



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Connecticut State Advisory Council for Special Education

Full SAC Virtual Person Meeting

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

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

Zoom Virtual Meeting: Member Participation

Public Participant Viewing

<https://www.youtube.com/SACfullCouncil 052224>

(Conference Call Information included below)

Minutes

Members Present: Susan Yankee (Chair), Catherine Summ (Membership Chair), Dawn Dickau, Bryan Klimkiewicz (SDE non-voting), Jennifer Lussier (Vice Chair), Tom Cosker, Kim Williamson, Joshua Martin, Lori Fortuna, Jeffrey Spahr (Legislative Chair), Brian Smith, Nachi Bhatt, Michael Scanlon, Jonathan Metcalf, Missy Wrigley, Jolie Medina (non-voting), Louis Tallarita, Jake Shumbo, Lori Fortuna, Alison Kopie and Jane Hampton

Members Absent: Mary Beth Bruder, Mia Giantonio, Nancy Decrescenzo, Amy Messinger, John King, Tommy Melillo, Ana Wittig, Dimpy Malvania, Lena Esposito, Tammy Raccio and Denise Drummond

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

Susan Y. calls meeting to order at 9:04 am.

II. Purpose and Functions of the Council

Susan Y. reviews with members.

III. Introductions/Roles

Member introductions and roles.

IV. Public Comment (9:05 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

V. Consent Agenda

- a. April 24, 2024, Full Council Minutes for Approval

Motion made by Missy W. and seconded by Jake S. Allison K. abstains, all others in favor with corrections.

Old Business

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

Susan Y. provides update.

- a. Executive Committee Activities

- i. Special Education Task Force Update

- ii. Summer Retreat and 2024 Schedule

Bryan K., Susan Y. and Missy W. review the poll sent to members with proposed dates of July 10, July 17 and July 18. The date will be finalized during the Executive Committee workgroup following this meeting.

- iii. Ad-Hoc Student Safety in Emergencies Committee Report

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

Catherine S. (Chair) provides updates. Thanks committee members for attending.

- a. Updates

Attendance this year looks good. Reviews vacancies – student members will be graduating.

- b. Membership Acknowledgements

Acknowledges members who are leaving: Tammy Raccio, Former Chair. Tommy Melillo and John King – received citations (read to the Council) from the General Assembly,

III. Nominating Committee

Susan Y. asks for a motion to add the Nominating Committee to the agenda items.

Joshua M. makes motion and Jake S. seconds. All in favor.

Brian S. (Chair) reviews member nominations poll results for Chair and Vice Chair with the Council.

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

Bryan K. provides an update on Jeffry S. (Chair) absence.

New Business

I. Round Table (9:45 a.m.)

- a. Agency/Parent Updates

Lori Fortuna (Parent) Updates the members on outplacements (mentions High Roads). Parents are unaware of poorly performing outplacements, resulting in issues for the family down the line. Needs a system in place to avoid this from happening and allowing parents to have accurate information. Bryan K. responds that the SDE has school findings on the website.

Jennifer L. (Parent) Student discipline and manifestation issues, changes in placement before trying options to keep them in the Least Restrictive Environment. Mentions behaviors and suggests that districts have more training to ensure following protocols.

Susan Y. asks members about budget shortages and if they are hearing about impacts of these shortages.

- Jane H. responds that staff at CPAC is concerned but parents do not really call about a global issue to lack of understanding what it really means. Asks Bryan K. about maintenance of efforts.
- Tom C. expects that next year will hear more of the impact of budget cuts. Once the parents see impacts on budget cuts.

II. BSE Update (10:15 a.m.)

Bryan K. (Division Director) provides an update.

- a. Early Childhood Outcomes (Indicator 3) Initiative

III. Priorities and Recommendations End of Year Overview

IV. Adjourn (10:30 a.m.)

Meeting adjourned at 10:32 am.

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: (CAPSS) 26 Caya Ave, West Hartford, CT 06110
8.	May 22, 2024	9:00-10:30 am	Virtual Meeting