

# STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

## **Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, March 17, 2016**

**Members in attendance:** Lauren Agoratus, Myriam Alizo, Susan Colacello, Barbara Gantwerk, Beth Kelley, Deborah Lynam, Melanie McGackin, Amy Smith, Leslie Rubinstein, Tekelah Sherrod, Fred Tchang, Dorothy Van Horn

**Members not in attendance:** Mary Ann Comparetto, Magaly Milton, Peggy O'Reilly

**Resource Representatives in attendance:** Donna Holzschuh, Dawn Mergen, Kelley Michalowski, Tracy Nowlin, Eva Scott, Cheri Thompson

**Guests and members of the public:** Lauren Bennett, Denise Dwyer, Mike Flom, Peg Kinsell, Lori Marabelle, Peggy McDonald

### **I. ACCEPTANCE OF FEBRUARY MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by chair Dorothy Van Horn at 9:38 a.m.

The February minutes were reviewed. One correction was noted, and after being properly moved and seconded passed unanimously.

### **II. DIRECTORS UPDATE**

John Worthington announced that there were three county-based Directors Meetings to be conducted.

John Worthington shared with the Council that the SSIP (Indicator #17) was due to the federal office on April 1, 2016.

John Worthington updated the Council on LRE settlement, with 76 districts involved. Training is ongoing.

John Worthington suggested that Council members note two items in the current Broadcast Memo; the PARCC PowerPoint and Graduation Requirements. Requirements for Algebra 1 and English Literacy 10 tests are now open for public comment.

John Worthington informed the Council that the PARCC Parent Involvement sessions had been cancelled.

John Worthington provided the Council shared with the Council about discussion to add Science to the DLM.

### **III. PRESENTATION**

Dr. Peggy McDonald presented the findings of the New Jersey Task Force on Improving Special Education for Public School Students. Dr. McDonald shared information on task force recommendation numbers 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 11, 13, 14, 15 and 17.

### **IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mike Flom, a parent with the Allendale SEPAG requested that Dr. McDonald respond to the following three items from the *New Jersey Task Force on Improving Special Education for Public School Students* report:

1. What recommendations from the report are being acted upon by the New Jersey Department of Education?
2. With regard to Recommendation #6, will there be public commentary solicited after the completion of the draft copy of the Special Education Parent Advisory Group (SEPAG) Manual being worked on by the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN) and the OSEP?
3. With regard to Recommendation #13, is the OSEP contracting with an independent body to conduct an investigation of the state's dispute resolution procedures?

### **V. ADJOURNMENT**

The public portion of the meeting was adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

The next meeting of the SSEAC is scheduled for Thursday, April 21, 2016 at the Holiday Inn and the National Conference Center in East Windsor, New Jersey.