

# Task Force on Special Education Services & Funding

## Tuesday, August 8, 2023- 9:30 AM

### 1. Welcome

- a. Andrew and Fran welcomed Dr. Del Siegle and Dr. Jean Gubbins of the NEAG School of Education at UConn

### 2. Changes to Task Force in this Legislative Session- New Members

- a. There is a revised new Statute. 5 new members
- b. A representative from an educator preparation program offered at a public institution of higher education, to be appointed by the minority leader of the House.
- c. A representative from an educator preparation program offered at a private institution of higher education, to be appointed by the minority leader of the Senate.
- d. 3-6 The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, or their designees.
- e. Andrew & Fran have been working with Chairman Currey on some possibilities and they have asked for letters of interest.
- f. We also have one vacancy since a member has moved out of state.
- g. Less than six months left before preliminary report and waiting for the task force to be fully staffed.
- h. Auditors of public accounts are doing a review/survey. Andrew Feinstein received an email asking if members of this task force would fill out a survey concerning issues with private special education programs.
- i. In 2015, the auditors issued 3 reports on special education programs, one highlighting deficits of the Department of Education, one highlighting the deficits

of local school districts, and one highlighting deficits in private special education programs. Your responses to their questionnaire may help guide that work.

**3. Presentation on Gifted and Talented Education- Dr. Del Siegle and Dr. Jean Gubbins-  
NEAG School of Education at UCONN – 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM**

- a. [Addressing the Elephant in the Room: What Pitfalls Must Connecticut Avoid That Other States Have Not](#)
- b. [Gifted & Talented Education Guidance](#)
- c. Three Legs of Talent Development
  - i. Whole-grade and Subject specific Acceleration
  - ii. Increased Depth and Complexity In Instruction in Classrooms
  - iii. Authentic Learning Opportunities for Students Based on Student Interest
- d. Thing to take away from presentation:
  - i. When placed in appropriate environments all living things flourish.

**4. Committee reports**

- a. **Funding-** Patrice McCarthy
  - i. Funding workgroup decided they needed a summer break. They will convene again in early September.
- b. **Eligibility-** Aimee Turner
  - i. Met in July
    1. Spoke about:
      - a. trends in terms of eligibility
      - b. 504s
      - c. developmental age
    2. Will be meeting again in 2 weeks.
- c. **Services-** Karen Helene on behalf of Alicia Bowman
  - i. Great meeting in July
    1. They had two representatives from the State Department of Education.
      - a. Renee spoke to the group about the transition to PreK
      - b. Alicia spoke to the group about the secondary transition
      - c. The group has a follow up meeting in September with Birth to 3. We are developing questions to ask them. Playing

around with recommendations and identifying areas where we need more data.

5. Next Meeting- September 12
  - a. In Person at CAPSS, 26 Caya Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06110
  - b. Andy is going to distribute a fairly strong statement on this whole area which will both reflect his views, but also will spur your thinking and reactions.
6. The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 AM