



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Connecticut State Advisory Council for Special Education

Executive Committee

Date: March 21, 2025

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Virtual Zoom Meeting:

<https://ctserc.zoom.us/j/96815151746?pwd=uZAYgyewPyH0gsIIM7oXvVchXUaOVR.1>

Meeting ID: 968 1515 1746

Passcode: 405576

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Susan Yankee, Jennifer Lussier, Jeffry Spahr, Nachi Bhatt, Catherine Summ, Tom Cosker

Members Absent:

SERC Representatives: Christine Kuehlewind, Holli Ryan

CSDE Representatives: Sean Cronin, Bryan Klimkiewicz (Absent)

I. Call to Order: (9:31 am)

- a. Public Comment: No public comment at this time

II. Consent Agenda: (9:32 am)

- a. Approval of Executive Committee Minutes from February 19, 2025- motion to approve the minutes as written for February 19, 2025; Nachi motion; Catherine seconds; vote unanimous

III. Tow Institute (9:33 am)

- Introductions of SAC executive committee members and Tow guest presenters
- TOW has legislative recommendations in House Bills 6951 & 7109
- Identified need to alignment and intersect with other committees, including SAC, to ensure non- duplication of the work
- Services and system infrastructure, prevention
- Looking for SAC members to join TOW workgroups
- TOW will send information about the workgroups



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



- TCB ad hoc committee will be formed to monitor policy at federal level and what impact will look like; TOW will forward information to Susan and Jennifer

IV. Committee Matters: (9:45 am)

a. Executive Matters

i. SAC 3/26/2025 agenda planning

- Discussion of priorities and recommendations document; possibly not until April meeting
- Update on TOW Institute and Unified Sports- SY and TC
- Ad Hoc By-law procedures- SY
Will need 3 members in addition to Susan; Catherine wanted to join
(one more member from full SAC- reminder to Holli)
- CSDE updates- Sean will check-in with Bryan
Full SAC members- any update on CSDE status and federal funding
- Roundtable
- Membership, legislative, nominating committee on the agenda with updates as action item

ii. Unified Programming update

T.C. and SY

- Special Olympics CT- met to discuss collaboration with SAC, specifically how SAC can help Special Olympics CT spread the word on Unified Programming in districts, community-based programs, and other areas; recommendation to create a one-page flyer to disseminate

iii. Housekeeping items

- SAC Website- minutes posted on website
- SAC meeting recording/posting update
- May SAC meeting- might not be needed

b. Membership Updates: (10:15 am)



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



- New legislative member to SAC is Dan Gaiewski- Representative who was appointed to SAC on March 4th; SAC now has 2 legislative members
- Motion to go into executive session to discuss new student member to SAC; Nachi motions
- SAC executive committee moves out of executive session; motion to move student candidate forward for full council to consider for SAC full council member; Jennifer puts into motion; Nachi seconds; vote unanimous in favor

c. Legislative Updates:

- Review of potential bills or movement to discuss in legislative workgroup

d. Nominating Updates:

- Susan would like to add opening up the chairperson's position; Jennifer would like to add opening up the vice chairperson's position

V. Action Items:

TOW Institute- strategic plan, workgroup info (Susan)

Ad Hoc email description (Susan)

Follow-up Unified for one pager (Tom)

Adjourn: Catherine motions to adjourn at 10:31 am