

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

MINUTES

Thursday December 15, 2011

Members in attendance: Lauren Agoratus, Myriam Alizo, Angela Durso, Phil Gartlan, Beth Kelley, Melanie McGacken, Michael Nevin, Kathy Roberson, Bonni Rubin-Sugarman, Rob Sandusky

Members not in attendance: Dr. Tracy Amerman, Blanche Stetler

Resource Representatives in attendance: Susan Avny, Suzanne Canuso, Tracy Nowlin

Resource Representatives not in attendance: Karen Carroll

Guests and members of the public: Sol Heckelman, Howard Stern, Henry Tejada, Gary Vermeire

I. ACCEPTANCE OF NOVEMBER MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 9:50 a.m. by Chairperson Kathy Roberson. The November minutes were reviewed and approved. All were in favor.

II. PRESENTATION

Gary Vermeire, Program Coordinator in the Office of Student Support Services gave a presentation to the Council on *Understanding and Applying the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights (ABR)*. The presentation can be viewed on the New Jersey Department of Education web site at:

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/students/safety/behavior/hib/HIBTrainingPP.pdf>

Following his presentation, Mr. Vermeire led a question and answer session with the members of the Council.

III. DIRECTORS UPDATE

Dr. Peggy McDonald announced to the Council that the New Jersey State Board of Education had named her Director of the Office of Special Education during their December meeting. By way of introduction, Dr. McDonald shared with the Council the various positions that she has held at the Department of Education over the past 20+ years.

Dr. McDonald reminded the Council of the upcoming Stakeholder meeting to be conducted on January 19, 2012 in preparation for the February 1, 2012 submission of the New Jersey Department of Education, Office of Special Education, Part B Annual Performance Report #6.

Dr. McDonald updated the Council on the work being done by the Department with regard to the teacher evaluation system. It is being piloted this year in 12 districts.

Dr. McDonald informed the Council of the involvement of the Office of Special Education in P.L. 2009, c.250 (NJSA 52:15-19.1) (A4270): New Jersey Special Education and Traumatic Brain Injury Task Force. Fran Leibner and Paul Fogarty will represent the Department of Education.

IV. PUBLIC

Sol Heckelman shared with the Council some of the activities of the *Week of Respect* which took place the first week of October.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m. The scheduled meeting for January 19, 2012 will now be a combined meeting of the SSEAC and Stakeholders to review the Annual Performance Report (APR). The next full meeting of the Council is scheduled for Thursday, February 16, 2012 at the Holiday Inn in East Windsor.

VI. LUNCH