

STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
National Conference Center at the Holiday Inn
399 Monmouth Street
East Windsor, NJ 08520

MINUTES

Thursday, December 18, 2008

Members in attendance: Dr. Sharon Maricle, Dr. Howard Lerner, Philip Gartlan, William Sellar, Carolyn Hayer, Kathleen Mullery, Debra Fernandez, Angela Durso, Scott Elliott, Blanche Stetler, Kathy Roberson, Dr. Tracy Amerman

Resource Representatives in attendance: Debbie Stewart, Gordon Reibman, Elizabeth Collins

Resource Representatives not in attendance: Robert Paige

Guests and members of the public: J. L. Seymore, Lauren Agoratos

I. ACCEPTANCE OF NOVEMBER MINUTES

The meeting was officially called to order at 9:45 a.m. by Chairperson Sharon Maricle. The November minutes were approved and seconded. **All in favor**

II. COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

SSEAC members broke into committee groups for two hours. Members of the public were invited to listen to the committee discussions.

Transition Committee: The Committee discussion focused on three issues related to social skills development: 1) an environment accepting of students with disabilities, 2) disability awareness, 3) individual skill development, with supports that will be faded over time. The Committee discussed what it wants to accomplish in the next two years and decided that the existing draft letter will be used as a guide. Invitations will be extended to representatives from Character Education, PBSIS, Community Based Instruction and Social/Emotional Learning initiatives to speak at the February meeting about how their projects impact social skills learning. Dr. Wohle will notify the committee when the Core Curriculum Content Standards are posted for public comment so that the SSEAC may comment about embedding social skills learning into the standards.

Inclusion Committee: The Committee discussion focused on school leadership as it relates to inclusion. The average lifespan of principals and superintendents in districts is 2.7 years leading to understanding and continuity issues. The Committee also discussed the State showcasing "Best Practice" districts where inclusive practices have worked; and the relationship of Response to Intervention (RTI) and Differentiated Instruction to inclusive practices within general education. Additionally, the Committee discussed Vermont's current inclusion practices; Dr. Wohle suggested looking at their SPP/APR and indicated that the Northeast Regional Resource Center may be an additional resource regarding their current practices.

III. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Parents Right to Revoke Consent: Dr. Wohle indicated that there has been a reversal of policy by the Federal OSEP and that parent's can "revoke consent" for the provision of special education and related services. Effective December 31, 2008, parents will be able to revoke consent for special education services and school districts will not be able to challenge the decision through mediation or due process. When parents revoke consent for special education services, they must do so in writing. Before ceasing the provision of special education services, the LEA must provide written notice to the parent.

County Superintendents and the IEP Process: Dr. Wohle clarified that 6A:23A-2.7 **does not** provide the Executive County Superintendent with authority to override an IEP Team decision.

IV. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Lauren Agoratos, Family Voices informed the Council of her activities with Pediatric Medical Daycare and Licensing.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approx 12:20 p.m. The next meeting of the Council is scheduled on January 15, 2009 at the Holiday Inn in East Windsor

VI. LUNCH