

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

MINUTES

Thursday, January 16, 2014

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

Members not in attendance: Myriam Alizo, Melanie McGacken

Resource Representatives in attendance: Susan Avny, Tracy Nowlin

Resource Representatives not in attendance: Suzanne Canuso, Karen Carroll

Guests and members of the public: Maria Doherty, Sol Heckelman, Deborah Lynam, Patrick Stokes

I. ACCEPTANCE OF DECEMBER MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 a.m.

The minutes were reviewed. All were in favor.

II. DIRECTORS UPDATE

Dr. McDonald shared with the Council that a new resource for teachers and administrators on instructional supports and scaffolds is available on the New Jersey Department of Education web site. The link is: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/modelcurriculum/success/>

Dr. McDonald again encouraged the Council to visit www.njcore.org on the departments web site.

Dr. McDonald also encouraged the Council to visit the New Jersey Career Assistance Navigator (NJCAN), the state's free web-based career guidance system. NJCAN is a tool for lifelong career exploration and career planning that includes relevant occupational, post-secondary school and financial aid information. The link is: <https://njcis.intocareers.org/materials/portal/home.html>

Dr. McDonald informed the Council that New Jersey's Annual Performance Report (APR) will be submitted to the Federal DOE by February 3, 2014 and will be posted to the NJ DOE web page for their review. The link is: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/specialed/info/spp/apr/>

Dr. McDonald and Dr. Amerman will attend the next Northeast Regional Resource Center (NERCC) meeting in Massachusetts.

III. PRESENTATION

Mary Jane Kurabinski, Director of the Office of Literacy at the New Jersey Department of Education presented to the Council on English Language Arts and the Common Core. She provided a brief overview on the Common Core and then shared the related changes in English Language Arts instruction and testing. She also discussed in detail the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessment that will be field tested in 2014 and implemented in 2015. She recommended that Council members visit <http://www.achievethecore.org/> for additional information.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sol Heckelman commented that he found Ms. Kurabinski's presentation to be insightful and added that he believes that teaching should be both strategic and flexible.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:51 am. The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for Thursday, February 20, 2014 at the Holiday Inn in East Windsor.

VI. LUNCH