC, 111 Charter Oak Avenue Room 202, Hartford, CT
3.	November 20, 2024	2:00-3:30 pm	Virtual Meeting
4.	January 15, 2025	10:00-2:00 pm	TBD
5.	February 26, 2025	10:00-2:00 pm	TBD
6.	March 26, 2025	9:00-10:30 am	Virtual Meeting
7.	April 23, 2025	10:00-2:00 pm	TBD
8.	May 21, 2025	9:00-10:30 am	Virtual Meeting