

# STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

## **Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, January 21, 2016**

**Members in attendance:** Lauren Agoratus, Myriam Alizo, Susan Colacello, Barbara Gantwerk, Beth Kelley, Deborah Lynam, Magaly Milton, Leslie Rubinstein, Tekelah Sherrod, Amy Smith, Fred Tchang

**Members not in attendance:** Mary Ann Comparetto, Melanie McGackin, Peggy O'Reilly, Dorothy Van Horn

**Resource Representatives in attendance:** Donna Holzschuh, Kelley Michalowski, Tracy Nowlin, Robert Paige, Eva Scott, Cheri Thompson

**Resource Representatives not in attendance:** Nancy Mimm

**Guests and members of the public:** David Armstrong, Lauren Bennett, Bill Freeman, Sol Heckelman

### **I. ACCEPTANCE OF DECEMBER MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by acting chair Deborah Lynam at 9:48 a.m.

The December minutes were reviewed, and after being properly moved and seconded passed unanimously.

### **II. DIRECTORS UPDATE**

Dr. Peggy McDonald announced that she has been named Acting Deputy Commissioner, a newly created position in the Division of Learning Supports and Specialized Services. John Worthington has replaced her as Acting Director of the Office of Special Education Programs and Kathy Ehling has become the Acting Manager of the Bureau of Policy and Planning.

Dr. McDonald briefly discussed with the Council the more than 40 recommendations presented in the final report by the Study Commission on the Use of Student Assessments in New Jersey.

Dr. McDonald updated the Council on the Final Report of the Standards Review Committee presented at the State Board of Education meeting held on January 11, 2016. There were 235 recommendations made by the committee. A comment period will be held. Any changes to the Standards will need to be approved by the State Board at a future meeting.

Dr. McDonald shared with the Council that Score Standards for Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM): Grades 3 through 8 and Grade 11 Mathematics and English Language Arts were approved at the State Board of Education meeting.

### **III. PRESENTATION**

Bill Freeman, Transition Coordinator at the New Jersey Department of Education, presented an overview of the Transition process to the Council. Information about Transition planning in New Jersey can be found at: <http://www.nj.gov/education/specialed/transition/>

### **IV. COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

Lauren Agoratus inquired about the status of the Special Education Ombudsman.

Fred Tchang made several comments about PARCC.

Rob Paige asked about the status of the Core Content Curriculum Standards.

Deborah Lynam gave a report on the activities of the Standards Review Committee.

### **V. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

David Armstrong, with the Orange Public Schools SEPAG, appreciated the Transition presentation as he has a transition age grandchild.

Sol Heckelman will relay the information presented in the Transition presentation to his association membership. He also stated that transition planning is important for ALL students.

### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The public portion of the meeting was adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

The Transition and PARCC Committees met over lunch.

The next meeting of the SSEAC is scheduled for Thursday, February 18, 2016 at the Holiday Inn and the National Conference Center in East Windsor, New Jersey.