



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Connecticut State Advisory Council for Special Education

Legislative Committee

Thursday, March 2, 2023

******* 11:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. *******

Teams Meeting

YouTube Live Stream: Public Participant Viewing
<https://www.youtube.com/live/LegislativeCommittee>

MINUTES

Members Present: Jeffrey Spahr (Chair), Jennifer Lussier (Vice Chair), Ana Wittig, Lena Esposito and Susan Yankee (SAC Chair)

Members Absent: Dimpny Malvania, Rick Raucci, and Doris Maldonado

I. Call to Order:

Jeffrey Spahr called meeting to order at 11:10 a.m.

Public Comment: N/A

SAC meetings are public meetings and members of the public may participate.

Call-In Number: 866-880-0098

Participant Code: 89689633

II. Legislative Matters:

a. Bills of Interest Related to Special Education.

Bryan K. and Jeffrey Spahr discuss current bills, the process and goal of the Legislative Committee, past and current work and then start to talk specific bills in relation to special education.

They discuss House bill 6758

Group moves on to SB Bill 1095: Bryan K. responds to Jeff S. about restraint and seclusion and law enforcement involved with the process. Bryan clarifies the role of an enforcement officer and district employee, who is trained by the district in restraints where law enforcement is not trained specifically special education. Group talks about restraint in seclusion process and criteria in more details such as de-escalation.

Jen L. goes on to speak about her concerns with students in special education rights in reference to school resource officers and restraints. Concerned and would like to see the SAC support the bill. Susan Yankee responds in agreement and asks Bryan to clarify and to advise on how the SAC can support this bill.

Jeff S. adds comment that it is important to have the SAC weigh in on this bill.

Ana W. speaks about traumatizing incidents and the SAC should advocate for language. She goes on to voice her concerns and talks about the process - no matter if it is a resource officer, do they know how to manage. Bryan K. would like to send the group a definition on restraint and seclusion for better understanding and so that the group can review specific information on

Group members add the following resource links to the chat.

[https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Special-Education/guidance related to legislation regarding restraint and seclusion in schools.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Special-Education/guidance%20related%20to%20legislation%20regarding%20restraint%20and%20seclusion%20in%20schools.pdf)

[https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Special-Education/Understanding the Laws and Regulations Governing the Use of Restraint and Seclusion in Schools.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Special-Education/Understanding%20the%20Laws%20and%20Regulations%20Governing%20the%20Use%20of%20Restraint%20and%20Seclusion%20in%20Schools.pdf)

Jeff S. wants to briefly mention SB 5926 – add definition of developmental disability as a change from intellectual disability due to Medicaid coverage of services that would then be in support by the change.

Susan Y. goes back to review a bill that Bryan K. goes on explain in regards to community of practice. Says that this group is not the same stakeholders and that they advise the SDE. Susan asks about those members potentially having a seat on the SAC. Bryan K. responds on how Susan can present a “seat at the table”.

Ana W. goes on to speak about SB 6097 – in reference to paraprofessionals

- b. Schedule Committee Meetings from March to May.

Jolie and the group schedule Committee meetings until the end of April

III. Action Items:

Jolie M. to send out meeting invites for March to April. Jolie M. to cancel meetings by Tuesday of each week scheduled if group will not meet.

Bryan K. to continue to send legislative bills updates.

Jeffrey Spahr to write up language of bills for Executive Committee review and discussion. Group decides to support SB #1095 in reference to restraint/seclusion and resource officers.

IV. Adjourn:

Meeting adjourns at 12:16 pm.