

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

MINUTES

Thursday, June 11, 2009

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

Members not in attendance: Debra Fernandez, Angela Durso

Resource Representatives in attendance: Betsy Collins, Karen Carroll for Robert Paige

Resource Representatives not in attendance: Gordon Reibman, Debbie Stewart

Guests and members of the public: Barbara Gantwerk, Bob Haugh, Linda Carmona-Bell, Joe Seaman, Lauren Agoratus, Sol Heckelman, Ian Wells, Joe Stout, Lindsey Krier, Amber Contreras-Ferreiras, Zach Baxter, Noemi Torres, Kristen McAneny, Kim Murray, Debra Trofe, Rob Sandusky, Karen Elliot, Donna Krier, Teri Petruzzelli, Jane Martin, Mark Haddad, Haylen Brito, Elizabeth Kenny-Foggin, Mr. Baxter, Tara Arslanian

I. ACCEPTANCE OF MAY MINUTES

The meeting was officially called to order at 9:56 a.m. by Chairperson Sharon Maricle. Council introduced themselves to guests. The May minutes were approved and seconded. **All in favor, one abstention.**

II. DIRECTORS UPDATE

Dr. Wohle announced the reappointment by the State Board of Education of Bill Sellar, Angela Durso and Scott Elliott to another two-year term on the Council.

On June 1, 2009, the New Jersey Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs received notification of the determination from the USDOE that, "New Jersey meets the requirements of Part B of the IDEA." The determination letter and related information can be found on the NJDOE website at: http://www.nj.gov/education/specialed/info/spp/usdoe_determination09.pdf

Dr. Wohle distributed the memo from Commissioner Davy, Clarification of Rules Regarding Placement, intended to clarify the purpose and the role given to the Executive County Superintendent regarding the collection and dissemination of information regarding available in-district programs.

Dr. Wohle discussed the proposed regulations and distributed the dates and locations for the public testimony regarding the Fiscal Accountability Regulations.

Dr. Wohle asked Barbara Gantwerk, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Student Services to update Council concerning the status of the 18 regional day schools operated by the Division of Children and Family Services. Ms. Gantwerk informed the SSEAC that the schools will remain open.

Dr. Wohle presented Dr. Maricle with a plaque and flowers and thanked her for her service as Chairperson, and for her membership on the Council from 2003 to 2009. She also thanked Debra Fernandez for her service on the Council also from 2003 to 2009.

III. COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Michael Nevin shared with Council that he had recently spoken at the Dare to Dream Conference on Best Practices in Inclusion. He will be presenting awards at Nutley High School on June 17, 2009.

IV. STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

- **Assistive Technology** – A fifth grade student from Holmdel Public Schools spoke on his Assistive Technology experiences. He used a PowerPoint presentation to explain how using both high and low assistive technologies help him with his daily lessons and studies. Additionally, his teacher Elizabeth Keeny-Foggin shared how these technologies have helped him become a student leader and have enabled his classmates to succeed in the classroom.
- **Centers for Independent Living (CIL)** - A tenth grader from Woodrow Wilson High School elaborated on her experiences and expressed how her involvement with the Camden City Independent Living Center has been a positive factor in her self advocacy and preparation for transitioning after high school. Additionally, Tara Arslanian, Transition Coordinator at CCILC spoke about the students many successes and shared a letter from one of the student's teachers. Scott Elliott spoke on behalf of the Centers for Independent Living.
- **The Governor's Grant on Autism** – A student from Northern Burlington County High School used a PowerPoint presentation he created as he spoke about his favorite things to do in and out of school. His teachers, Kim Murray and Kristen McAneny talked about his success in school and how the Grant has enabled the district to enhance their program for students with Autism.
- **Community Based Instruction (CBI)** – Another Northern Burlington County High School student spoke about his personal community based work experiences and how those experiences have given him confidence and helped him to set career goals. His teacher, Debra Trofe discussed how their Career Center has assisted students by utilizing behind-the-scenes tours, job shadowing experiences, unpaid internships and paid work experiences.
- **INCLUDE Grant (Universal Design for Learning)** – A fifth grade student from Palisades Park shared how UDL has helped her and the other students in her classroom succeed in Mathematics. A student produced movie from Parents Night showed her classroom and how it and technologies help the students to learn. Her co-teachers, Teri Petruzzelli and Marcus Haddad talked about their classroom experiences since receiving the INCLUDE Grant. Jan Martin, Project Director talked about the program changes that the grant has enabled the district to implement.

- **Local Capacity Building Grant: LRE** – A senior, high school student from Maple Shade High School shared numerous examples of her personal experiences and growth through being in the least restrictive environment. She will be attending Farleigh Dickinson University in the fall. Rob Sandusky, Director of Special Education and Karen Elliot, Inclusion Facilitator spoke about the student's many challenges and successes and shared how LRE has created paradigm shift in philosophy and policy while successfully returning students to district. The student closed the presentation with the song *What I Did for Love* from A Chorus Line.

V. PRESENTATION OF STUDENT RECOGNITIONS

All student presenters received a plaque from the SSEAC Council and special thanks from Dr. Wohle for their presentations and accomplishments.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sol Heckelman congratulated the students on their accomplishments and commented that it was good to see such good work being done in special education by the districts.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:23 p.m. The next full meeting of the Council is scheduled for Thursday, September 17, 2009 at the Holiday Inn in East Windsor. There may be a meeting in August.

VIII. LUNCHEON