

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

MINUTES

Thursday, October 17, 2013

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

Members not in attendance: Melanie McGacken

Resource Representatives in attendance: Susan Avny

Resource Representatives not in attendance: Suzanne Canuso, Karen Carroll, Tracy Nowlin

Guests and members of the public: Julie Best, Mike Flom, Sol Heckelman, Donna Krenc, Mark Rynone, Denzil Thomas

I. ACCEPTANCE OF OCTOBER MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 9:39 a.m.

The minutes were reviewed. All were in favor.

II. PRESENTATION

Jennifer Aitken, Director of the Office of Specialized Services and Supplemental Instruction at New Jersey City University and President of the New Jersey Association on Higher Education and Disability (NJ HEAD) spoke to the Council on what services colleges and universities can and cannot provide to students with disabilities.

The link for the services provided by NJCU is:
<http://web.njcu.edu/programs/oss/content/default.asp>

The link for NJ HEAD is: http://www.ahead.org/affiliates/new_jersey

III. DIRECTORS UPDATE

Dr. McDonald shared with the Council some of the professional development activities that the Office of Special Education Programs is involved in. These include PBSIS, CBI, co-teaching, math initiatives, parent initiatives, Pre-K, scaffolding, UDL and SGO's. She recommended that Council members look at the NJ Achieve web page for the "Overview for Special Education Teachers."

The link is: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/AchieveNJ/teacher/SpecialEducatorOverview.pdf>

IV. COUNCIL DISCUSSION

The Council had discussion on Student Growth Outcomes (SGOs) and what is happening with Parent Advisory groups.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mike Flom inquired if the Council meetings could be held in alternate locations. He also commented on districts avoiding issues brought to them by parents.

Julie Borst spoke to the dissolution of parent groups in some districts. She also questioned if special education test scores don't improve how will teacher evaluations be impacted.

Sol Heckelman commented on SGO's, sub-contracting and the role of child study teams.

VI. LUNCH

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 pm. The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for Thursday, November 21, 2013 at the Holiday Inn in East Windsor.