

STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Holiday Inn and the National Conference Center
399 Monmouth Street
East Windsor, New Jersey**

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 15, 2015

Members in attendance: Lauren Agoratus, Myriam Alizo, Susan Colacello, Mary Ann Comparetto, Barbara Gantwerk, Deborah Lynam, Beth Kelley, Magaly Milton, Peggy O'Reilly, Tekelah Sherrod, Fred Tchang, Dorothy Van Horn

Members not in attendance: Melanie McGackin, Leslie Rubinstein, Amy Smith

Resource Representatives in attendance: Donna Holzschuh, Tracy Nowlin, Robert Paige

Resource Representatives not in attendance: Daniel Frye, Alan Kotzen, Nancy Mimm, Eva Scott

Guests and members of the public: Lauren Bennett, Sol Heckelman, Alnetta Hooper, Andrew Metters, Mary Ortner, Lisa Valenti

I. ACCEPTANCE OF SEPTEMBER MINUTES

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

The September minutes were reviewed with one correction being noted. After being properly moved and seconded, all were in favor.

II. DIRECTORS UPDATE

Dr. Peggy McDonald shared that she had recently returned from a meeting in the District of Columbia on closing the achievement gap. She also attended a meeting of State Directors of Special Education in Baltimore.

Dr. McDonald updated the Council on the Division of Learning Supports and Specialized Services Mission Statement and how the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) own statement aligns with the Divisions goals/objectives and activities. Some of those activities include initiatives around a Tiered System of Supports (TSS), Preschool, Universal Design for Learning (UDL), Co-teaching, Transition, Person Centered Planning (PCAST), Families, Equity, School Climate, Positive Behavioral Supports (PBSIS), Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) and Special Olympics.

III. PRESENTATIONS

Kim Murray, Manager of the Bureau of Program Accountability presented to the Council on the topic of Monitoring. OSEP monitoring is part of a consolidated Department of Education (DOE) system that reviews all education and fiscal related activities in district. The monitors also conduct targeted reviews using the State Performance Plan (SPP) Indicators, as well as data reviews. <http://www.nj.gov/education/specialed/mon/>

Ms. Murray also shared information on Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM). The teacher and administrator training modules are located at: <http://www.dynamiclearningmaps.org/newjersey>

IV. COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Deborah Lynam, appointee to the DOE Standards Review Committee, updated the Council on recent committee activities.

Lauren Agoratus shared information on several health initiatives.

Magaly Milton led a discussion on student homework.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mary Ortner expressed her opinion on the topic of student homework.

Alnetta Hooper inquired as to the protocol for obtaining/sharing information presented at the monthly SSEAC meetings.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The public portion of the meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

The Transition and PARCC committees met over a working lunch.

The November 19, 2015 SSEAC meeting will be replaced with a Stakeholder meeting and will be closed to the public.

The next meeting of the SSEAC is scheduled for Thursday, December 17, 2015 at the Holiday Inn and the National Conference Center in East Windsor, New Jersey.