

**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**

July 8, 2015

Presiding: Mr. Mark Biedron, President

Secretary: David C. Hespe, Commissioner

PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM

Mr. Arcelio Aponte
Dr. Ronald Butcher
Ms. Claire Chamberlain
Mr. Joseph Fisicaro
Mr. Jack Fornaro
Ms. Edithe Fulton-via teleconference
Mr. Andrew Mulvihill
Mr. Peter Simon
Dr. Dorothy Strickland

ABSENT

Dr. Ernest Lepore

CONVENING

State Board of Education President Mark 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 July 8, 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 July 8, 2015.

RECONVENING

President Biedron reconvened the open meeting at 10:10 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

ELECTION OF STATE BOARD OFFICERS

Commissioner David C. Hespe, secretary to the State Board, conducted the annual election of State Board officers. Peter Simon, chair, State Board Nominating Committee, presented the slate of officers. On motions duly seconded and carried, the State Board members elected Mark Biedron as State Board President and Joseph Fisicaro as State Board Vice President. Both were elected for a one-year term.

President Biedron and Vice President expressed their gratitude to the members of the State Board for electing them to their leadership positions.

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 June 3, 2015.

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board members approved the minutes of the public meeting conducted on June 26, 2015. State Board members Claire Chamberlain and Arcelio Aponte abstained.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Public Testimony

President Biedron stated that public testimony session will be held today at 2 pm. He stated that topics for today's public testimony include the amendments to chapter 15, Bilingual Education. President Biedron also stated that today's public testimony session is an Open Topic testimony session and members of the public may present testimony before the state board on any educational topic of their choice.

President Biedron stated that registration for the August 5, 2015 public testimony session will open on Friday, July 17, 2015 and close on Friday, July 31, 2015. He stated that the topics for the August 5 public testimony include amendments to Chapter 9, Professional Standards, Chapter 9A, NJ Educator Preparation Programs, Chapter 9 B, State Board of Examiners and Certification and Chapter 9C, Professional Development for Teaching Staff Members and School Leaders.

He also stated that anyone interested in speaking at or also attending the public testimony session must register so that the State Board staff can make proper arrangements for space. 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 Alexis Bailey the 2015-2016 permanent student representative to the State Board of Education. Alexis is a junior from Bayonne High School in Hudson County. President Biedron

also introduced Alexis's mother, Mrs. Lesley Kaswell. Alexis's advisor will be Ms. Kerry Toomey. Alexis introduced herself to the State Board members and expressed her excitement at being the new student representative.

Alexis also provided the results of a survey she administered to students about their PARCC experience. She stated that overall she received positive reactions from students about using technology, test preparation, tackling PARCC content and scheduling. She also stated that the only drawback was that students felt that PARCC spanned too many days with a majority of students having 20 days or more where testing occurred on their campus.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

Newark Update

Commissioner Hespe provided an update on the status of the Newark public schools and his shared vision for moving forward that will offer parents greater educational opportunities, improved instruction, and innovative programs and best practices in the classroom. He stated that this vision also includes the creation of the Newark Educational Success Board that will be charged with developing a clear, specific pathway with appropriate timelines and benchmarks for return of local control to the Newark community. He also stated that the panel will examine the issue of capacity building at a district and school level with government, community, and neighborhood groups to ensure that the problems that led to state takeover of the schools never reoccur and decision making focuses always on what is in the best interest of children. He further recommended that Christopher D. Cerf be the next and likely the last state superintendent for the Newark School district.

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board approved the following resolution appointing Mr. Christopher D. Cerf to the position of State District Superintendent for the Newark School district. State Board members Arcelio Aponte, Ronald Butcher, Edithe Fulton and Dorothy Strickland opposed.

RESOLUTION FOR APPOINTMENT STATE DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE STATE-OPERATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF NEWARK

WHEREAS, by administrative order issued by the State Board of Education on July 5, 1995, the State Board of Education removed the Newark School District Board of Education and created a State-operated school district in Newark pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-34; and

WHEREAS, upon State intervention, and pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-15 and N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-15.1, the Commissioner of Education may recommend to the State Board of Education the appointment of a State District Superintendent of schools in the State-Operated School District for the City of Newark; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Education hereby recommends the appointment of Christopher D. Cerf to serve as the State District Superintendent in the State-Operated School District of the City of Newark; now be it therefore

RESOLVED, that subject to an employment contract, the New Jersey State Board of Education hereby approves the appointment of Christopher D. Cerf as the State District Superintendent of the State-Operated School District of the City of Newark, effective July 8, 2015.

