

**New Jersey State Board of Education
Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting
In the Conference Room on the First Floor
100 River View Executive Plaza
Trenton, NJ**

March 4, 2015

Presiding: Mr. Mark W. Biedron, President

Secretary: David C. Hespe, Commissioner

PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM

Dr. Ronald Butcher
Ms. Claire Chamberlain
Mr. Joseph Fisicaro
Mr. Jack Fornaro
Ms. Edithe Fulton
Dr. Ernest Lepore
Mr. Andrew Mulvihill
Mr. Peter Simon
Dr. Dorothy Strickland

ABSENT

Mr. Arcelio Aponte

CONVENING

State Board of Education President Mark W. Biedron convened the public meeting with the reading of the statement pertaining to the public session of the State Board meeting as it complies with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act.

The Open Public Meetings Act was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meeting of public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon.

In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the State Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted in the Department of Education, Secretary of State's Office and notice also having been given to the State House Press Corps, the Governor's Office and the State Board agenda subscribers.

And seeing there was a quorum, the meeting of March 4, 2015, was called to order.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Biedron then read the resolution pertaining to the executive session of the State Board meeting as it complies with the Open Public Meetings Act.

WHEREAS, in order to protect the personal privacy and to avoid situations wherein the public interest might be disserved, the Open Public Meetings Act permits public bodies to exclude the public from that portion of a meeting at which certain matters are discussed, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that consistent with the provision of *N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b)*, the State Board of Education will now adjourn to executive session to discuss personnel and legal issues. The State Board immediately adjourned to executive session on March 4, 2015.

RECONVENING

President Biedron reconvened the open meeting at 10:15 a.m. with the reading of the resolution pertaining to the resumption of the public session of the State Board meeting as it complies with the Open Public Meetings Act.

WHEREAS, consistent with the provision of *N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b)*, the State Board will now adjourn from executive session to resume the open session of this meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board members approved the minutes of the public meeting conducted on February 4, 2015.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Public Testimony

President Biedron stated that public testimony session will be held today at 2 pm. He also stated that the amendments to regulations for Chapters 9, 9A, 9B and 9C are scheduled for public testimony.

President Biedron stated that public testimony would not be held in April because there are no topics scheduled. President Biedron stated that members of the public should contact the State Board office at 609-984-6024 or check the following website <http://education.state.nj.us/sboe/reg.php> for updates.

Permanent Student Representative

President Biedron welcomed Russell Bauer, the student representative for the 2014-2015 school year, and his advisor, Mr. Mathew Abate.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Career (PARCC)

Commissioner Hespe gave a brief update on the status of the implementation of the PARCC assessments. He stated that by the end of the day today NJ will have administered about 600,000 tests. He also stated that overall administration has gone well with minor glitches being addressed quickly and successfully by the Department's support center.

Release of Anti-bullying Video

Robert Bumpus, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Field Services introduced a video message from the Acting New Jersey Attorney General, John Jay Hoffman, to school leaders on the issue of harassment, intimidation and bullying (HIB) in schools. The video from the Attorney General expresses the importance of a proactive, not reactive, approach to HIB, and urges school leaders to make HIB a top priority. The video also emphasizes the importance of vigilant awareness about incidents of HIB, as well as ensuring a positive culture and climate in all school buildings.

Student Growth Percentiles (SGP) Presentation

Peter Shulman, Assistant Commissioner/Chief Talent Officer, Division of Teacher and Leader Effectiveness and Bari Erlichson, Assistant Commissioner/Chief Performing Officer, Division of Data,

Research Evaluation and Reporting provided an overview of Student Growth Percentiles for New Jersey Students and Educators.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

**Items scheduled for a vote are marked with an asterisk.*

***A. Appointment(s)**

- Approved the following appointments pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-32-35 and N.J.A.C. 6A:2-1.1 et seq.:
 - Carl Blanchard, Director, Office of Evaluation
 - Robin Knutelsky, Director, Office of Academics

***B. Certification of School Districts**

- There were no districts for certification.

***C. Qualified Zone Academy Bonds**

- Approved for publication in the *NJ Register*, the amendments to Chapter 16 pertaining to health services pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-1, 4, 12, 23 through 31, 34, 41, and 44, and N.J.S.A 18A:40A-12.

D. Religious Holidays Calendar Resolution

- Discussed the resolution pertaining to the annual calendar of religious holidays for the 2015-2016 school year as established at N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.3(j), pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:36-14-16.

