

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

MINUTES

Thursday, December 20, 2012

Members in attendance: Myriam Alizo, Dr. Tracy Amerman, Mary Ann Comparetto, Beth Kelley, Melanie McGacken, Michael Nevin, Dr. Tekelah Sherrod, Dr. Dorothy Van Horn

Members not in attendance: Lauren Agoratus, Bonni Rubin-Sugarman

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

Guests and members of the public: Victoria Alizo, Sol Heckelman, Amanda Leonard, Tina Mann

I. ACCEPTANCE OF NOVEMBER MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by Chair, Tracy Amerman

The November minutes were reviewed. All were in favor.

II. PRESENTATION

Dr. Tracey Severns, Chief Academic Officer, Division of Academics presented to the Council on the Common Core Content Standards (CCCS) and the Model Curriculum. She updated the Council on the departments involvement in the Common Core State Standards Initiative (CCSSI) and the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career (PARCC). Additionally, she informed the Council on the model curriculum (version 1.0) which includes all standards of the grade-level content organized into five units of study, each with targeted SLOs, intended for six weeks of instruction each. A subsequent version of NJDOE's model curriculum (version 2.0) will follow with sample lessons, videos of best practices relative to SLOs, suggestions of resources aligned to the Common Core, and resources for professional development in both content and pedagogy. Information can be found on the DOE website at:

CCCS: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/cccs/>

PARCC: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/sca/parcc/>

Model Curriculum: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/modelcurriculum/>

III. DIRECTORS UPDATE

Dr. Peggy McDonald shared with the Council that she met with several special education advocates on December 18th to hear their concerns about the proposed changes to code.

Dr. McDonald informed the Council that she participated in a national conference call on the topic of assessment.

Dr. McDonald discussed with the Council the Department of Education memo in response to the tragedy in Newtown, CT.

IV. COUNCIL DISCUSSION

The Council discussed drafting a letter to the State Board of Education with their concerns pertaining to the proposal to amend N.J.A.C. 6A:14. A subcommittee was established with Melanie McGacken as chair.

V. PUBLIC

Sol Heckelman suggested that the Council return to having standing committees. In light of the Newtown, CT tragedy he suggested visiting the New Jersey Association of School Psychologists web site for information on crisis teams. The web address is www.njasp.org

Tina Mann questioned whether schools were already teaching to the common core. She expressed her concern that students in high school are lagging behind their peers because they often don't have supports or remediation.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:08 pm. The January 17, 2013 SSEAC meeting will be replaced by the Stakeholder meeting. The next full meeting of the Council is scheduled for Thursday, February 21, 2013 at the Holiday Inn in East Windsor.

VII. LUNCH