

State Special Education Advisory Council (SSEAC)/Stakeholder Meeting

Virtual Meeting Conducted Utilizing Microsoft Teams

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 15th, 2024

Members (in attendance): Dr. Paul Barbato, Elizabeth Alves, Dr. Dorothy McMullen, Jocelyn Gottlieb, Cynthia Defina, Peggy McDonald, Scott Longazel, Dr. Carmen Henderson, Dr. Eniola Ajayi, Dr. Pamela Brillante, John Worthington, Dr. Harold Abraham

Members (not in attendance): Pamela Brillante, Dr. Jennifer Vecchiarelli,

Resource Representatives (in attendance): Eva Scott (CBVI), Donna Holzsuh (JJC), Toni Scott (DOL); Kelley Michalowski (DCF), Daniel Heitner (DOH), Luiz Pereira (OSSS), Peg Kinsell (SPAN)

Resource Representatives (not in attendance): Tauheedah Hill (DOC), Tamira Chapman (McKinney-Vento)

Proxy Representatives (in attendance): Jennifer Kaufman, Rafeeza Shahabudeen

Proxy Representatives (not in attendance): *All proxy members were in attendance.*

Guests from the NJ Department of Education (in attendance): Kimberly Murray, Dr. Damian Petino, Ilene Goy, Wendy Eufemia, Dr. Chinwe Osondu, Dr. Amanda Philp, Alexandra Pensiero, Victoria Marcheski, Ashley Pichardo, Iris DeVaughn, Eileen Osieja, Tiffany Whitaker, Melissa Pearce, Nanci Moore, Alison Pankowski, Jaime Jackett, Tisha KcKenzie, Adam Kendler, Jolie Battista, JoAnn Johnson, Bill Freeman, Christina Orozco, Melissa Jackson,

Guests and Stakeholders from the Public (in attendance): Rhonda Tyree, Lauren Agoratus, Meghann Bierly, Beth Cosentino, Paulina Vargas, Ellie Santiago, Ellen Woodcock, Luke Babits

*The following members of the public were identified based-on the name/number reflected upon accessing the meeting.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Paul Barbato at 9:32 a.m.

Approvals – Minutes

The January minutes were reviewed and approved (1st – John Worthington; 2nd – Jennifer Vecchiarelli; No Corrections).

Presentation(s)

Office of Special Education Updates

Kimberly Murray, Director for the Office of Special Education, updated SSEAC members on several items pertaining to the Office of Special Education.

Office of Special Education Presentation

Whole Council Information Priorities: “Indicator 7: Preschool Child Outcomes Summary (COS)”

- Presenter(s): Ilene Goy, Preschool Specialist, Office of Special Education, and Iris DeVaughn, Preschool Specialist, Office of Special Education

Council Work Plan Presentation Request

Promoting Family Involvement in Transition Planning and Services

- Presenter: Bill Freeman, State Coordinator of Secondary Transition, Office of Special Education, and Dawn Monaco, Transition Project Director, SPAN Parent Advocacy Network

Council Recommendations and Work Plan

None at this time

Council Discussion –

Old Business

Council members received a reminder of anticipated in-person meetings for March and June of 2024.

Council members were provided with a final opportunity to join the bylaws committee to discuss upcoming amendments.

New Business

Council members participated in a “Brainstorming Discussion” around possible training topics. This included an opportunity to propose topics that the Office of Special Education (OSE) could offer as part of their technical assistance and learning institutes. The council provided sixteen (16) recommendations to the OSE.

Appointed members from each subcommittee reported to the council on updates from their subcommittee activities and discussions.

Stakeholders, council members, and members of the public were invited to complete the NJ-SSEAC meeting evaluation form following the formal portion of the meeting.

Announcements

There were no announcements at this time.

Public Comment

The chairperson, Dr. Paul Barbato, verbally recited excerpts from the NJ-SSEAC bylaws regarding public comment procedures. He identified the council would not comment during the public portion of the meeting. However, he reported that comments, concerns and recommendations were to inform current and future work of the council.

No public comments were provided.

The chairperson invited all public participants to provide further correspondence via email, if they had not done so already. Dr. Barbato concluded to all participants that following written receipt, someone from the Office of Special Education would be in contact with them. Public comments and questions can be submitted to SpEdAdvisoryCouncil@doe.nj.gov.

Adjournment

The public portion of the meeting was adjourned at 12:26 p.m.

DRAFT