RESOLUTION

The List of Religious Holidays Permitting Student Absence from School

WHEREAS, according to N.J.S.A. 18A:36-14 through 16 and N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.3(j), regarding student absence from school because of religious holidays, the Commissioner of Education, with the approval of the State Board of Education, is charged with the responsibility of prescribing such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of the law; and

WHEREAS, the law provides that:

1. Any student absent from school because of a religious holiday may not be deprived of any award or of eligibility or opportunity to compete for any award because of such absence;
2. Students who miss a test or examination because of absence on a religious holiday must be given the right to take an alternate test or examination;
3. To be entitled to the privileges set forth above, the student must present a written excuse signed by a parent or person standing in place of a parent;
4. Any absence because of a religious holiday must be recorded in the school register or in any group or class attendance record as an excused absence;
5. Such absence must not be recorded on any transcript or application or employment form or on any similar form; and
6. The Commissioner, with the approval of the State Board of Education, is required to:
 - (a) prescribe such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this act; and

(b) prepare a list of religious holidays on which it shall be mandatory to excuse a student. The list, however, is to be a minimum list. Boards of education, at their discretion, may add other days to the list for the schools of their districts; and

WHEREAS, although the New Jersey Department of Education makes every attempt to ensure the accuracy of the dates using the lunar, Gregorian and Julian calendars; and

WHEREAS, dates within this resolution may not be fixed before the State Board adopts the annual calendar and may require additional revision; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, the State Board of Education permits the Commissioner of Education, after annual adoption by the State Board of Education, to revise the dates provided in list of religious holidays.

WHEREAS, the district board of education has the right to add any bona fide religious holiday to the list for its own schools; now therefore be it,

RESOLVED that the State Board of Education adopts the following list of religious holidays for the 2015-2016 school year:

2015-16 School-Year	Observance
July 2015	
July 2	Asalha Puja Day (Buddhist)
July 9	Martyrdom of the Bab (Baha'i)
July 13	Laylat as-Qadr (Islam)*
July 13-15	Ulambana/Obon (Buddhist)
July 18-21	Eid al Fitr (Islam)*
July 26	Tisha B'Av (Jewish)
July 31	Guru Purnima (Hindu)*
August 2015	
August 1	Fast in Honor of the Holy Mother of Lord Jesus (Eastern Orthodox Christian) Lammass (Christian and Wicca)
August 6	Transfiguration of the Lord (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
August 15	Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Christian) Dormition of the Theotokos (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
August 19	Naga Panchami (Hindu)*
August 28	Onam (Hindu)*
August 29	Raksha Bandhan (Hindu)*
September 2015	
September 1	Ecclesiastical Year begins (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
September 5	Krishna Janmashtami (Hindu)*
September 7	His Holiness Sakya Trizin's Birthday (Buddhist)
September 8	Nativity of Mary (Christian) Nativity of the Theotokos (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
September 14	Feast of Trumpets (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God) The Elevation of the Holy Cross (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
September 14-15	Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)
September 17	Ganesha Chaturthi (Hindu)*
September 22	Hajj Day (Islam)*
September 23	Yom Kippur (Jewish)

	Mabon (Wicca) Day of Atonement (Christian, Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God) Eid al Adha (Islam)*
September 28-October 4	Sukkot (Jewish) Feast of Tabernacles (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
October 2015	
October 5	Last Great Day (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God); Shemini Atzeret (Jewish)
October 6	Simcat Torah (Jewish)
October 13-21	Navaratri (Hindu)*
October 14	Al Hijra – 1 st Muharram (Islam)*
October 20	Birth of B'ab (Baha'i) Installation of the Scriptures as Guru Granth (Sikh)
October 22	Dussera (Hindu)*
October 31	Samhain-Beltane (Wicca)
November 2015	
November 1	All Saints' Day (Christian)
November 2	All Souls' Day (Christian)
November 11	Diwali (Hindu, Jain and Sikh)*
November 12	Birth of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i) Goverdhan Puja (Hindu)*
November 15	Nativity Fast begins (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
November 21	The Presentation of the Theotokos to the Temple (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
November 24	Guru Tegh Bahadur Martyrdom (Sikh)
November 25	Guru Nanak Dev Sahib Birthday (Sikh)
November 26	Day of Covenant (Baha'i)
November 28	Ascension of 'Abdu'l Baha (Baha'i)
November 29	First Sunday of Advent (Christian)
December 2015	
December 7-14	Hanukkah (Jewish)
December 8	Bodhi Day (Buddhist) Immaculate Conception (Christian)
December 21	Yule (Wicca and Christian)
December 23	Mawlid an Nabi (Islam)*
December 25	Christmas (Christian) The Nativity of Christ (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
December 26	Zarathosht Diso (Zoroastrian)
January 2016	
January 1	Gantan-sai (Shinto)
January 3 through 10	Holy Convocation (Church of God and Saints of Christ)
January 5	Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh Sahib (Sikh)
January 6	Feast of Epiphany (Christian) Feast of Theophany (Eastern Orthodox Christian) Nativity of Christ (Armenian Orthodox)
January 7	Feast of the Nativity (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
January 13	Maghi (Sikh)

