

STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Holiday Inn and National Conference Center
East Windsor, New Jersey

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 8, 2017

Members in attendance: Myriam Alizo, Paul Barbato, Susan Colacello, Deborah Lynam, Leslie Rubinstein, Amy Smith, Fred Tchang

Members not in attendance: Mary Ann Comparetto, Barbara Gantwerk, Beth Kelley, Melanie McGackin, Magaly Milton, Chris Shamburg, Dorothy Van Horn

Resource Representatives in attendance: Donna Holzschuh, Eva Scott, Cheri Thompson, Deborah Verbos

Resource Representatives not in attendance: Kelley Michalowski

Guests and members of the public: Lauren Agoratus, Debra Clifford, Sol Heckelman, Matthew Korobkin, Sharon Lohrmann, Nancy Marcos, Anfal Muhammad-Jenkins, Mary Ortner, Damian Petino

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Deborah Lynam at 9:39 a.m.

II. ACCEPTANCE OF APRIL MINUTES

The April minutes were reviewed when quorum was achieved. After being properly moved and seconded, they were approved.

III. DIRECTORS UPDATE

John Worthington updated the Council on the progress of the Dyslexia Manual. The committee had their last meeting this week.

John Worthington announced that Barbara Gantwerk and Amy Smith were reappointed by the State Board of Education for another two-year term.

John updated the Council on the activities from the May Stakeholder meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for October 2017.

John Worthington informed the Council that an acting Ombudsman has been appointed while the hiring process continues for a full time appointment.

John Worthington shared that staff from the offices of special education and the County Supervisors of Child Study (CSCS) will take part in an office training on August 23, 2017. Topics covered will include regulations, due process, mediation, etc.

John Worthington shared with the Council that the last of the eight Dare to Dream conferences was held in May.

John Worthington provided the Council with an overview of the activities that occurred during the recent Dispute Resolution Summit.

IV. PRESENTATION

Damian Petino, Learning Consultant, Learning Resource Center - North Satellite and statewide Behavior Specialist began the discussion with an overview of how Positive Behavior Supports in Schools (PBSIS) ties in to the Offices work with the Statewide Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP), the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the New Jersey Tiered System of Supports (NJTSS).

Sharon Lohrmann, PhD, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Director of the Positive Behavior Support in Schools project at The Boggs Center, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School provided an update on the projects activities for the past year. She shared statistical data with the Council as well as how the selected schools progress through the three year project. In total, over 200 New Jersey individual schools have been involved in the project.

To learn about the New Jersey PBSIS initiative, click here: <http://www.njpbs.org/>

V. COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Fred Tchang inquired as to the current status of the Learning Resource Center – South.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Matthew Korobkin from the Public Consulting Group (PCG) introduced himself and stated that he will be attending future SSEAC meetings. He applauded the presenters on PBSIS efforts in New Jersey.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The public portion of the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

The next meeting of the SSEAC is scheduled for Thursday, September 14, 2017 at the Robert Wood Johnson Wellness and Fitness Center in Hamilton Township, New Jersey.