

STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
National Conference Center at the Holiday Inn
399 Monmouth Street
East Windsor, NJ 08520

MINUTES

Thursday, February 28th, 2008

Members in attendance: Dr. Sharon Maricle, Dr. Howard Lerner, Philip Gartlan, William Sellar, Carolyn Hayer, Kathleen Mullery, Melinda Jennis, Angela Durso, Scott Elliott, Blanche Stetler, Kathy Roberson

Members not in attendance: Dr. Norma Blecker, Debra Fernandez

Resource Representatives in attendance: Donna Brown, Gordon Reibman, Elizabeth Collins,

Resource Representatives not in attendance: Debbie Stewart

Guests and members of the public: J. L. Seymore, Lauren Agoratos

I. ACCEPTANCE OF JANUARY MINUTES

The meeting was officially called to order at 9:45 a.m. by Chairperson Sharon Maricle. The January minutes were approved and seconded. **One abstention. All in favor**

II. COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

SSEAC members broke into committee groups for two hours. Members of the public were invited to listen to the committee discussions.

Parent Organization Committee

Roberta Wohle and Sharon Maricle met with the newly formed Parent Organization Committee. Committee membership included Melinda Jennis, Angela Durso and Kathy Roberson. The subcommittee discussed the need for guidance from the New Jersey Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs regarding the purpose of the parent advisory committee required by special education regulations.

Transition Committee:

Activity: Bill Freeman from NJOSEP served as a resource to the Transition Committee. The subcommittee reviewed the Continuous Improvement section of the NJOSEP self-assessment/monitoring document and related training materials. The subcommittee expressed an interest in presentations from the NJDOE Office of Career and Technical Education and the NJDOE Character Education Grant to identify connections to transition planning and program development.

Inclusion Committee:

The following handouts were distributed for review:

- *Towards inclusion of students with special educational needs in the regular classroom*
by Bruce Allen Knight.
- *Moving Toward Inclusive Practices*
by Nancy Burstein, Sue Sears, Anne Wilcoxon, Beverly Cabello, and Michael Spagna
- *Research Review for Inclusive Practices*
by Rita Hocog Inos and Mary Anne Quigley
- *Barriers and Facilitators to Inclusive Education*
by Jayne Pivik, Joan McComas, and Marc Laflamme

The Inclusion Committee reviewed and discussed the NJOSEP Local Capacity Building and Improvement Grant (Cadre II) with regard to 'Best Practices' for including students with disabilities in general education programs.

Recommendations:

- Have Peggy Thorpe speak to the Committee on the Cadre II and Inclusion Best Practices.
- Consider the 'Best Practices' from the grant in District Monitoring.
- In light of the new requirement for general education pre-school programs, districts should use this opportunity to set-up in-district inclusion pre-school handicapped programs in place of sending students out-of-district

III. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

State Performance Plan (SPP)/Annual Performance Report (APR): Dr. Wohle indicated that the SPP and APR were submitted to the USDOE on February 1, 2008 as required. During the early part of April, states will have a one week opportunity to provide any clarifications needed to the February 1st submission.

Indicator # 8 – Parent Involvement; The results of the Parent Survey were reported to the SSEAC as indicated below:

80.6% of parents with a child receiving special education services report that schools facilitated parent involvement as a means of improving services and results for children with disabilities.

State Determinations of Local Districts: Each district, at the end of January, received its determination of compliance with state and federal special education requirements. The NJOSEP will post the determinations on its website.

IV. COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Office of Administrative Law Updates (OAL) were made available to SSEAC members for review. Ms. Cynthia Hoenes, NJOSEP Coordinator of Dispute Resolution will provide future updates as they become available.

V. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

VI. LUNCH

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Transition Committee: Committee Reports will be given at the March 20th, SSEAC meeting

Inclusion Committee: Committee Reports will be given at the March 20th, SSEAC meeting

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approx 1:45 p.m. The next meeting of the Council is scheduled on March 20th, 2008 at the Holiday Inn in East Windsor