

**School Paraprofessional Advisory Council Meeting**  
**SERC Library, Middletown, CT**  
**4-6pm**  
**September 15, 2015**

**SP Advisory Council members in attendance:** Anthony Brisson, SERC; Stacey L. Cronk, C.E.S.; Geri Lavallo, 2015 Paraeducator of the Year; Donna Morelli, CREC; Bill Walkauskas, CSEE-SEIU

**SP Advisory Council members not in attendance:** Regina Birdsell, CAS; Mary Russell, AFT CT; Annie MacDonald, UE; vacant, CEA; vacant CFSA; Cindy Knudsen, CEUI/MEUI; Georgina Cabrera, 2014 Para of the Year, Geraldine Jackman, IFTPE.

**CSDE Staff:** Teresa Boyd Cowles, Rhonda Kempton, Anne McKernan

**Other representatives:** Denise Messina, Board of Education, Somers Public Schools;

- **Welcome/ Introductions**

*Members introduced themselves and welcomed Teresa Boyd Cowles as the new CSDE contact person for Paraeducator Initiatives.*

- **Discussion of Meeting Protocols**

- a) CSDE Paraeducator Initiative Transition

*Teresa Boyd Cowles provided an overview regarding the internal changes within CSDE and the transition of Paraeducator Initiatives from the Turnaround Office to the Talent Office and Anne McKernan provided additional information regarding the aforementioned subject.*

- b) New Membership

*Teresa Boyd Cowles noted that the status of membership and the composition of the group will be shared with the leadership within the Talent Office and the commissioner to assure that vacancies are filled with the organizations that need be represented on the School Paraprofessional Council. Bill Walkauskas mentioned that he will retiring at the end of the school year.*

- **Anne Marie Murphy Paraeducator of the Year Award**

*Teresa Boyd Cowles discussed the process used to review, score and rank candidates and shared the names of the individuals from the council and the Talent Office that participated as part of the reviewers and interviewing committee and discussed the possibility of using an electronic portal similar to the Teacher of the Year platform for the upcoming year. Shared the profiles of the two candidates identified as finalists. RK provided additional background information on the two finalists.*

*Council members voted unanimously for the final selection. There are plans to share the press release announcing the winner within a week upon approval from the CSDE's communications*

office. The group discussed the logistics of the evening ceremony and were provided information for members to register online via SERC and the website.

- **Legislative Update**

- a) (effective July 1, 2015) Public Act 15-5, Section 277, amending CGS Section 10-76d(a)(8)(C) and (D)

*Rhonda Kempton shared the new legislation regarding the parent's right to invite the student's assigned paraeducator to the planning and placement team meeting (PPT)*

- b) 2015 Agreement with American Federation of Teachers (AFT) Paraprofessional Staffing Issues

*Rhonda Kempton shared the agreement and communication with district leadership regarding the role of the paraeducator in the individualized Education Program (IEP) process.*

- **SERC Professional Development Updates-**

*Anthony Brisson shared handout describing SERCs learning opportunities including "Supervision and Evaluation of Paraeducators", supporting k-3 Literacy", and "Helping vs Hovering in the classroom"*

- **CREC Professional Development Updates-**

*Donna Morelli shared that CREC is developing a new COMPASS module re: PPT etiquette*

- **Paraeducator Code of Ethics**

*Denise Messina shared information re: Code of Ethics (Discussion of alignment to the CSDE Professional Code of Ethics for Teachers*

- **Next Meetings;** All meetings noted below will be from 4-6 PM

*Nov 17<sup>th</sup> – SERC Classroom*

*Jan 19<sup>th</sup> – SERC Community Room*

*March 15<sup>th</sup> – SERC Community Room*

*May 17<sup>th</sup> – SERC Community Room*

- Closing/Adjournment