

STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 18, 2016

Members in attendance: Lauren Agoratus, Myriam Alizo, Susan Colacello, Barbara Gantwerk, Beth Kelley, Deborah Lynam, Melanie McGackin, Magaly Milton, Peggy O'Reilly, Amy Smith, Dorothy Van Horn

Members not in attendance: Mary Ann Comparetto, Leslie Rubinstein, Tekelah Sherrod, Fred Tchang

Resource Representatives in attendance: Donna Holzschuh, Dawn Mergen, Kelley Michalowski, Tracy Nowlin, Robert Paige

Resource Representatives not in attendance: Eva Scott, Cheri Thompson

Guests and members of the public: Lauren Bennett, Rachel Kassick

I. ACCEPTANCE OF JANUARY MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by chair Dorothy Van Horn at 9:43 a.m.

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

II. DIRECTORS UPDATE

John Worthington announced that New Jersey's Annual Performance Review (APR) was submitted to the federal Department of Education three days early. Indicator #17 is due on April 1, 2016.

John Worthington shared with the Council the half of the thirteen scheduled Directors Meetings have been completed.

John Worthington updated the Council on proposed changes to the Model IEP which will provide guidance and sample documents.

John Worthington shared with the Council that work on the Dyslexia Manual continues with a potential release date of late summer/early fall.

John Worthington informed the Council of the Dispute Resolution Project that the Office of Special Education is piloting in three districts.

John Worthington provided the Council with information on a new OSEP project to create a Special Education Directors Manual. OSEP is collaborating with NJAPSA to make the manual less about compliance and more about guidance and best practice.

John Worthington updated the Council on the status of the Ombudsman position.

III. PRESENTATION

Barbara Tkach, State Preschool and 619 Coordinator; Melanie Fleming, Preschool Consultant, LRC-Central; and, Alexis Woodward, Preschool Consultant, LRC-South presented to the Council on current statewide initiatives in Preschool/Early Childhood.

IV. COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Various Council members commented on items related to Preschool.

Deborah Lynam shared with the Council her experience at the recent *Teach to Least Summit* she attended in Baltimore.

Magaly Milton suggested a topic for a future SSEAC meeting: ESSA vs. Current Code

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rachel Kassick, a parent, commented that today's presentation was appreciated and appropriate as she has a first grader.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The public portion of the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

The Transition and PARCC Committees did not meet over lunch.

The next meeting of the SSEAC is scheduled for Thursday, March 17, 2016 at the Holiday Inn and the National Conference Center in East Windsor, New Jersey.