

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

**MINUTES**

**Thursday, March 19, 2009**

**Members in attendance:** Dr. Howard Lerner, Carolyn Hayer, Scott Elliott, William Sellar, Kathleen Mullery, Michael Nevin, Philip Gartlan, Angela Durso, Blanche Stetler, Kathy Roberson, Dr. Tracy Amerman

**Members not in attendance:** Dr. Sharon Maricle, Debra Fernandez

**Resource Representatives in attendance:** Robert Paige, Elizabeth Collins

**Resource Representatives not in attendance:** Gordon Reibman, Debbie Stewart

**Guests and members of the public:** Sol Heckelman, Lauren Agoratos

## **I. ACCEPTANCE OF FEBRUARY MINUTES**

The meeting was officially called to order at 9:47 a.m. by Co-Chairperson Dr. Howard Lerner. The February minutes were approved and seconded. **All in favor**

## **II. PRESENTATIONS:**

### *Core Curriculum Content Standards*

**Janis Jensen, Director**

**New Jersey Department of Education, Office of Academic Standards and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills**

Ms. Jensen presented to the Council an overview of the revised Core Curriculum Content Standards (CCCS), currently in review phase. The new standards include integration of 21<sup>st</sup> Century knowledge and skills with global perspectives that are developed around four themes: Global Awareness, Financial/Economic/Business & Entrepreneurial Literacy, Civic Literacy and Health Literacy. They are arranged in learning progressions from Preschool to Grade 12; will be linked to classroom applications and other support materials and are delivered in electronic format. The Standards are in the areas of: Math, Science, Language Arts Literacy, Social Studies, Visual and Performing Arts, World Languages, Technology, Comprehensive Health and Physical Education and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Life and Career Skills. The Standards were evaluated on Rigor, Relevance/Real World Applications, Relevance/Global Perspectives, Coherence/Progression, Focus, Specificity, Measurability and Clarity. A link to the proposed Standards can be found at <http://www.nj.gov/education/aps/cccs/2009/>

The six, non-tested areas will be the first to be presented to State Board of Education for adoption. Ms Jensen then discussed specific changes being made in each of the content areas. Those changes are outlined in a PowerPoint presentation on the State web site and can be reviewed at: <http://www.nj.gov/education/aps/cccs/2009/RegionalStdsReviewSessions2.pdf>

In addition, Ms. Jensen gave an overview of the proposed changes to Code as they relate to the Standards.

### **III. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

Dr. Wohle reported that New Jersey's IDEA share of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds would be \$360 million with an additional \$11 million earmarked for Preschool programs.

On February 26, 2009 Dr. Wohle attended and answered questions at the New Jersey Assembly Education Committee session with Lucille Davy, Commissioner of Education and Deputy Commissioner, Willa Spicer regarding the role of the Executive County Superintendent in collecting and disseminating information to school districts regarding available in-district programs.

Following the suggestion of SSEAC members, Dr. Wohle indicated that school districts monitored by NJOSEP will be required to *provide documentation* that the results of the monitoring have been presented at a school board meeting

### **IV. COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

Michael Nevin reported that he and Sarah Vazquez participated in panel discussions on March 7<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

Kathy Roberson began the joint committee session with a recap of past conversations/presentations related to social skills, noting that several of the NJDOE initiatives were related to social skill development. She also referred to the presentation on Community-Based Instruction and recalled that there needs to be additional training on social skill acquisition for job coaches supporting students with disabilities. A Council discussion followed that included commentary about the academic focus on the Core Content Standards; the need for a paradigm shift to advance inclusive practices; and the need for explicit social skill instruction for students with significant disabilities. Dr. Wohle suggested that the Council consider a capacity building grant initiative focused on the needs of students with significant disabilities, including social skill development.

### **V. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Lauren Agoratos from Family Voices reported that on March 1, 2009 approximately 150 interviewers were trained by Autism New Jersey (formerly COSAC)

Sol Heckleman, NJASP/CO-CST commented with regard to Council discussion that institutional and cultural change are difficult and he encouraged all involved to foster change in districts that show interest in paradigm shift.

### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m. The next meeting of the Council is scheduled at the Holiday Inn in East Windsor on April 23, 2009.

### **VII. LUNCH**