

STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Robert Wood Johnson Fitness and Wellness Center
3100 Quakerbridge Road
Mercerville, NJ**

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 7, 2018

Members in attendance: Myriam Alizo, Paul Barbato, Susan Colacello, Beth Kelley, Deborah Lynam, Magaly Milton, Leslie Rubinstein, Chris Shamburg, Amy Smith, Fred Tchang, Dorothy Van Horn

Members not in attendance: Barbara Gantwerk, Melanie McGackin,

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, Amy Anderson, David Armstrong, Sol Heckelman, Lauren Krempecki

I. CALL TO ORDER/PRESENTATION

The meeting was called to order by Chair Deborah Lynam at 9:55 a.m.

Retiring members Myriam Alizo, Beth Kelley, Melanie McGackin, Magaly Milton and Fred Tchang were presented plaques for their years of service to the Council.

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MAY MINUTES

The May minutes were reviewed and unanimously approved with two abstentions.

III. DIRECTORS UPDATE

Lorelei Drew-Nevola shared with the Council that the nine Dare to Dream Conferences were completed in early June. Over 2,000 students and 500 parents/educators took part.

John Worthington asked the Council for recommendations on presentation topics for the 2018-2019 school year. Suggestions included: data sources, SPP/APR results, assessment update, accessibility, NJTSS update, parent support systems, transition counselors, age 3 gap, school security for special needs.

IV. PRESENTATION

Amy Anderson, New Jersey's Teacher of the Year and Top 5 finalist for National Teacher of the Year spoke to the Council about her background and experience as an American Sign Language (ASL) Teacher. She also shared with the Council what she has been doing during her year of service as the NJ Teacher of the Year.

VI. COUNCIL DISCUSSION

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to draft a letter to the Commissioner of Education in support of improving the process for the certification of American Sign Language Teachers, specifically native deaf candidates facing licensure barriers; and, expanded use of deaf paraprofessionals in early intervention and classroom settings.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Lauren Agoratus shared how American Sign Language was important to her child's early language acquisition and how it can be beneficial to children on the spectrum. She also shared new information about PerformCare with the Council. The web address is: <http://www.performcarenj.org/index.aspx>

David Armstrong discussed with the Council the importance of the 4 E's (Envision, Enable, Empower, Energize) to Parent and Family engagement.

Sol Heckelman shared his concerns about new legislation introduced by Senator Ruiz concerning the State criteria for determining whether a child has a specific learning disability under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The public portion of the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

The first SSEAC meeting of the 2018-2019 school year is scheduled for Thursday, September 20, 2018 at the Robert Wood Johnson Wellness and Fitness Center in Mercerville, New Jersey.