

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

MINUTES

Thursday, December 17, 2009

Members in attendance: Lauren Agoratus, Dr. Tracy Amerman, Angela Durso, Philip Gartlan, Carolyn Hayer, Dr. Howard Lerner, Michael Nevin, Kathy Roberson, Rob Sandusky, William Seller, Blanche Stetler

Members not in attendance: Scott Elliott, Kathleen Mullery

Resource Representatives in attendance: Susan Avny, Jo-Ann Ayres, Betsy Collins, Robert Paige, Debbie Stewart

Guests and members of the public: Deborah Fernandez, Sol Heckelman

I. ACCEPTANCE OF NOVEMBER MINUTES

The meeting was officially called to order at 9:42 a.m. by Dr. Howard Lerner. The November minutes were approved and seconded. **All in favor.** Lauren Agoratus and Rob Sandusky were welcomed to Council as new members of the SSEAC, along with new Resource members Susan Avny and Jo-Ann Ayres.

II. COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Dr. Wohle recapped previous Council discussions with regard to social skills and proposed the development of a grant initiative that would address factors relevant to promoting an inclusive school climate. The Council entered into a lengthy discussion of the proposal and determined that the emphasis on social skills would be lost if the grant initiative was too broad in scope. Dr. Wohle agreed to reconsider the social skills initiative.

Peggy Thorpe O'Reilly shared with Council a historical overview of past and present trainings at the Learning Resource Centers (LRC) on developing social and communication skills for students with significant disabilities in general education programs. Council members were invited to attend this LRC workshop, if interested.

Carolyn Hayer will present at the Transition Coordinators' January Network Meeting. Michael Nevin will be conducting a workshop presentation at Montclair State University and worked on a fundraiser for his employer.

Howard Lerner indicated he would like the Council to prepare comments during the reauthorization of NCLB regarding the requirement for the participation of students with significant disabilities in the alternate assessment. Dr. Wohle indicated that she would let Council know when input was being solicited.

III. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Dr. Wohle reported on the following:

- NJOSEP staff members have been preparing for the submission of the State Performance Plan (SPP) and Annual Performance Report (APR) to the USDOE on February 1, 2010. The stakeholder meeting, to discuss the SPP/APR, will be conducted on January 15, 2010 at the Holiday Inn, East Windsor
- The clarification memo from the New Jersey Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs regarding goals and objectives will be distributed after the first of the year.
- Dr. Wohle shared that Cynthia Hoenes had approached the Mental Health Planning Council concerning special education representation on the Council. The SSEAC should send a letter to the Council requesting such representation.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sol Heckleman commented that he was impressed by the open interchange regarding the proposed grant initiative and the input from the SSEAC members to the director. Deborah Fernandez reflected on her years on Council and thanked everyone for their support.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:11 p.m. The next full meeting of the Council is scheduled for Thursday, January 21, 2010 at the Holiday Inn in East Windsor.

VI. LUNCHEON