

**School Paraprofessional Advisory Council
Tuesday, March 11, 2014**

In Attendance: Marcia Cattanach, AFT Connecticut; Bill Walkauskas, CSEA; Donna Morelli, CREC; Georgina Cabrera, Wallingford Public Schools; Heather Dawes, SERC; Anthony Brisson, SERC; Rhonda Kempton, CSDE; Stacey Cronk, CES; Pat Sampson, AFSCME; Annie MacDonald, UE; Iris White, CSDE

Legislation: As part of its legislative agenda, AFT CT is requesting that the Program Review and Investigations Committee, in conjunction with the School Paraprofessional Advisory Council, conduct a study focusing on staffing and its effect on student achievement. CSEA is proposing the creation of a task force composed of paraprofessionals, educators, and other stakeholders to develop legislation. The question remains as to how this task force's will, or will not, interface with the Council. The Bill is among a number of Bills that will be heard during tomorrow's Education Committee public hearing. Iris will continue to keep the Council updated.

National Resource Center for Paraeducators Conference: The Council took action by approving the conference theme: **The Power of Paraeducators: A Pathway to Excellence**, the dates will be April 16th-18th at the Hilton Hartford. The conference logo is being created by Unified Arts at the Norwich Free Academy.

A subcommittee, Local Arrangements Committee, was formed. The role of the LAC is to assist the NRCP with logistics, identification of presenters, publicity, fundraising, etc. If you haven't already done so, please email Iris if you are interested in serving on this committee.

Council set the following dates and times for the para of the year screenings and interviews. If interested in participating, please email Iris:

Para of the Year Screenings, Friday, June 13th, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at CAS, Cheshire

Para of the Year Interviews, Friday, August 1st, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at CSDE, Hartford

Please save these dates for next year's School Para Advisory Council Meetings. All 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. at AFT Connecticut, 35 Marshall Road, Rocky Hill:

September 9th, November 18th, January 13th, March 10th, May 12th

CREC Update: CREC should have hired a “webmaster” to work on the webpage by the end of April. Donna will notify us when the person has been hired and we will schedule a time for CSDE and the providers to discuss its development.

SERC Update: the Para of the Year ceremony will be held on Thursday, November 6th 5-8 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza, Cromwell.

UCEDD Report: Iris will connect with UCEDD regarding the results from their paraeducator needs assessment. Iris will forward the results to the council.

Vision/Mission Activity: Anthony and heather from SERC led us through an activity to develop our mission and vision statement (please see attached). Iris will email the results out to the Council for their feedback and bring recommended statements to the next meeting.