

# STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Holiday Inn and National Conference Center  
East Windsor, New Jersey**

## **Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, January 18, 2018**

**Members in attendance:** Myriam Alizo, Beth Kelley, Deborah Lynam, Magaly Milton, Leslie Rubinstein, Amy Smith

**Members not in attendance:** Paul Barbato, Susan Colacello, Barbara Gantwerk, Melanie McGackin, Chris Shamburg, Fred Tchang, Dorothy Van Horn

**Resource Representatives in attendance:** Kelley Michalowski, Eva Scott, Cheri Thompson, Deborah Verbos

**Resource Representatives not in attendance:** Donna Holzschuh

**Guests and members of the public:** Lauren Agoratus, Liz Barnes, Rita D'Esposito, Lisa Dickholtz, Robert Dunn, Sol Heckelman, Camy Kobylinski, Jamie Korarsky, Matthew Korobkin, Lauren Krempecki, Vanessa Lombardo, Jeannie Lopez, Lauren Lutcavage, Alison Pankowski, Jessica Redding, Danielle Schroeder, Kathy Stratton

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Deborah Lynam at 9:49 a.m.

### **II. ACCEPTANCE OF DECEMBER MINUTES**

Quorum was not attained. December minutes will be reviewed at the February meeting.

### **III. 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.

#### **IV. PRESENTATION**

Deborah Lynam and Alison Pankowski presented *The New Jersey Dyslexia Handbook: A Guide to Early Literacy Development & Reading Struggles* to the Council. Council members participated in an activity to demonstrate the difficulties that a dyslexic/struggling reader might encounter daily in the classroom. The handbook and additional information about dyslexia, including resources for educators and parents as well as three webinars, can be found on the New Jersey Department of Education website at: <http://www.nj.gov/education/specialed/dyslexia/>

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

There was no formal Council discussion.

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

Liz Barnes commented that she liked the district focus of the Dyslexia Handbook and that it is a wonderful parent resource and tool.

Sol Heckelman commented that the Child Study Evaluation shouldn't just be used for eligibility but rather be used for ongoing input throughout the child's educational process.

Jeannie Lopez would like to see the creation of an Autism Handbook.

Lauren Lutcavage commented that she feels that the Child Study Teams may sometimes use undo pressure during the process.

#### **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The public portion of the meeting was adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

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