

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

MINUTES

Thursday, June 13, 2013

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

Members not in attendance: Lauren Agoratus, Mary Ann Comparetto

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

Resource Representatives not in attendance: Tracy Nowlin

Guests and members of the public: Lauren Bennett, Sol Heckelman, Tina Mann

I. ACCEPTANCE OF MAY MINUTES

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

The minutes were reviewed with one correction made. All were in favor.

II. DIRECTORS UPDATE

Dr. Peggy McDonald reported that N.J.A.C. § 6A:14 is still on hold. New Jersey did not receive the SWIFT grant.

Dr. McDonald shared with the Council the creation of a teacher advisory panel spearheaded by the 2012 Teacher of the Year. There are three subgroups (80 to 100 teachers) representing the three regions in New Jersey.

Dr. McDonald informed the Council that effective July 10, 2013, the emergency speech certificate will be eliminated. A new certificate of eligibility and a provisional certificate will be available to those who are matriculated in a graduate speech program and who meet the criteria in the newly adopted code. Fran Leibner gave a brief overview of the changes.

III. PRESENTATION

Mary Pat Publicover, Director of Special Services in the North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District made a presentation to the Council on their Special Education Achievement Award. <http://www.state.nj.us/education/news/2012/0217se.htm>

With the award, the district was able to expand their reading programs and teacher training, grow their autism program and purchase supplies and equipment. They also were able to provide more opportunities for students to be included with nondisabled peers, to facilitate independence and to increase vocational opportunities.

IV. COUNCIL DISCUSSION

The Council discussed possible topics for discussion during the 2013-14 Council year.

Mentioned were:

- PAARC (implementation and test accommodations)
- Teacher evaluation
- Student growth objectives
- The Common Core and its effect on students with disabilities
- Literacy
- Response to Intervention
- Transition
- Special Education Code
- Social/emotional Skills
- Parent/Family involvement

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dr. Sol Heckelman would like to see the Council continue to focus discussion on social and social/emotional skills. He stated that the Department of Health is focused on helping those affected by Hurricane Sandy (physical and psychosocial) and that he believes that it's important for interagency collaboration.

Tina Mann believes that the presenters program is the exception rather than the rule, but is hopeful that other districts will adapt the best practices that she shared.

VI. LUNCH

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:22 pm. The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for Thursday, September 19, 2013 at the Holiday Inn in East Windsor.