

STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
Learning Resource Center-Central
200 Riverview Plaza
Trenton, NJ 08625-0500

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 16, 2015

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

Members not in attendance: Melanie McGackin, Tekelah Sherrod

Resource Representatives in attendance: Daniel Frye, Alan Kotzen, Tracy Nowlin

Resource Representatives not in attendance: Nancy Mimm, Robert Paige

Guests and members of the public: Lauren Bennett, Tatsiana DaGrosa, Denise Gilroy, Bob Haugh, Sol Heckelman, MaryAnn Joseph, Mary Ortner

I. ACCEPTANCE OF MARCH MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 a.m.

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

II. DIRECTORS UPDATE

Dr. McDonald announced that April is Autism Awareness month and shared the newly revised *Autism: Navigating the Maze* Family Guide. Information about the upcoming Dare to Dream Conferences and April's Month of the Military Child was also shared. Posters promoting the events were given to the Council.

Dr. McDonald updated the Council on the status of the SPP/APR. It is the 'clarification period' and no substantive changes were requested. Phase 1 of the SSIP was submitted by the April 15 deadline. NJDOE staff will be going to a national meeting to work on Phase 2. The determination letter from US DOE is anticipated to arrive sometime in June.

Dr. McDonald shared a letter from the Commissioner giving statistical data/information from the recent PARCC testing. It was also discussed that the 19 community colleges announced that PARCC test results will be considered as a part of a student's community college application.

Council members were also invited to attend the 1st Annual *Person-Centered Approaches in Schools and Transition (PCAST) Innovation Swap Meet* to be held on May 29, 2015 at the Learning Resource Center-Central in Trenton.

III. PRESENTATION

MaryAnn Joseph, the Special Education Consultant at Learning Resource Center - South presented to the Council on the Learning Resource Network Project. The Office of Special Education Programs, Bureau of Program Development at the New Jersey Department of Education runs four regional centers that provide resources, services and professional development to educators from throughout the state. For more information on the Centers can be found at: <http://www.nj.gov/education/lrc/>

Denise Gilroy, Education Planner at the Learning Resource Center – Central led the Council on a tour of the facilities.

IV. COUNCIL DISCUSSION

There was discussion around amending/updating the Transition section of the PRISE. OSEP is working on a tool kit.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mary Ortner had questions/concerns about PARCC testing; specifically, technology issues. She also inquired as to how feedback is being collected.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The public portion of the meeting was adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

The Transition and PARCC committees met during lunch.

The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for Thursday, May 14, 2015 at the Holiday Inn and National Conference Center in East Windsor, New Jersey.