

**GREEN BROOK TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Date: January 11, 2016**

Present:

Parent Representatives:

Mr. & Mrs. Bennett, Mrs. Dattoo, Mrs. Hartlieb, Mrs. Larsen, Mr. Lohner

School District Representatives:

Mary Denise Appio, Dr. Emilia Muglia, Derek Ressa

| <p style="text-align: center;"><u>TOPIC</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reports - Old Business w/outcomes & decisions - New Business w/outcomes & decisions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Topics for Next Meeting/Conclusions | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>DISCUSSION</u></p> <p>Include the content & details of items discussed in all topics. Please include who provided the information.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>FOLLOW-UP / ACTION PLAN</u></p> <p><i>What, Who, When, How</i> (Names, Timeline for Resolution, How and When it will be Monitored)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What are you tracking and why? - What are you looking to improve? - How are you tracking it & has it improved? |
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| <p>CST Coordinator Report</p> | <p>During her report, Dr. Muglia shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first item was about a local resource for families called PerformCare. This network can connect families with supports for their child if they are struggling with physical, mental, emotional, and/or social difficulties. • The next item was an upcoming professional development opportunity for the Child Study Team. The workshop is for school district case managers on how to write effective Individual Educational Programs. | |
| <p>Director of Special Services Report</p> | <p>During his report, Mr. Ressa shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first was about the district's website which included a coming new SEAC webpage format and link from the GBTPS home page to find all available flyers, events, and resources related to special education students and their families. • Mr. Ressa gave an update on the district's current self-contained | |

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| <p>Other Agenda Items</p> | <p>special education programs, including: 1) the K-4 and 5-8 Learning and Language Disabled programs, 2) the Preschool ABA program and the Integrated Preschool program, and 3) the L.E.A.D. Behavioral Disabilities program (Learning Emotion & Discipline).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Ressa shared about the Dynamic Learning Maps, an adaptive computer-based assessment designed for students with significant cognitive disabilities. He shared about the DLM's connection to the Common Core State Standards and the PARCC assessment. Mr. Ressa shared test details, supports that are available to students, its' spring administration, and resources available to parents. <p>Our next agenda item was Input on Policies, Programs, and Practices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One item was the Special Education Task Force Final Report released from the New Jersey Department of Education dated August 2015. Mr. Ressa presented an overview of the report, shared examples of the stakeholders involved, named the committees formed, highlighted themes, and with the parents, examined specific recommendations made to the New Jersey Department of Education. • An item that was distributed for review but not discussed was the Study Commission on the Use of Student of Assessments report from New Jersey Department of Education dated January 2016. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is anticipated that Green Brook Township Public Schools will await direction from the New Jersey Department of Education regarding the recommendations of the Special Education Task Force report. In the meantime, the district will seek to address areas brought up in the report as proactively as possible. • SEAC may review the second report, Study Commission on the Use of Student Assessments, at a future meeting. |

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| <p>Parent Report</p> <p>Handouts</p> <p>The next SEAC meeting is March 7, 2016.</p> | <p>Another agenda item was Education, Health, and Safety of Children with Special Needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An organization called POAC was discussed, who provides resources and support for students and families affected by Autism. Specifically discussed was their Autism Shield program which is a series of workshops on how to promote awareness regarding safety of students with autism. • At different points during the evening, questions were brought up by parents regarding specific district initiatives and programs. They included: the districts Intervention and Referral Services program, the Response to Intervention model used in the program, basic skills and multisensory instruction for Language Arts, the importance of reading comprehension, world language choices for students, and academic supports for parents outside of the district. • <i>SEAC Agenda</i> • <i>NJDOE: Special Education Task Force Report</i> • <i>NJDOE: Study Commission on the Use of Student Assessments</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Ressa and Mrs. Larsen are seeking to reserve a guest speaker for the June 6, 2016 SEAC meeting to speak about this very important issue. • Mr. Ressa and the Child Study Team welcomed and responded to the questions from parents and gave feedback on how the district is addressing those areas, as well as how the district is looking to improve. The committee will continue to evaluate and give feedback on the district's progress in these areas. |

Respectfully submitted,

Derek Ressa