

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

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 15, 2015

Members in attendance: Lauren Agoratus, Suzanne Buchanan, Susan Colacello, Beth Kelley, Melanie McGackin, Magaly Milton, Leslie Rubinstein, Tekelah Sherrod, Fred Tchang, Dorothy Van Horn

Members not in attendance: Myriam Alizo, Mary Ann Comparetto, Deborah Lynam, Peggy O'Reilly

Resource Representatives in attendance: Daniel Frye, Alan Kotzen, Tracy Nowlin, Robert Paige

Resource Representatives not in attendance: Nancy Mimm

Guests and members of the public: Tatsiana Da Grosa, Sol Heckelman, Kate Henry, Amy Ricciardi, John Walsh

I. ACCEPTANCE OF DECEMBER MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 9:48 a.m.

The minutes were reviewed and approved. All were in favor.

II. DIRECTORS UPDATE

Dr. McDonald informed the Council that the New Jersey Task Force on Improving Special Education for Public School Students would have their next meeting on February 6, 2015.

Dr. McDonald discussed with the Council a meeting with the SWIFT Center at the University of Kansas. SWIFT is a Schoolwide Integrated Framework for Transformation and will be piloting in two New Jersey districts. The link for additional information is: <http://www.swiftschools.org/>

Dr. McDonald also shared a brief update on Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) and PARCC with the Council.

III. PRESENTATION

Susan Martz, Assistant Commissioner of the Division of Student Service and Career Readiness presented to the Council giving an overview of the offices in the division. In particular, the School Climate Survey: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/students/safety/behavior/njscs/> and the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/students/safety/behavior/hib/> Handouts from her PowerPoint presentation were provided to Council members.

VI. COUNCIL DISCUSSION

The Council made recommendations on the New Jersey Department of Education and Office of Special Education web pages. Dr. McDonald will share them with the DOE web committee.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tatsiana Da Grosa asked if there was a list or directory of resources to promote parent involvement and engagement. She also inquired about opportunities for parents to get involved in-district on all levels.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The public portion of the meeting was adjourned at 11:49 a.m.

Because several committee members were not in attendance, the Council decided to not conduct committee sessions.

The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for Thursday, February 19, 2015 at the Holiday Inn and National Conference Center in East Windsor.