

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

**MINUTES**

**Thursday, April 17, 2014**

**Members in attendance:** Lauren Agoratus, Myriam Alizo, Dr. Tracy Amerman, Beth Kelley, Melanie McGackin, Dr. Dorothy Van Horn

**Members not in attendance:** Mary Ann Comparetto, Michael Nevin, Bonni Rubin-Sugarman, Dr. Tekelah Sherrod

**Resource Representatives in attendance:** Susan Avny

**Resource Representatives not in attendance:** Karen Carroll, Nancy Mimm, Tracy Nowlin

**Guests and members of the public:** Ken Bond, Sole Heckelman, Sharon Levine, Deborah Lynam, Monica Medina-Frisen, Mary Orber, Leslie Rubinstein, Nicole Sumner, Danica Williams

**I. ACCEPTANCE OF FEBRUARY MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 9:50 a.m.

The minutes were reviewed. All were in favor.

**II. DIRECTORS UPDATE**

Dr. McDonald informed the Council of the appointment by the State Board of Education of David C. Hespe as Acting Commissioner of Education.

Dr. McDonald shared with the Council that a national field test of the PARCC recently concluded with over 400 districts in New Jersey participating. She discussed in detail the range of accommodations that will be offered to students with disabilities who will be taking the test.

Dr. McDonald suggested that Council members read the NJSBA Task Force on Special Education: Final Report – 2014. It can be found at:

<https://www.njsba.org/news/njsba-task-force-on-special-ed-report-2014.php>

Dr. McDonald announced that there would be a Stakeholder meeting from 1:00 to 3:00 pm on May 15, 2014 in response to additional direction by the federal government on the SPP/APR.

### **III. PRESENTATION**

Kenneth Bond, Title III Education Program Development Specialist, New Jersey Department of Education made a presentation to the Council on *Sheltered English Instruction*. Sheltered instruction is an approach to teaching English language learners which integrates language and content instruction. The dual goals of sheltered instruction are to provide access to mainstream, grade-level content, and to promote the development of English language proficiency. Mr. Bond focused on the use of the Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP).

### **IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mary Orber had several questions for the Council with regard to PARCC. Dr. McDonald was able to answer them for her.

Danica Williams informed the Council of a new problem report form created by the Family Institute of the ARC of New Jersey. It is intended to help families navigate the New Jersey service provider system.

### **V. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m. The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for Thursday, May 15, 2014 at the Holiday Inn in East Windsor. A Stakeholder meeting will follow.

### **VI. LUNCH**