

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

MINUTES

Thursday, January 20, 2010

Members in attendance: Lauren Agoratus, Dr. Tracy Amerman, Angela Durso, Kathleen Mullery, Michael Nevin, Rob Sandusky, Bill Sellar,

Members not in attendance: Scott Elliott, Phillip Gartlan, Dr. Howard Lerner, Katherine Roberson, Blanche Stetler

Resource Representatives in attendance: Susan Avny, Suzanne Canuso, Karen Carroll

Resource Representatives not in attendance: Debbie Stewart

Guests and members of the public: Sol Heckelman, Deborah Lynam, Natasha Schneider, John Worthington

I. ACCEPTANCE OF DECEMBER MINUTES

The meeting was officially called to order at 9:48 a.m. by Acting Chairperson Dr. Tracy Amerman. Dr. Howard Lerner and Katherine Roberson were representing SSEAC at the Governor's Education Effectiveness Commission meeting. The December minutes were reviewed and approved. All were in favor.

II. COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Dr. Amerman led the Council in brief discussions on the recently held Stakeholder meeting; the December presentation to the Council by the New Jersey Association of Pupil Services Administrators (NJAPSA), with discussion about the role of the general education teacher in IEP meetings; Charter schools; Autism programs; Extended School Year (ESY); and, teachers as case managers.

John Worthington, Acting Manager, Bureau of Policy and Planning, Office of Special Education Programs continued the conversation from previous meetings on the Code. The Council reviewed and discussed the recommendations document prepared by Council member Lauren Agoratus and there was specific discussion about re-evaluation, excusal from meetings and resolution meetings.

III. ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE

Barbara Gantwerk, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Student Services updated the Council on the status of Personnel at the Department of Education. A recommendation was made by Council to invite the new Acting Commissioner of Education to a SSEAC meeting. Ms. Gantwerk will share the recently passed Anti-Bullying Legislation at the next Council meeting. Following discussion about the emergence of virtual schools and the use of technology for home schooling in New Jersey, she agreed to invite someone from DOE to speak to Council on that topic at a monthly meeting.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sol Heckelman commented on what he sees as a confluence of effort to diminish public education in New Jersey. He also reflected that many of the Code issues being discussed during the Council sessions were being discussed 15 years ago. Dr. Heckelman shared that the New Jersey Association of School Psychologists is launching a newsletter that will address the Governor's proposal for county-wide schools for Autism.

Natasha Schneider asked if the guidance document on Autism that was formerly on the DOE web site could be returned to the web site.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m. The next full meeting of the Council is scheduled for Thursday, February 17, 2011 at the Holiday Inn in East Windsor.

VI. LUNCHEON