

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

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 18, 2014

Members in attendance: Lauren Agoratus, Myriam Alizo, Suzanne Buchanan, Susan Colacello, Mary Ann Comparetto, Deborah Lynam, Melanie McGackin Magaly Milton, Peggy O'Reilly, Tekelah Sherrod, Fred Tchang, Dorothy Van Horn

Members not in attendance: Beth Kelley, Leslie Rubinstein

Resource Representatives in attendance: Alan Kotzen, Nancy Mimm, Tracy Nowlin, Robert Paige, Amy Ricciardi

Guests and members of the public: Marie Barry, Tatsiana Da Grosa, Sol Heckelman, Lori Howard, David McNair, Rebekeh Noveasky, Mary Ortner, Tim Steele-Dadrie, Michel Tyl

I. ACCEPTANCE OF NOVEMBER MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 9:36 a.m.

The minutes were reviewed and approved. All were in favor.

II. DIRECTORS UPDATE

Dr. McDonald informed the Council that she will be sharing a Question and Answer document in the near future for Council input.

III. PRESENTATION

Dr. Timothy Steele-Dadsie, PARCC Program Coordinator, Office of Assessments, New Jersey Department of Education presented to the Council on the PARCC Accommodations and Accessibility Features Manual, Third Edition. The manual is a comprehensive policy document that provides guidance to districts and decision-making teams committed to ensuring that all participating students, including students with disabilities, English learners, and English learners with disabilities, are able to engage in a meaningful and appropriate manner so valid results can be obtained. The web link is: http://www.parcconline.org/sites/parcc/files/parcc-accessibility-features-accommodations-manual-11-14_final.pdf

Council members had questions and concerns about the Personal Needs Profile (PNP), decoding and read alouds, use of assistive technology devices, Braille and ASL, test administration, DLM eligibility, the practice test and student IEPs.

Marie Barry, Director, Office of Career and Technical Education, New Jersey Department of Education presented to the Council on Standard 9 which was passed as part of the Core Content Curriculum Standards (CCCS) by the State Board of Education on October 1, 2014. The career readiness standards must be implemented by school districts by September or 2015. Standard 9 includes: the 12 Career Ready Practices, Standard 9.1 -- Personal Financial Literacy, Standard 9.2 -- Career Awareness, Exploration, and Preparation, and Standard 9.3 -- Career and Technical Education. More information on Standard 9 can be found at: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/aps/cccs/career/>

The link to the New Jersey Career Assistance Navigator (NJCAN) is: www.njcan.org

VI. COUNCIL DISCUSSION

At the conclusion of the public portion of the meeting, the Council reconvened into the two committees for a working lunch session.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rebekah Noveasky asked if the Council might consider a collaborative meeting with the Regional Family Support Planning Council during the last week of January.

Mary Ortner stated that she believes that most parents are not aware that they have input into the PARCC testing process. She also commented on teachers being evaluated based upon test results.

Tatsiana Da Grosa thanked the Council for their interactive and informative discussion on the two presentations.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The public portion of the meeting was adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for Thursday, January 15, 2015 at the Holiday Inn and National Conference Center in East Windsor.