



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



**Connecticut State Advisory Council for Special Education**

**Full SAC Virtual Meeting**

**Wednesday, January 15, 2025**

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

**Zoom Virtual Meeting: Member Participation**

**YouTube Live Stream: Public Participant Viewing**  
**<https://youtube.com/live/mF-d2QuEcbw?feature=share>**

(Conference Call Information included below)

**Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Susan Yankee (Chairperson), Jennifer Lussier (Vice Chairperson), Jeffrey Spahr (Legislative Committee Chairperson), Catherine Summ (Membership Committee Chairperson), Amy Messinger, Ana Wittig, Brian K. Smith, Denise Drummond, Dimpy Malvania, Goviana Morales, Jake Shumbo, Jonathan Metcalf, Kim Williamson, Lena Esposito, Louis Tallarita, Nachi Bhatt, Rita Halkias, Representative Robin Comey, Tom Cosker, Tylar Young, Stacey Palker, Brandalyn Williams

**Members Absent:** Jane Hampton Smith, Allison Kopie, Allyson Brunetti, Cassandra Reilly, Dawn Dickau, Joshua Martin, Mia Giantonio, Michael Scanlon IV, Missy Wrigley, Nancy DeCrescenzo, Lori Fortuna, Mary Beth Bruder

**CSDE Representation:** Sean Cronin & Bryan Klimkiewicz

**SERC Administrative:** Christine Kuehlewind & Holli Ryan (absent)

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

Susan Y. calls meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.; reminder of using acronyms to say what the acronym fully means.

Susan Y. motions to move the Annual Report Overview from BSE Update to Executive Committee, Jennifer L. motions, Catherine S. seconds, unanimous in favor.

**II. Council Purpose and Function**

Susan Y. reviews with members

**III. Introductions/Roles**

Members: introductions and roles

**IV. Public Comment (9:05 a.m.)** No one participated for call in for public comment

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

Call In: 646 931 3860

Meeting ID: 961 9895 7111

Participant Code: 424916

**V. Consent Agenda**

a. November 20, 2024, Full Council Minutes for Approval

Motion made by Jake S. and seconded by Tom C., all in favor with corrections; Brian S., Denise D, Tylar Y., and Stacey P. abstains

**Old Business**

**VI. Executive Committee Report (9:10 a.m.)**

- LOB Legislative “breakfast” Update

Representative Comey flyer out to legislators with positive responses coming back, encourages full council members to send out to their legislatures, thanks Holli and Christine from SERC for the collaboration to make this breakfast happen. She reached out to Special Education Task Force for the legislative breakfast, especially reaching out to Representative Mahan Khan (Chair of Special Education Task Force). The task force is working to identify needs with consideration on how to improve funding.

Susan Y. reminds full council members of date/time/location of LOB legislative breakfast with logistics and possible arrival time. Reviews the format of the breakfast with SAC information that will be available. Thanks Representative Comey and staff, Christine and Holli, and CSDE for making this even happen.

Tom C. encourages members to reach out to legislators, especially via email. Even if they get multiple emails, it will signify an importance to the event. Sean C. will contact Jolie to see if she has contact or email list from the previous year.

Jeff S. mentions that finding contact for individual legislators can be found on CT General Assembly website.

- Special Education Task Force Update

Susan Y. has completed it’s report and being shared with legislators.

- Annual Report and Priorities and Recommendations Review

Susan Y. presents an overview on the annual report and it’s contents.

- In person SAC Meeting locations Update

Christine mentions that 2/26 will be at LOB but waiting for confirmation. 4/23- working to confirm at CREC.

**VII. Membership Committee Report (9:20 a.m.)**

- New contacts for membership flyers
- Student Membership

Catherine S. encourages full council members to reach out to legislators because they might know of students who might be interested. Breakfast will be great recruitment opportunity for legislators as well to spark their interest.

### **VIII. Legislative Committee Report (9:30 a.m.)**

- Meeting Reminder for 1/16/2025

Tom C. clarifies meeting time is at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow and that's it's a weekly standing meeting. Also, Tom emphasizes the importance of encouraging legislators to connect with SAC. This upcoming legislative session is important with hearing and legislation moving quickly, so SAC should be prepared to respond when necessary. Also, SAC should reach out and connect with Special Education Task Force legislators.

Jeff S. mentions that the session opened a week ago. There isn't anything of substance at the moment.

### **New Business**

#### **IX. BSE Update (9:35 a.m.)**

- Alycia Trakas, CSDE BSE Consultant, presents on "Indicator 17: State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)".

#### **X. Round Table (10:00 a.m.)**

##### **a. Agency/Parent Updates**

Lori F. is noticing and hearing about students who are outplaced losing connection with students from their home district.

Susan Y. heard on radio the CT Student Youth Advisory students report on their experience and desire to be more involved with the process. Tom C. mentions the radio report came from the CT Education Summit with Catherine Shin.

Jeff S. heard of practices in other states that provide law enforcement officers across the state with training on interacting with varying disabilities, especially individuals on autism spectrum. Denise D. mentions an emphasis on individuals with communication disabilities as well.

Tom C. emphasizes outplacement situation has been a focus for last couple of years. Report will be issues in a couple of months about the disconnection with outplacement students to their home districts.

Rita H. (USD1-Dept. of Corrections) mentions the progress that was made to advocate for students with disabilities, especially in the area of transition. It's important to make connections with the community to bring opportunities to students. This provides students with an opportunity before they discharge for re-entry into community because teaching skills before leaving will prepare them.

#### **XI. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned by 10:25 a.m.; Jake S. motions, Brian S seconds, unanimous in favor.

**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	9:00-10:30 am	Virtual Meeting
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

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*An Equal Opportunity Employee*