

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

MINUTES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Members in attendance: Lauren Agoratus, Myriam Alizo, Dr. Tracy Amerman, Mary Ann Comparetto, Melanie McGacken, Michael Nevin, Dr. Dorothy Van Horn

Members not in attendance: Beth Kelley, Bonni Rubin-Sugarman, Dr. Tekelah Sherrod

Resource Representatives in attendance: Susan Avny, Karen Carroll

Resource Representatives not in attendance: Suzanne Canuso, Tracy Nowlin

Guests and members of the public: Julie Borst, Edward Bray, Mike Flom, Mary Haspel, Sol Heckelman, Amanda Leonard, Leslie Rubinstein, Denzil Thomas, Beatrice Whelpley

I. ACCEPTANCE OF OCTOBER MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

The minutes were reviewed. All were in favor with one abstention.

II. DIRECTORS UPDATE

Dr. McDonald introduced Mary Haspel, newly hired as the Autism and Multiple Disabilities Specialist for the Office of Special Education Programs at the Department of Education.

Dr. McDonald informed the Council of the launch of the new Educator Resource Exchange Website for Teachers on November 19, 2013. Link: www.njcore.org

Dr. McDonald recommended that Council members read the article, *Meeting the Needs of Students with Disabilities with 'Whole-School' Initiatives* in the November issue of *The Bridge* at <http://www.nj.gov/education/bridge/13/11/11.pdf>

Dr. McDonald shared with the Council the latest update on the implementation of the recently passed Dyslexia legislation; specifically the inclusion of the new definition in code and the professional development component.

Dr. McDonald announced that Scaffolds will be posted on the NJDOE web site shortly. Link: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/modelcurriculum/>

III. PRESENTATION

Paul Nedeau, Assistant Director, Office of Evaluation, New Jersey Department of Education presented to the Council on Student Growth Objectives (SGOs). Portions of his presentation may be viewed on the Department web site at:

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/AchieveNJ/teacher/SGOOverviewPresentation.pdf>

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mike Flom inquired about systemic violations by a district and complaint resolution reporting.

Denzil Thomas expressed concerns about a district. Dr. McDonald suggested that they speak after the meeting.

Julie Borst commented on Council discussion and Child Study Team conflicts.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm. The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for Thursday, December 19, 2013 at the Holiday Inn in East Windsor.

VI. LUNCH