

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

MINUTES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Members in attendance: Lauren Agoratus, Myriam Alizo, Dr. Tracy Amerman, Angela Durso, Phil Gartlan, Beth Kelley, Toba Knobel, Melanie McGacken, Michael Nevin, Kathy Roberson, Bonni Rubin-Sugarman, Rob Sandusky

Members not in attendance: Blanche Stetler

Resource Representatives in attendance: Susan Avny, Suzanne Canuso, Rob Paige, Debbie Stewart

Guests and members of the public: Sol Heckelman, Deborah Lynam, J. L. Seymore, Barbara Tkach

I. ACCEPTANCE OF JUNE MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Acting Chairperson Kathy Roberson. The June minutes were reviewed and approved. All were in favor.

New Council members Myriam Alizo, Beth Kelley, Toba Knobel, Melanie McGacken and Bonni Rubin-Sugarman were introduced and welcomed to the Council.

The floor was opened to nominations for Chair and Co-Chair of the Council. Elected were: Kathy Roberson, Chair and Dr. Tracy Amerman, Co-Chair

II. DIRECTORS UPDATE

Dr. Peggy McDonald, Interim Director, Office of Special Education gave the Council an overview of the Department of Education's new organizational chart and explained the functional changes. She also discussed with the Council the upcoming monitoring visit by the federal Office of Special Education.

Dr. McDonald shared with the Council a letter from John Worthington on Due Process Hearing Decisions.

Dr. McDonald informed the Council the New Jersey had filed a waiver for No Child Left Behind.

III. PRESENTATION

Ms. Barbara Tkach, Preschool Coordinator made a presentation to the Council on New Jersey's application for the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant. She asked the Council to write a letter of support and the Council agreed.

IV. COUNCIL DISCUSSION

The Council discussed topics of interest for future monthly meetings. These include: student growth models, bullying, regulations, legislative action, educational reforms, post-school outcomes and options after 21.

Myriam Alizo shared a brochure with the Council for two October Inclusion Mini-Conferences on Universal Design for Learning (UDL) co-sponsored by NJDOE and SPAN.

Michael Nevin will be making a presentation on employment at the Boggs Center at the end of October.

V. PUBLIC

Sol Heckelman updated the Council with activities of the New Jersey Association of School Psychologists

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:37 p.m. The next full meeting of the Council is scheduled for Thursday, October 20, 2011 at the Holiday Inn in East Windsor.

VII. LUNCH