

# STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Holiday Inn and National Conference Center  
East Windsor, New Jersey

## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 15, 2018

**Members in attendance:** Myriam Alizo, Paul Barbato, Susan Colacello, Barbara Gantwerk, Beth Kelley, Deborah Lynam, Amy Smith, Fred Tchang, Dorothy Van Horn

**Members not in attendance:** Melanie McGackin, Magaly Milton, Leslie Rubinstein, Chris Shamburg

**Resource Representatives in attendance:** Donna Holzschuh, Deborah Verbos

**Resource Representatives not in attendance:** Kelley Michalowski, Eva Scott, Cheri Thompson,

**Guests and members of the public:** Lauren Agoratus, Mary Beth Berry, Danielle Fienberg, Kathy Goldenberg, Sol Heckelman, Camy Kobylinski, Matthew Korobkin, Lauren Krempecki, Jeannie Lopez, Somerlee Monaughan, Mary Ortner, Michael Steinbruck

### I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Deborah Lynam at 9:43 a.m.

### II. ACCEPTANCE OF DECEMBER AND JANUARY MINUTES

The December and January minutes were reviewed and approved. There was one abstention from the December minutes and three abstentions from the January minutes for attendance reasons.

### III. PRESENTATIONS

Mary Beth Berry and Kathy Goldenberg from the New Jersey State Board of Education introduced themselves and shared information about their work as members of the State Board Subcommittee for Special Education, along with what they would like to achieve this year.

Michael Steinbruck and Somerlee Monaughan presented to the Council on Person Centered Approaches in Schools and Transition (PCAST).

Find more information on the project and view the video they showed to the Council, here:

<http://www.nj.gov/education/specialed/transition/person.shtml>

For additional information on the PCAST project at the Boggs Center for Developmental Disabilities, click here: <http://rwjms.rutgers.edu/boggscenter/training/PCAST.html>

#### **IV. DIRECTORS UPDATE**

John Worthington shared with the Council the name of the new Commissioner of Education.

John Worthington informed the Council about the Restraint/Seclusion Bill signed by Governor Christie. A stakeholder group will be formed and he asked Council to recommend members if they know of anyone who may be interested.

John Worthington updated the Council on the recent Federal decision to delay the disproportionality requirements in ESSA and how that will effect New Jersey's initiatives already in place.

John Worthington informed the Council that the State Performance Plan and Annual Performance Review (SPP/APR) will be submitted by February 1, 2018.

John Worthington shared with the Council updated information on the new science assessment through Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM).

John Worthington informed the Council of new training opportunities on writing a better IEP to be conducted by the PCAST project at Rutgers. There will be 3 sessions conducted in the Fall of 2018 and three in the Spring of 2019.

In addition, he briefly discussed: Age 3 requirements, HIB private investigations, special class programs, kindergarten/pre-school and modified curriculums.

Lorelei Drew-Nevola shared with the Council the components of the SPP/APR submission.

Lorelei Drew-Nevola discussed the functions of her Division that include: technical assistance, coaching and professional development. The professional development focus for this school year is "Implementation Science". Her unit manages approximately forty projects and initiatives, as well as responsibility for grants management and oversight.

#### **V. COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

There was no formal Council discussion.

#### **VI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Danielle Fienberg, a parent, addressed the Council about an issue that she is having with the Child Study Team in her school district concerning services for her preschool child.

Sol Heckelman asked if it would be helpful to see an actual demonstration of the PCAST process. He also spoke about a school climate project that NJ DOE is conducting with the New Jersey Association of School Psychologists.

Mary Ortner thanked the presenters for the PCAST information. She shared a concern about which schools are selected for the project and urged that all districts should adapt PCAST, not

just special education programs. She stated that she believes that the Council has the responsibility to stand up for all children not to simply respond to legislation.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The public portion of the meeting was adjourned at 12:26 p.m.

The next meeting of the SSEAC is scheduled for Thursday, March 15, 2018 at the Robert Wood Johnson Wellness and Fitness Center in Hamilton Township, New Jersey.