

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

MINUTES

Thursday, October 21, 2010

Members in attendance: Lauren Agoratus, Dr. Tracy Amerman, Angela Durso, Phillip Gartlan, Dr. Howard Lerner, Kathleen Mullery, Michael Nevin, Katherine Roberson

Members not in attendance: Scott Elliott, Rob Sandusky, Bill Sellar, Blanche Stetler

Resource Representatives in attendance: Karen Carroll, Debbie Stewart

Resource Representatives not in attendance: Susan Avny, Suzanne Canuso

Guests and members of the public: Cheryl Eroy, Sol Heckelman, Deborah Lynam, Randy Thompson

I. ACCEPTANCE OF SEPTEMBER MINUTES

The meeting was officially called to order at 9:56 a.m. by Chairperson Dr. Howard Lerner. The September minutes were reviewed and approved. All were in favor.

II. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Barbara Gantwerk, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Student Services updated the Council on the Governors selection of nine people for an Education Effectiveness Task Force, a committee to examine how school educators are recruited, hired, compensated and terminated. The task force will also devise an evaluation system in which student achievement measures make up at least 50 percent of a teacher or school leader's assessment. The Council will write a letter to the Acting Commissioner regarding concerns that special education issues should be considered in discussions by the Task Force.

Ms. Gantwerk informed the Council on department approval to hire staff in the Office of Special Education Programs. Positions are for monitors and complaint investigators.

Ms. Gantwerk distributed copies of four bills and laws focused on school choice (P.L.2010, Chapter 65, Assembly, No. 355; Senate, No. 2198; Senate, No. 1872; Senate, No. 1858) and reviewed them with the Council.

III. PRESENTATION

Dr. Peggy McDonald, Manager, Bureau of Program Accountability gave a presentation to the Council on the Alternate Proficiency Assessment (APA). The APA is a portfolio assessment designed to measure progress toward achieving New Jersey's state educational standards for those students with severe disabilities who are unable to participate in the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJASK) or the High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA).

Dr. McDonald referred Council members to the NJ DOE web site to review the 2010-2011 CPI Links at: [http://pem.ncspearson.com/nj/apa/\(wuiuxv454vvomvydyfxt2hiu\)/CPILinks_1011.aspx](http://pem.ncspearson.com/nj/apa/(wuiuxv454vvomvydyfxt2hiu)/CPILinks_1011.aspx) as well as the Five Items Document at: [http://pem.ncspearson.com/nj/apa/\(wuiuxv454vvomvydyfxt2hiu\)/doc/NJ%20APA%202010-2011%20FiveItems.pdf](http://pem.ncspearson.com/nj/apa/(wuiuxv454vvomvydyfxt2hiu)/doc/NJ%20APA%202010-2011%20FiveItems.pdf)

Dr. McDonald also discussed the federal initiative for a national APA, with implementation targeted for 2014-2015.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Deborah Lynam, from the Statewide Technical Assistance Resource Team (START) Project at SPAN introduced herself and shared that observing how councils operate would assist them with their work.

Sol Heckelman, representing COCST/NJASP thanked the Council for the days informative and thought provoking conversation.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m. The next full meeting of the Council is scheduled for Thursday, November 18, 2010 at the Holiday Inn in East Windsor.

VI. LUNCHEON