

Connecticut State Advisory council on Special Education  
Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, September 21, 2016  
2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
State Department of Education  
25 Industrial Park Road  
Middletown, CT 06457

In Attendance:

Natalie Jones (CSDE)  
Isabelina Rodriguez (CSDE)  
Colin Milne (P&A)  
Jaquita Monroe (Judicial Department)  
Siobhan Peng (parent)  
John Flanders (CPAC)  
Mike Nunes (DOC)  
Lynn Fogg-Cornelio (DDS)  
Sheila Crocker (parent)  
Katherine Musto (SLP)  
Via phone:  
Kelly Neyra (parent)  
Guest:  
Tom Cosker

Meeting was called to order at 2:36 pm.

Materials were handed out (meeting schedule, ESSA Fact Sheet, CT Next Generation Accountability System, Parent survey presentation information, and committee lists).

Report of the Chair

- The president informed committee of resignations and is looking to build membership.
- Isabelina will send out chart of vacancies. Most vacancies are legislative positions.

Report of Chief

- Isabelina Rodriguez informed committee that she is now the Interim Chief Academic Officer. Special education is now combined with the Academic Office and she is overseeing both departments.
- Isabelina gave an overview of the department's goal of ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) formerly NCLB. The focus of ESSA is closing the achievement gap. Some of the highlights are engaging stakeholders and accountability. Isabelina as part of the leadership team will make sure of SAC involvement.
- Isabelina suggests having the performance office review the new accountability system at one of the meetings.

- Isabelina reported that she will be attending a conference at USDOE in Washington this week. The agency was cited by OSEP regarding how we do mediation. We can no longer use our consultants and therefore has to hire independent people to conduct mediations.

#### Membership/appointments

- Kelly Neyra asked for volunteers for the membership committee. Kelly made a motion to nominate Charlene Olko as a member and Kathy seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous in favor.
- Siobhan Peng volunteered to be a member of the membership committee, Kelly motioned and Kathy seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous in favor.
- Tom Cosker also volunteered, Kelly motioned and Kathy seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous in favor.
- Item for next agenda is to vote for chair of the school climate change committee.

#### Committee Reports

##### CPAC

- John Flanders reported that they have been getting an influx of calls regarding identification of kids, child find and student discipline.
- The focus is on accessibility of services, working outreach programs, they are looking at new partners and ways to leverage resources with effective parents.

##### OPA

- Colin Milne reported on the transitioning of OPA from state to private non-for-profit. Concern is with the speed in which the transition is being done. A transition plan has to be in place by November with full transition taking place in July 2017.
- OPA has received an increase in calls from parents of 3 and 4 year olds.
- Colin Milne gave a brief overview on the agency's position on the CCJEF decision.

##### Back to school

- Siobhan Peng reported on the back to school event. She attended the session on school climate and WIOA. She reported on the highlights of the day.

##### Parent/Indicator 8 Survey

- Natalie gave presentation about the parent/indicator 8 survey
- SDE has determined that the purpose of the survey will be for Indicator 8 and redesigning the survey to be a modified version of the NCSEAM
- Kelly had concerns about the purpose and design of the survey
- Tom had concerns about making it clear to parents the purpose of the survey; stated that his district is using the survey results as a snapshot of satisfaction with services in the district and using it to drive policy
- Ran out of time for feedback regarding specific survey questions; small group (John, Lynn, Siobhan, and Tom) will meet with Natalie and report back to the full group at next meeting

Meeting was adjourned at 4:51

