

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

MINUTES

Thursday, April 18, 2013

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

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

Guests and members of the public: Lauren Bemo, Maria Docherty, Kathleen Gardella-Lovett, Sol Heckelman, Tina Mann, Leslie Rubenstein

I. ACCEPTANCE OF APRIL MINUTES

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

The minutes were reviewed. All in favor.

II. DIRECTORS UPDATE

Dr. Peggy McDonald shared with the Council information about the recent meeting of NJ OSEP with staff from the Schoolwide Integrated Framework for Transformation Center (SWIFT). Researchers at the University of Kansas have been awarded a five-year, \$24.5 million grant to develop a national center to assist schools across the country to implement their successful inclusion model for educating general and special education students together while improving schoolwide academic outcomes. They will be selecting four states to participate in the study and New Jersey is a candidate. Notification of participating states will be made on May 15, 2013.

Dr. McDonald informed the Council that the clarification period for the Annual Performance Review (APR) by the federal Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) has concluded, but that feedback has not been shared with NJ OSEP as of yet. She also discussed a new indicator related to the state improvement plan.

Dr. McDonald announced to the Council that Barbara Gantwerk, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Student and Field Services will be retiring in June 2013.

III. COUNCIL DISCUSSION

The Council continued discussion related to the proposed changes to N.J.A.C. § 6A:14, picking up at section 3.8e.

The committee will now prepare the letter to be sent to the State Board of Education, following final Council approval.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Maria Docherty commended the Council on their thoughtful discussion of the proposed changes to N.J.A.C. § 6A:14. She also expressed a concern over the issue of notification. Dr. McDonald clarified.

Sol Heckelman shared with the Council his opinion concerning the proposed changes to the sections of the code related to private schools; specifically the disparity between the regulations for public and private schools.

V. LUNCH

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:51 pm. The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for Thursday, May 16, 2013 at the Holiday Inn in East Windsor.