

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

**MINUTES**

**Thursday September 20, 2012**

**Members in attendance:** Lauren Agoratus, Myriam Alizo, Dr. Tracy Amerman, Mary Ann Comparetto, Beth Kelley, Melanie McGacken, Michael Nevin, Dr. Tekelah Sherrod

**Members not in attendance:** Bonni Rubin-Sugarman

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

**Resource Representatives not in attendance:** Tracy Nowlin

**Guests and members of the public:** Maureen Cline, Kathleen Fadden, Sol Heckelman, Peg Kinsell, Joy MacViear, Tina Mann

**I. ACCEPTANCE OF JUNE MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 9:51 a.m. by Co-chairperson Dr. Tracy Amerman.

Dr. Peggy McDonald accepted nominations from the floor for the position of Chair and Co-chair. Elected were: Dr. Tracy Amerman, Chair and Melanie McGacken, Co-chair.

The June minutes were reviewed. All were in favor.

**II. DIRECTORS UPDATE**

Dr. Peggy McDonald updated the Council on the Response to Intervention (RTI) Center Grant. New Jersey was not selected.

Dr. McDonald discussed with the Council the national standards in language arts and math. She recommended that Council members look at the core curriculum standards and model curriculum pages on the DOE web site at: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/sca/> Dr. McDonald also talked about student learning objectives, scaffolding and universal design for learning (UDL).

At the request of the Council, Dr. McDonald reviewed the changes to code recommended by the Education Transformation Task Force. The State Board of Education will tentatively begin first discussion on the special education changes to code at their February session. The final report can be found at: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/reform/ETTFFinalReport.pdf>

Dr. McDonald updated the Council on the activities of the Regional Achievement Centers (RACs).

### **III. COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

The Council discussed potential topics and speakers for the 2012 - 2013 SSEAC monthly meetings. Recommendations were: teacher effectiveness, special education code, behavioral health, changes at the Department of Children and Families, Response to Intervention, Autism data, parent councils, and homebound instruction.

### **IV. PUBLIC**

Peg Kinsler inquired about hotel directions and the meeting agenda being posted on the web site. She expressed concern over the code changes recommended by the task force report and suggested that no changes be made until there are changes to the federal code. She also expressed concern about the changes the State Board of Education has implemented for making public comment and testimony at their monthly meetings.

Sol Heckleman commented on the importance of a climate change in schools and praised initiatives such as PBSIS and RTI.

Maureen Cline asked a question about the preschool guidance letter.

Tina Mann expressed concern about the recommended code changes. She also asked about the requirements for parent councils.

### **V. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:26 pm. The next full meeting of the Council is scheduled for Thursday, October 18, 2012 at the Holiday Inn in East Windsor.

### **VII. LUNCH**