January 14	Makar Sankranti and Pongal (Hindu)*
January 17	World Religion Day (Baha'i)
January 25	Tu B'shvat (Jewish)
February 2016	
February 1	Clean Monday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
February 2	The Presentation of Our Lord to the Temple (Eastern Orthodox Christian) Imbolic-Candlemas (Wicca and Christian)
February 8	Chinese/Lunar New Year (Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist)
February 9	Shrove Tuesday (Christian)
February 10	Ash Wednesday (Christian)
February 12	Vasant Panchami (Hindu)*
February 15	Nirvana Day (Buddhist)
February 26 through March 1	Intercalary Days (Baha'i)
March 2016	
March 8	Maha Shivaratri (Hindu)*
March 13	L. Ron Hubbard's Birthday (Church of Scientology)
March 20	Ostara (Wicca) Palm Sunday (Christian)
March 21	Nowruz (Zoroastrian) Naw Ruz (Baha'i)
March 23	Holi (Hindu)* Lord's Evening Meal (Christian, Jehovah's Witness)
March 24	Purim (Jewish) Hola Mohalla (Sikh) Holy Thursday (Christian)
March 25	Holy Friday (Christian) The Annunciation of the Theotokos (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
March 27	Easter (Christian)
March 28	Khordad Sal (Zoroastrian) Easter Monday (Christian)
April 2016	
April 4	The Annunciation of the Virgin Mary (Christian)
April 8	Chandramana Yugadi (Hindu)*
April 13	Baisakhi (Sikh)
April 13	Souramana Yugadi (Hindu)*
April 13-20	Passover/Days of Unleavened Bread (Church of God and Saints of Christ)
April 15	Rami Navami (Hindu)*
April 21	First Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
April 22	Passover (Philadelphia Church of God) Hanuman Jayanti (Hindu)*
April 22-23	Theravadin New Year (Buddhist)
April 23	Lazarus Saturday (Eastern Orthodox Christian) First Day of Unleavened Bread (Church of God)
April 23-29	Days of Unleavened Bread (Philadelphia Church of God)
April 23-30	Pesach (Jewish)

April 24	Palm Sunday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 25	The 11 th Panchen Lama's Birthday (Buddhist)
April 28	Holy Thursday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 29	Ninth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i) Holy Friday (Eastern Orthodox Christian) Last Day of Unleavened Bread (Church of God)
April 30	Mahavir Jayanti (Jain)
May 2016	
May 1	Beltane (Wicca) Pascha (Easter) (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
May 2	Twelfth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i) Bright Monday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
May 5	Lailat al Miraj (Islam)* Ascension of Our Lord (Christian)
May 12	Yom Ha'Azmaut (Jewish)
May 15	Buddha's Birthday/Buddha Day – Visakha Puja (Buddhist) Pentecost (Christian)
May 21	Lailat al Bara'ah (Islam)*
May 23	Declaration of the Bab (Baha'i)
May 26	Lag B'Omer (Jewish)
May 29	Ascension of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)
June 2016	
June 6	Ramadan (Islam)
June 12-13	Shavuot (Jewish)
June 16	Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Sahib (Sikh)
June 19	Pentecost (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
June 20	Litha (Wicca)
June 24	Fast of the Holy Apostles (Eastern Orthodox Christian)

** Disclaimer: New Jersey Department of Education has made every attempt to ensure the accuracy of the dates. The information has been verified through the use of various sources and some dates may vary due to the lunar, Gregorian and Julian calendars.*

**E. Professional Standards
NJ Educator Preparation Programs
State Board of Examiners and Certification
Professional Development for Teaching Staff Members and School Leaders**

- Discussed the readoption with amendments of Chapters 9, Professional Standards; 9A, NJ Educator Preparation Programs; 9B, State Board of Examiners and Certification; and 9C, Professional Development for Teaching Staff Members and School Leaders pertaining to educator preparation and licensing

WORK SESSION

There was no work session.

NEW BUSINESS

State Board member Ronald Butcher complimented staff on the recent changes made to the conference room set up for State Board meetings.

President Biedron stated that he received copies of correspondence from the Joint Committee on Public Schools that was originally sent to Commissioner Hespe and the Superintendent of Newark Public Schools, Cami Anderson. He also stated that he asked the State Board Office to distribute it to the full board.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Biedron then read the resolution pertaining to the executive session of the State Board meeting as it complies with the Open Public Meetings Act.

WHEREAS, in order to protect the personal privacy and to avoid situations wherein the public interest might be disserved, the Open Public Meetings Act permits public bodies to exclude the public from that portion of a meeting at which certain matters are discussed, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that consistent with the provision of *N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b)*, the State Board of Education will now adjourn to executive session to participate in professional development training. The State Board immediately adjourned to executive session on March 4, 2015.

RECONVENING

President Biedron reconvened the open meeting at 1:49 p.m. with the reading of the resolution pertaining to the resumption of the public session of the State Board meeting as it complies with the Open Public Meetings Act.

WHEREAS, consistent with the provision of *N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b)*, the State Board will now adjourn from executive session to resume the open session of this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education adjourned its March 4, 2015, public meeting at 1:50 p.m.

David C. Hespe, Commissioner
Secretary, State Board of Education