

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

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 19, 2015

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

Members not in attendance: Leslie Rubinstein

Resource Representatives in attendance Tracy Nowlin, Robert Paige

Resource Representatives not in attendance: Daniel Frye, Alan Kotzen, Nancy Mimm

Guests and members of the public: Lauren Bennett, Heather Elm, Bill Freeman, Bob Haugh, Sol Heckelman, Kellie Mackiewicz, Isabel ?

I. ACCEPTANCE OF FEBRUARY MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 9:37 a.m.

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

II. DIRECTORS UPDATE

Dr. McDonald introduced Lorelei Drew-Nevola, Manager, Bureau of Program Development, Office of Special Education Programs to the Council.

Dr. McDonald recommended that Council members view a video featuring Melanie McGackin's son participating in a structured learning experience.

Dr. McDonald discussed new regulations being considered for teacher certification.

Dr. McDonald shared items from the weekly DOE Broadcast: The 2015 Exemplary Secondary Educator Recognition Program and the Exceptional Advocate Newsletter providing resources for military families with special needs.

Dr. McDonald encouraged Council members to visit the DOE web site for information on Independent Educational Evaluations (IEEs).

Dr. McDonald shared with Council members the activities of the Stakeholder group at their January 26, 2015 meeting to set the indicators for the SPP/APR. She encouraged SSEAC members to attend the February 25, 2015 meeting where Indicator 17 would be discussed.

III. PRESENTATION

Bob Haugh, Transition Coordinator, Office of Special Education Programs shared with the Council the statewide activities around Transition; including, Person Centered Planning, the Post School Outcomes Survey and the Dare to Dream Conferences.

The link to transition services provided in New Jersey is:

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/specialed/transition/>

Bill Freeman, also from the Transition unit, spoke to the Council about Community Based Instruction (CBI) and the project conducted with the Boggs Center.

VI. COUNCIL DISCUSSION

The Council discussed PARCC. Topics included, "opting out", teaching time, accommodations and test questions.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kellie Mackiewicz introduced herself as a member of the Hazlet Public Schools Special Education Parent Advisory Group (SEPAG) and stated that it was her first SSEAC meeting and that she had come to learn and observe.

Sol Heckelman expressed concerns about the 350 teachers/staff who might be ruffed by the Trenton Public Schools due to a budget short fall.

Isabel introduced herself as a parent and a New York City educator. She spoke to difficulties within her district (Wayne) and the SEPAG. She sees the need for better state regulations with regard to SEPAGs.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The public portion of the meeting was adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

The Transition and PARCC Committee's met over lunch.

The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for Thursday, March 19, 2015 at the Holiday Inn and National Conference Center in East Windsor.