Achieve NJ Educator Evaluation Year One Reflections

Peter Shulman, Chief Talent Officer provided a presentation of the first year of implementation of AchieveNJ, the state's new educator evaluation and support system. He stated that the analysis of the

data shows that novice teachers (those with 0-2 years of experience in a district) were more than twice as likely to earn Partially Effective ratings as experienced teachers. He also stated that experienced teachers were more than twice as likely to earn Highly Effective ratings. He further stated that this early data supports the Department's recent efforts to improve preparation, induction and support for new teachers across the state.

Standards Review Process

Kimberley Harrington, Chief Academic Officer provided an overview of the New Jersey Standards Review Process. She stated that a Standards Review Committee will review the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards in English language arts and mathematics to raise our standards and ensure they are New Jersey based. She also stated that the committee will monitor progress ensure alignment across grade levels and subjects make final recommendations to the State Board. She further stated that the review will include an opportunity for community involvement through an on-line survey, regional hearings and community focus groups.

Ms. Harrington stated that the Standards Review Process would begin with the Department accepting nominations for the Committees in mid July and conclude by mid-December with final recommendations to the State Board in January of 2016.

Presentation by Passaic Educational Services Commission

Diana Lobosco, Superintendent of the Passaic Educational Services Commission provided a presentation to the State Board regarding the Commission's request to enlarge their purpose. The presentation included information about the Commission's mission statement/objective; an explanation of the services the Commission provides and the services it seeks to provide if the request is granted. The presentation also included an explanation of the locations/counties that the Commission provides services and how the Commission seeks to change this going forward. The presentation also included details about the Commission's annual budget and an explanation of how it receives funding and how funds are spent.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

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

***A. Commissioner**

- Adopted the organization rules for the State Department of Education at N.J.A.C. 6A:2-1.1 et seq., pursuant to N.J.S.A.18A:4 et.seq and N.J.S.A 52:14B-3(1).

***B. Appointment(s)**

- Approved the following appointments and title changes pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-32-35 and N.J.A.C. 6A:2-1.1 et seq.:

Appointments

- Valerie Francois, Director, Office of Media Relations and Strategic Outreach
- Karin Garver, Director, Office of Academic Initiatives and Fiscal Accountability
- Vincent Costanza, Director, Office of Primary Education
- Candice Kenyatta, Director, Office of Secondary Education
- Takecia Saylor, Director, Office of School Innovation
- Margaret McDonald, Executive Director, Office of Special Education Programs
- Anne Corwell, Director, Office of Grants Management

Title Changes

- James Palmer, Director, Office of Project Management
- Marie Barry, Director, Office of Career Readiness
- Robin Knutelsky, Director, Office of Teaching and Learning Support

*C. Certification of School Districts

- Certified for a period of three years, the following school districts recommended by the Commissioner, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-14a and b.

Certified School District	County
Toms River	Ocean
North Arlington	Bergen

D. Bilingual Education

- Discussed the readoption with amendments to the regulations pertaining to bilingual education proposed at N.J.A.C. 6A:15, Bilingual Education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:35-15 to 26.

WORK SESSION

There was no work session.

NEW BUSINESS

President Biedron confirmed that executives from Junior Achievement New Jersey would be coming to the September board meeting to share the initiatives and good work they are doing throughout the state.

President Biedron stated that he would like to have a discussion in the fall about sustainable schools and creating more sustainable school buildings.

President Biedron stated that the Christopher D. Cerf, the newly appointed superintendent of the Newark School District would attend the August 5, 2015 State Board meeting to provide an update on his first few weeks. He also stated that Kimberley Harrington would also provide a status update on the Standards Review at the August 5, 2015 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education adjourned its July 8, 2015, public meeting at 12:38 p.m.

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