

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

MINUTES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Members in attendance: Lauren Agoratus, Myriam Alizo, Dr. Tracy Amerman, Mary Ann Comparetto, Beth Kelley, Melanie McGacken, Michael Nevin, Bonni Rubin-Sugarman, Dr. Tekelah Sherrod, Dr. Dorothy Van Horn

Resource Representatives in attendance: Karen Carroll, Tracy Nowlin

Resource Representatives not in attendance: Susan Avny, Suzanne Canuso

Guests and members of the public: Lauren Bennett, Ruby Kish, Donna Krenc, Tina Mann, Leslie Rubinstein

I. ELECTION AND ACCEPTANCE OF JUNE MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

Dr. Peggy McDonald conducted the election for Chairperson. Dr. Tracy Amerman was unanimously re-elected.

Dr. Amerman conducted the election for Co-Chairperson. Melanie McGacken was unanimously re-elected.

The minutes were reviewed. All were in favor.

II. DIRECTORS UPDATE

Dr. Peggy McDonald reported that the Department has awarded \$1 million in grants to improve achievement for students with disabilities in low-performing schools. Nineteen schools received funds. <http://www.state.nj.us/education/news/2013/0918idea.htm>

Dr. McDonald shared with the Council the requirements of the recently signed dyslexia law. The federal definition of dyslexia will be added to code during the next revision. Another requirement, the provision of professional development for school staff, will be delivered through an on line training module to be developed jointly by the offices of literacy, bilingual education, professional development and special education.

Dr. McDonald informed the Council that the New Jersey Office of Special Education Programs received notification from the federal office that New Jersey had "met requirement".

In response to the new Indicator 17 in the APR, the office will be conducting stakeholder sessions after the SSEAC meetings in October, December and March.

III. PRESENTATION

Barbara Tkach, 619 Coordinator for the Office of Special Education Programs made a presentation to the Council on the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant. She asked the Council if they would provide a letter of support to be included with the grant application. The Council agreed to construct a letter by October 1, 2013.

Evan Linhardt, Program Manager for Race To The Top 3 at the New Jersey Department of Education shared with the Council the new State of New Jersey Educator Resource Exchange. The site was developed to facilitate the sharing of resources among educators in classrooms throughout the state of New Jersey. Educators can contribute, download, rate, collect, and share educational resources aligned to standards. Linkages on the site are to the Common Core Standards, Model Curriculum, and the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards. The site is currently in Beta phase.

IV. COUNCIL DISCUSSION

The Council discussed and voted to approve moving the start time for the SSEAC meeting to 9:30 a.m.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Leslie Rubenstein shared the date and location for the Learning Disabilities Association New Jersey Conference.

VI. LUNCH

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 pm. The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for Thursday, October 17, 2013 at the Holiday Inn in East Windsor. A stakeholder meeting will take place immediately following from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.