

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

MINUTES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Members in attendance: Myriam Alizo, Dr. Tracy Amerman, Mary Ann Comparetto, Melanie McGacken, Michael Nevin, Bonni Rubin-Sugarman

Members not in attendance: Lauren Agoratus, Beth Kelley, Dr. Tekelah Sherrod, Dr. Dorothy Van Horn

Resource Representatives in attendance: Susan Avny, Karen Carroll, Tracy Nowlin

Resource Representatives not in attendance: Suzanne Canuso

Guests and members of the public: Veronica Alizo, Natasha Chase, Carolyn Hayer, Sol Heckelman, Tina Mann, James Miller, Amy Perrine, Tara Rivera, Howard Stern

I. ACCEPTANCE OF FEBRUARY MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 10:11 a.m. by Chair, Dr. Tracy Amerman

The December and February minutes were reviewed. One correction was made to each. All were in favor.

II. DIRECTORS UPDATE

Dr. Peggy McDonald informed the Council of the passing of Senate Bill S600 forming the *Task Force on Improving Special Education for Public School Students* and explained the mission of the task force and the process for applying to be a member.

Dr. McDonald and Charlene Staley-Evans, Manager of the Bureau of Program Development participated in training sessions conducted by the Regional Achievement Centers (RACs) on Universal Design for Living (UDL).

Dr. McDonald shared with the Council the activities of The Office of School Preparedness & Emergency Planning (OSPEP) with regard to school safety and the 10-point spot checks being conducted in New Jersey schools.

III. COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND WORKING LUNCH

A motion was made and seconded that the SSEAC write a letter to the State Board of Education requesting that all discussion on the proposed changes to N.J.A.C. § 6A:14 be halted until after the new *Task Force on Improving Special Education for Public School Students* publish their final report. After discussion, the motion failed.

Myriam Alizo suggested that each new Council member be assigned a current Council member to act as a mentor to familiarize them with duties, responsibilities and process.

The Council continued item by item discussion on the proposed changes to N.J.A.C. § 6A:14. There was lengthy discussion and due to time constraints the Council agreed to work through lunch. It was agreed upon by Council members that this discussion would continue and be completed at the April meeting with the Council's final recommendations to the State Board of Education being drafted and discussed at the May meeting.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Carolyn Hayer speaking for the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN) shared concerns regarding the proposed changes to N.J.A.C. § 6A:14; specifically sections 3.2 (case management), 3.5 (ten versus five days), 4.1 (delay of services) and 7.6 (private schools/highly qualified teachers). She also agreed with the motion to delay further discussion until the *Task Force on Improving Special Education for Public School Students* completes their report.

Sol Heckelman agreed with Carolyn Hayer that the proposed changes to the code should not be about administrative convenience, but rather about supports for students and families. He also stated that as a former Chairman and SSEAC member he has been disappointed in the lack of attendance by members at recent Council meetings.

Veronica Alizo, a student shared with the Council that she would like to become a preschool teacher.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:49 pm. The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for Thursday, April 18, 2013 at the Holiday Inn in East Windsor.