

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

MINUTES

Thursday October 18, 2012

Members in attendance: Myriam Alizo, Dr. Tracy Amerman, Mary Ann Comparetto, Beth Kelley, Michael Nevin, Bonni Rubin-Sugarman, Dr. Tekelah Sherrod

Members not in attendance: Lauren Agoratus, Melanie McGacken

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

Guests and members of the public: Maureen Cline, Maria Doherty, Sol Heckelman, Tina Mann

I. ACCEPTANCE OF SEPTEMBER MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 10:11 a.m. by Co-chairperson Dr. Tracy Amerman.

The September minutes were reviewed. All were in favor.

II. PRESENTATION

Sandy Certner made a presentation to the Council on SNAP (Special Needs Athletic Programs). The program was begun by Matthew and Zachary Certner when they were in middle and high school to create a culture of acceptance for special needs students through sports clinics. The initial clinics taught the fundamentals of basketball, baseball, and soccer to children, while also fostering communication and teamwork skills. The program now offers additional clinics, including: golf, tae-kwon-do, swim leagues, yoga, music and art. Each participant is matched with a middle or high school mentor who participates in all activities with them. There were 140 children in the program last year with over 400 mentors trained. Mentors collaboratively documented over 5000 hours of community service. Almost all SNAP clinics are free.

III. DIRECTORS UPDATE

Dr. Peggy McDonald informed the Council that the benchmark memo had gone out to districts during the week.

Dr. McDonald discussed with the Council the change in contractors for the alternate assessment.

Dr. McDonald shared with the Council information about the entitlement funds and the SAGE system.

IV. PUBLIC

Tina Mann inquired about the release date of the Reading Disability Task Force Report. She complimented the Office of Special Education on the way in which her recent telephone call was handled.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:57 pm. The next full meeting of the Council is scheduled for Thursday, November 15, 2012 at the Holiday Inn in East Windsor.

VI. LUNCH