

STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Holiday Inn and the National Conference Center
399 Monmouth Street
East Windsor, New Jersey**

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Members in attendance: Myriam Alizo, Paul Barbato, Susan Colacello, Mary Ann Comparetto, Barbara Gantwerk, Deborah Lynam, Melanie McGackin, Magaly Milton, Leslie Rubinstein, Chris Shamburg, Amy Smith, Fred Tchang, Dorothy Van Horn

Members not in attendance: Beth Kelley

Resource Representatives in attendance: Eva Scott, Cheri Thompson

Resource Representatives not in attendance: Donna Holzschuh, Dawn Mergen, Kelley Michalowski

Guests and members of the public: Lauren Bennett, Kendra Carter, Sol Heckelman, Alnetta Hooper, Denise Pirozzi

I. ACCEPTANCE OF JUNE MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by chair Dorothy Van Horn at 9:41 a.m.

The June minutes were reviewed. After being properly moved and seconded, they were accepted with two abstentions.

II. DIRECTORS UPDATE

John Worthington reported that revisions to the PRISE were posted to the OSEP website on 9/13/16.

John Worthington shared with the Council that all Due Process forms can now be submitted to OSEP electronically and are also found on the website.

John Worthington updated the Council on the IEP Facilitation. The facilitators were trained in June and work with the four pilot districts will begin in October. The districts are: West Windsor-Plainsboro, East Orange, Cherry Hill and Hamilton (Mercer County).

John Worthington shared information on the relocation of the Learning Resource Center – South from Mullica Hill to Camden County College in Blackwood, New Jersey.

John Worthington update the Council on the activities of the Dyslexia Handbook Work Group. They met again on September 14, 2016. Additionally, the Directors Manual and the Model IEP are both in review.

John Worthington announced that the New Jersey Tiered System of Supports (NJTSS) website went live on 9/12/16. The Department of Education is the recipient of a 6-year, 6 million dollar grant from the federal office for this project.

John Worthington shared with the Council the resignation of the Commissioner of Education and the appointment of an Acting Commissioner, Kimberley Harrington, to begin on October 1, 2016.

John Worthington commented on the changes to the licensure requirements for “highly qualified” teachers as a result of the passage of ESSA.

John Worthington updated the Council on the status of the hiring of the Ombudsman. He stated that resume review was in progress.

III. PRESENTATION

Kendra Carter of Public Consulting Group (PCG) presented an overview on NJ SMART to the Council. Information on NJ SMART can be found on the Department of Education website at: <http://www.nj.gov/education/njsmart/>

IV. COUNCIL DISCUSSION/ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Council discussed the standing committees and a decision was made that the Transition Committee would meet and work outside of the scheduled monthly SSEAC meetings in order to expedite the completion of the Transition Workbook. The PARCC Committee will no longer meet.

There was discussion concerning monthly meeting topics. There is interest by the Council to hear presentations in the future on ESSA and Dyslexia, after the completion of the Handbook.

Leslie Rubinstein shared that the Learning Disabilities Association of New Jersey (LDANJ) is conducting a conference for parents, professionals, people with LD and students on Sunday, October 19th at Rutgers University, Livingston Campus in the Student Center.

Paul Fogarty informed the Council that there will be a Stakeholder Meeting on Wednesday, October 26, 2016 at the Holiday Inn and National Conference Center. Further information will be emailed to Council members shortly.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Sol Heckelman shared with the Council that the New Jersey Association of School Psychologists (NJASP) was conducting training with the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA). He also stated that NJASP had begun a networking group and that approximately 15 districts have participated. He invited SSEAC members to attend if they are interested.

Alnetta Hooper thanked the members of SSEAC for the hard work that are doing.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The public portion of the meeting was adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

The next meeting of the SSEAC is scheduled for Thursday, October 20, 2016 at the Holiday Inn and National Conference Center in East Windsor, New Jersey.