

State Special Education Advisory Council (SSEAC)

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

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 18, 2019

Members in attendance: Susan Colacello, Barbara Gantwerk, Viviana Litovsky, Vanessa Lombardo, Leslie Rubinstein, Andrea Moore, Lynda Shanahan, Susan Vandermark

Members not in attendance: Paul Barbato, Deborah Lynam, Kristy Ritvalsky, Chris Shamburg, Amy Smith, Kerri Walsifer

Resource Representatives in attendance: Donna Holzschuh, Kelley Michalowski, Eva Scott, Cheri Thompson

Resource Representative not in attendance: Deborah Verbos

Guests and members of the public: Lauren Agoratus, Lia Camuto, Debora Esposito, Sol Heckelman, Camy Kobylinski, Lauren Krempecki

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chair Dr. Peggy McDonald at 9:45 a.m. in the absence of Deborah Lynam, Chair and Dr. Paul Barbato, Co-chair.

II. Acceptance of March Minutes

The March minutes were reviewed. They were approved, with one abstention.

III. Assistant Commissioner and Deputy Assistant Commissioner of Student Services Updates

Dr. Peggy McDonald, Deputy Assistant Commissioner informed the Council that the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) was submitted to the federal office by the April 1, 2019 deadline.

Dr. McDonald shared that a School Climate Manual has been posted to the Department of Education (DOE) website.

Assistant Commissioner, Carolyn Marano informed the Council of several upcoming DOE conferences. A Social Emotional Learning Conference will take place on May 23, 2019 at Rutgers University and there will be a conference on Equity in July. She encouraged Council members to register to attend.

IV. Presentation

Dr. Walter Zahorodny, Ph.D. and Director of the New Jersey Autism Study at Rutgers Medical School updated the Council on *Tracking Autism Spectrum Disorder in New Jersey*.



Autism Study.ppt

Click on the presentation, here:

Dr. Timothy Steele-Dadzie, Manager, Office of Assessments, Division of Academics and Performance at the New Jersey Department of Education presented an update on statewide Assessment. Dr. Steele-Dadzie referred Council to the [March 18, 2019 DOE Broadcast Memo \(https://homeroom5.doe.state.nj.us/broadcasts/2019/MAR/18/19843/Update%20%20Regarding%20State%20Assessment%20Administration.pdf\)](https://homeroom5.doe.state.nj.us/broadcasts/2019/MAR/18/19843/Update%20%20Regarding%20State%20Assessment%20Administration.pdf)

V. Old Business

There was no old business.

VI. New Business

Susan Colacello and Lynda Shanahan discussed the formation of a Transition Committee and discussed with Council their vision for the committee's work.

VII. Announcements

Leslie Rubinstein informed Council members of her association's *Life in High School and Beyond Conference & Resource Expo* to be conducted at The College of New Jersey on Saturday, May 11, 2019.

VIII. Public Comment

Sol Heckelman commented on various items discussed during the assessment presentation including the tracking of student information, and accountability not being relative to instruction.

VIII. Adjournment

The public portion of the meeting was adjourned at 12:24 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 16, 2019 at the Robert Wood Johnson Fitness and Wellness Center in Mercerville, New Jersey.