

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

MINUTES

Thursday March 15, 2012

Members in attendance: Dr. Tracy Amerman , Myriam Alizo, Angela Durso, Phil Gartlan, Beth Kelley, Melanie McGacken, Michael Nevin, Kathy Roberson, Bonni Rubin-Sugarman

Members not in attendance: Lauren Agoratus, Rob Sandusky, Blanche Stetler

Resource Representatives in attendance: Susan Avny, Suzanne Canuso

Resource Representatives not in attendance: Karen Carroll, Tracy Nowlin

Guests and members of the public: Natasha Chase, Sharon Dauber, Sol Heckelman, Fran Leibner, Michelle Mahabirsingh, Howard Stern

I. ACCEPTANCE OF FEBRUARY MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 9:58 a.m. by Chairperson Kathy Roberson. The February minutes were reviewed and approved. All were in favor.

II. DIRECTORS UPDATE

Dr. Peggy McDonald shared with the Council the latest Department of Education reorganization chart.

Dr. McDonald announced to the Council that the final federal monitoring report was received. She also shared with the Council the few corrective items to be addressed. She also reported that all state reviews will be suspended for the 2012 - 2013 year as the DOE moves from a compliance to student outcomes based model of monitoring.

Dr. McDonald discussed the revisions to the receiving schools monitoring process. Two schools, one in Middlesex and one in Union counties, will take part in a pilot program this year.

Dr. McDonald updated the Council on the Disproportionality Technical Assistance sessions being conducted by the Office of Special Education.

III. PRESENTATIONS

Fran Leibner gave the Council an overview of the Department of Education's awarding of \$1 million dollars to 12 districts for outstanding performance with students with disabilities, along with the first ever \$1 million dollar "Special Education Recognition Award" competition available to all schools in 2012-13 school year. The link to the press release is: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/news/2012/0217se.htm>

Paul Fogarty gave the Council an overview and update on the New Jersey Special Education and Traumatic Brain Injury Task Force. The task force will meet for the next year and will submit a final report to the Governor giving their recommendations.

Dr. Tracey Amerman gave the Council an update on the activities of the Excellent Educators for New Jersey (EE4NJ) working group and the Evaluation Pilot Advisory Committee (EPAC) that she is working on. For additional information, go to: <http://nj.gov/education/EE4NJ/>

IV. PUBLIC

Sol Heckelman shared with the Council his thoughts on disproportionality.

Natasha Chase shared a story of a high school student and her wish that there was more awareness of Child Find.

Michele Mahabirsingh addressed the Council on the issues of written guidance and parent advisory councils.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 am. The next full meeting of the Council is scheduled for Thursday, April 19, 2012 at the Holiday Inn in East Windsor.

VI. LUNCH