

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

**MINUTES**

**Thursday April 18, 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, Blanche Stetler

**Resource Representatives in attendance:** Suzanne Canuso, Karen Carroll

**Resource Representatives not in attendance:** Susan Avny, Tracy Nowlin

**Guests and members of the public:** Sol Heckelman, Jacy Lance, Michelle Mahabirsingh, Cynthia Soriano, Howard Stern

**I. ACCEPTANCE OF MARCH MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 9:57 a.m. by Chairperson Kathy Roberson. The March minutes were reviewed and approved with corrections. All were in favor.

**II. PRESENTATION**

Barbara Gantwerk, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Student and Field Services presented to the Council on New Jersey's No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Flexibility Request. Her presentation focused on the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) waiver; the Excellent Educators for New Jersey (EE4NJ) initiative; College and Career Readiness and Assessments; Accountability, with examples of Annual Measurable Objectives (AMO); the focus on lowest performing (15%) and reward schools; the newly created Regional Achievement Centers (RACs); and teacher effectiveness.

**III. DIRECTORS UPDATE**

Dr. Peggy McDonald updated the Council on the April 9th federal response to New Jersey's Annual Performance Report and the few clarifications/changes that were made.

Dr. McDonald encouraged with the Council to visit the web site: [www.stopbullying.gov](http://www.stopbullying.gov)

#### **IV. COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

The Council discussed potential topics for the May and June SSEAC meetings.

Dr. Tracy Amerman updated the Council on the activities of the teacher evaluation subcommittee.

#### **V. PUBLIC**

Cynthia Soriano introduced herself and asked the Council a question about progress reports.

Michele Mahabirsingh addressed the Council on the issue of district retaliation towards parents.

#### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:38 pm. The next full meeting of the Council is scheduled for Thursday, May 17, 2012 at the Holiday Inn in East Windsor.

#### **VII. LUNCH**