



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Connecticut State Advisory Council for Special Education

Full SAC In-Person Meeting

**Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06103
Hearing Room 1D
Wednesday, January 24, 2024**

******* 10:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. *******

Zoom Virtual Meeting: Member Participation

Live Stream: Public Participant Viewing
<https://ct-n.com/SACfullCouncil012424>

(Conference Call Information included below)

Minutes

Members Present: Nachi Baht, Thomas Cosker, Jennifer Lussier (SAC Vice Chair), Mia Giantonio, Thomas Melillo, Jonathan Metcalf, Amy Messinger, Goviana Morales, Jeffry Spahr, Susan Yankee (SAC Chair), Ana Wittig, Sean Cronin (SDE non-voting) and Bryan Klimkiewicz (non-voting)

Virtual Members: Missy Wrigley, Joshua Martin, Jane Hampton, Kim Williamson, Louis Tallarita and Lena Esposito

Guest: Alycia Trakas and Michael Tavernier (BSE Education Consultant)

Members Absent: Jolie Medina (SDE non-voting), Mary Beth Bruder, Matias Casanova, Nancy DeCrescenzo, Dawn Dickau, Denise Drummond, Lori Fortuna, John King, Allison Kopie, Dimpy Malvania, Tammy Raccio, Cassandra Reilly, Michael Scanlon, Jake Shumbo, Brian Smith and Tylar Young

I. Call to Order and Welcome (10:15 a.m.)

Susan Y. calls meeting to order at 10:30 am.

II. Introductions/Roles

SAC members and guests introduce themselves.

III. Public Comment (10:20 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

IV. Consent Agenda

- a. November 29, 2023, Full Council Minutes for Approval

Motion made by Tom C. and seconded by Goviana M. All in favor.

Old Business

I. Executive Committee Report (10:30 a.m.)

- a. Comments on Legislative Breakfast

Members discuss the outcome of the Legislative Breakfast held prior to the full Council meeting.

- b. Discussion of Annual Report

Members briefly discuss the Annual Report.

- c. Update on Special Education Task Force

Susan Y. provides update on meetings.

II. Membership Committee Report (11:15 a.m.)

Catherine S. provides an update on membership matters.

III. Legislative Committee Report (11:20 a.m.)

Jeffrey S. provides an update on Legislative matters.

New Business

IV. BSE Update (11:30 a.m.)

Alycia Trakas and Michael Tavernier present for the Council.

- a. SPP/APR Improvement Activities

V. Round Table (12: 30 p.m.)

- a. Agency/Parent Updates

Members provide updates and share information on the following:

- Special education policies and legislation in Connecticut.
- Advocacy for special education in a legislative breakfast.
- Special education resources and awareness.
- Special education priorities and recommendations for Connecticut.
- Early entry to kindergarten for students with disabilities.
- Special education funding and inequities in early childhood programs.
- Improving support for general education teachers working with students with disabilities.

- Early childhood education funding and collaboration.
- Inclusive education for students with disabilities.
- Special education priorities and collaboration.
- Involving parents in special education.
- Parent involvement in special education with a focus on communication and relationships.
- Investigations for child abuse after age 18.
- Importance of informal meetings for students and parents.
- Special education legislation and committee work.
- Prioritizing legislative asks for upcoming session.
- Special education plan and reading results for students with IEPs.
- Improving student outcomes in Connecticut schools.
- Improving student outcomes for IEPs and preschoolers.
- Special education data analysis and least restrictive environments.
- Improving student outcomes in special education.
- Special education training and resources.
- School choice and parental preferences.
- Partnership between private schools and districts.
- Parent involvement and engagement in special education.
- Improving parent survey response rate.
- Education and training in Ghana.
- Special education indicators and parent engagement.
- Engaging parents in special education decision-making.
- Parent engagement in education.
- Parent engagement and trust in schools.
- Fishing and welfare.
- Improving reading results for students with disabilities in Connecticut.
- Literacy initiatives for students with disabilities.
- Disability rights and advocacy initiatives.

VI. Adjourn (1:00 p.m.)

Missy W. makes motion and Jeffry S. seconds.

Meeting adjourned at 12:58 pm.

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: CREC, Charter Oak Avenue, Hartford, CT |
| 3. | November 29, 2023 | 9:00-10:30 pm | Virtual Meeting |
| | January 17, 2024 | | Cancelled |
| 4. | January 24, 2024 | 10:00-1:00 pm | In-Person Meeting Location: Legislative Office Building, Hartford, CT 06103 |
| 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 (Tentative) |
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