

School Paraprofessional Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

CSDE Room 357, State Office Building

165 Capitol Avenue

Hartford Connecticut

4:00-6:00 p.m.

September 28, 2016

Advisory Council members and guests in attendance: Jennifer Benevento, AFT CT; Michele O'Neil, CEA; Sonya Kunkel, CREC; Alison Cianciolo CREC; Denise Seel, 2016 Paraeducator of the Year; Pam Potemri, UCEDD; Roxanne Augelli, CAS; Gary Maynard CFSA
CSDE Staff: Sharon Fuller; Rhonda Kempton

Welcome/Introductions

Council members introduced themselves.

Advisory Council Membership Updates 2016-17

We reviewed current membership based on the 2015-16 membership list. Sharon Fuller, who has replaced Teresa Boyd-Cowles, and Rhonda Kempton will represent the CSDE. Roxanne Augelli will replace Regina Birdsall from CAS. Alison Cianciolo has replaced Donna Morelli from CREC. Prior to the January 2017 meeting, Sharon Fuller will reach out to each organization to either confirm the current member's participation on the School Paraprofessional Advisory Council or appoint a new representative.

Updates on the 2017 Anne Marie Murphy Paraeducator of the Year Ceremony

Sharon Fuller shared that this year's ceremony will be held on October 13, 2016 at A. I. Prince Technical High School. Students from the school's Culinary Arts Program will prepare hors d'oeuvres for the ceremony. Students from Southington High School's Agriculture and Technology Sciences Program will provide floral arrangements, and students from Newtown High School's Unified Theatre Program will perform a brief skit they have developed. Honorees will receive a certificate from Dr. Sarah Barzee, Chief Talent Officer, and Dr. Isabellina Rodriguez, Interim Chief Academic Officer. Council members will be invited to the ceremony.

Updates from CREC – Paraeducator Development and Leadership Symposium

The Paraeducator Development and Leadership Symposium will be held on November 16, 2016, at the Legislative Office Building. CREC still has registration openings and asked Council members to assist in sharing information about the symposium with paraeducators.

Updates on the Recommendations of the School Paraprofessional Advisory Council's Annual Report as required by Public Act No. 13-10

This report is currently being reviewed by CSDE leadership before submitting to the General Assembly.

Updates from UCONN University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) Draft Paraeducator Survey and Professional Development

The survey is currently being reviewed by UCONN's Internal Review Board (IRB). Once approved, it will be ready to distribute. Results of the survey will provide current information about training needs for paraeducators.

Review of Statute

The Council reviewed Sec. 10-155k, which specifies membership on the School Paraprofessional Advisory Council, and states the purpose of the Council. We will be revisiting this at the January 2017 meeting and discussing topics for future meetings. The role of the council is to advise the Commissioner of Education about the needs for the training of paraprofessionals and report on recommendations.

Next Meeting Dates

Next meeting dates are:

- January 17, 2017 @ 4:00 – 6:00 PM
- May 15, 2017 @ 4:00 – 6:00 PM

The CSDE will be moving to a new building in January 2017. Sharon let Council members know that, pending more details on the move as we get closer to January, we may need to find a different location for the Council's January 2017 meeting. Jennifer Benevento offered to have the meeting at the AFT office in Rocky Hill. Sharon will be in touch with Council members to confirm date, time and location of the January 2017 meeting.

Closing/Adjournment

Next Meeting: January 17, 201 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.