

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

**MINUTES**

**Thursday, December 16, 2010**

**Members in attendance:** Lauren Agoratus, Dr. Tracy Amerman, Phillip Gartlan, Dr. Howard Lerner, Kathleen Mullery, Michael Nevin, Katherine Roberson, Bill Sellar, Blanche Stetler

**Members not in attendance:** Angela Durso, Scott Elliott, Rob Sandusky

**Resource Representatives in attendance:** Susan Avny, JoAnn Ayres, Karen Carroll, Rick Hager

**Guests and members of the public:** Sol Heckelman, Dermott Kehoe, Patrick Keenoy, Ted Kozlik, Deborah Lynam, Natasha Schneider, John Worthington

**I. ACCEPTANCE OF NOVEMBER MINUTES**

The meeting was officially called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairperson Dr. Howard Lerner. The November 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 presentation that she gave to the State Board of Education on Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). The State Board would like Ms. Gantwerk to do another presentation at another monthly meeting to further the discussion.

Ms. Gantwerk shared with the Council the timelines for readopting New Jersey Administrative Code.

**III. PRESENTATION**

Dermott Kehoe, Executive Director of the New Jersey Association of Pupil Services Administrators (NJAPSA) and NJAPSA members Patrick Keenoy and Ted Kozlik discussed with the Council the five areas of administrative code that were of the most interest to NJAPSA membership. The three code issues are: parent advisory groups, teacher participation in IEP meetings, and extended school year services. Two other two areas of concern were certified audits for approved schools and Assembly Bill No. 3510. There was Council discussion on each of the topic areas.

It was noted that the Council had done work on defining the role of Parent Advisory Groups in previous sessions and that a letter had been submitted to the Commissioner of Education at that time.

#### **IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Natasha Schneider suggested that when looking at what other states are doing with regard to special education to consider the work being done in Massachusetts over other states. She also commented on resource rooms.

Deborah Lynam from the Statewide Technical Assistance Resource Team (START) Project reiterated the assistance that START provides to districts on the topic of parent advisory groups. She also noted, as a parent, her support for teacher participation in the IEP meeting.

Sol Heckelman commented that conversations about the role of parent advisory groups and parent involvement in IEP meetings has been happening for many years and expressed his disappointment that these conversations are still ongoing.

#### **V. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:38 p.m. The next full meeting of the Council is scheduled for Thursday, January 20, 2011 at the Holiday Inn in East Windsor.

#### **VI. LUNCHEON**