

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

MINUTES

Thursday, May 15, 2014

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

Members not in attendance: Beth Kelley

Resource Representatives in attendance: Susan Avny, Tracy Nowlin, Robert Paige

Resource Representatives not in attendance: Nancy Mimm

Guests and members of the public: Sol Heckelman, Deborah Lynam, Mary Orber, Leslie Rubinstein, Nicole Sumner, Danica Williams

I. ACCEPTANCE OF APRIL MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 9:43 a.m.

The minutes were reviewed. All were in favor.

The meeting dates for 2014 - 2015 were reviewed. All were in favor.

II. DIRECTORS UPDATE

Dr. McDonald shared with the Council some of the items that were included in the Commissioner's most recent Broadcast Memo; including the Special Education End-of-Year Report and the Board Certified Behavior Analysts Survey. In addition, she touched upon the LRE lawsuit settlement, the School-wide Integrated Framework for Transformation (SWIFT) Project, the Dare to Dream conferences, the Parent Survey, Special Education Week events, Public Reports, Instructions for the Annual Performance Review, video filming of Community Based Instruction school programs and the appointments to the Task Force on Improving Special Education for Public School Students.

There was Council discussion with Dr. McDonald about graduation rates, changes to teacher preparation programs and extended school year.

III. PRESENTATION

Dr. McDonald made a presentation to the Council on *The Common Core and Students with IEPs*. She had previously presented it at the New Jersey Council on Exceptional Children Annual Conference in March.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mary Orber shared several thoughts concerning the relationship among IEP teams, parents and teachers.

Leslie Rubenstein mentioned three reading training sessions presented by Learning Ally, Newgrange School and Learning Disabilities Association of New Jersey.

Sol Heckelman commented on social supports and school climate, along with teacher quality as related to teacher training programs.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:01 p.m. The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for Thursday, June 5, 2014 at the Holiday Inn in East Windsor.

VI. LUNCH