

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

**MINUTES**

**Thursday May 17, 2012**

**Members in attendance:** Dr. Tracy Amerman, Myriam Alizo, Angela Durso, Melanie McGacken, Michael Nevin, Kathy Roberson

**Members not in attendance:** Lauren Agoratus, Phil Gartlan, Beth Kelley, Bonni Rubin Sugarman, Blanche Stetler

**Resource Representatives in attendance:** Susan Avny, Suzanne Canuso, Karen Carroll, Tracy Nowlin

**Guests and members of the public:** Natasha Chase, Irene Cook, Barbara Eget, Dana Egreczsky, Scott Elliott, Rob Fischer, Sol Heckelman, Michelle Mahabirsingh, Michele Wu

**I. ACCEPTANCE OF APRIL MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Chairperson Kathy Roberson. The April minutes were reviewed. All were in favor.

**II. PRESENTATIONS**

Dr. Irene Cook, Director of Autism Programs for Pompton Lakes, Ringwood and Lakeland Public Schools presented to the Council on how they use Community Based Instruction (CBI) and Structured Learning Experience (SLE) for students on the spectrum in her districts. Each student is evaluated using a three point system: what are the students strengths, what do they need, and what options are available to them. In her three districts the following program is in place: CBI/SLE begins in the first grade with students going out into the community on field trips once or twice a month; fourth and fifth graders go out every week and complete activities such as buying groceries or cooking a meal; middle school students participate in a structured learning experience; while high school students participate in job awareness activities and job exploration. High School students work both in their school building and in the community. One of Dr. Cook's students, a high school junior, shared his various work experiences with the Council.

Dana Egreczky, Vice President, Workforce Development for the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce Foundation spoke to the Council on the various initiatives that the Foundation makes available to schools, teachers and students. In particular, she discussed the LearnDoEarn Student Achievement System and the components applicable to students with cognitive disabilities. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.bcee.org/>

### **III. DIRECTORS UPDATE**

Dr. Peggy McDonald shared with the Council that the federal office of special education has released new guidelines on the use of restraints.

Dr. McDonald informed the Council on the rollout of the Common Core Content Curriculum Standards with the new student learning objectives (SLO).

Dr. McDonald announced that the 2010-2011 district level public reports would be posted to the DOE web site on June 1, 2012

### **IV. PUBLIC**

Michele Mahabirsingh asked the Council several questions.

### **V. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 pm. The next full meeting of the Council is scheduled for Thursday, June 7, 2012 at the Holiday Inn in East Windsor.

### **VII. LUNCH**