

**State Board of Examiners
Minutes of the Meeting (Amended 11/30/12)
held in the First Floor Conference Room,
200 Riverview Plaza, Trenton, NJ**

February 22, 2001

Present: Assistant Commissioner Ellen Schechter, Chairperson
Ms. Ida B. Graham, Secretary
Michael Walters, Deputy Attorney General
Dr. Vito Germinario, Chairperson, Legal Committee
Dr. Mary Jean Guidette, Chairperson, Credentials Review Committee
Ms. Ida Bilbow
Mr. Richard Dorow
Ms. Joanne Gales
Mr. James Gay
Dr. Michael Knowlton
Ms. Mary Jane McNally
Dr. Robert Petix
Mr. Peter Tirri
Ms. Gloria Tunstall

Absent: Dr. Ronald Applbaum
Dr. Donald Farish

The meeting was called to order by Assistant Commissioner Ellen Schechter, Chairperson.

The minutes of the December 7, 2000 meeting were approved and adopted.

Chairperson Ellen Schechter introduced John F. Knapp, Acting Director of the Office of Licensing and Credentials, to the Board and informed them that effective March 1, 2001, Mr. Knapp would also serve as Acting Secretary of the State Board of Examiners.

Individual Credentials Review - Presentation

The following individuals attended the meeting, made brief presentations and answered questions from the Board regarding their experiences:

Darryl T. Aquil
Michelle Cisar

Substance Awareness Coordinator
Supervisor

Teresa Henry	Teacher of Spanish Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing
Heather Horsley Cox	Speech-language Specialist
Carol Palermo-Granger	School Social Worker
Timothy W. Schroeder	School Administrator Certificate of Eligibility

Robert Schwartz, Esq., of the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association, accompanied Mr. Schroeder and also spoke on his behalf.

Credentials Review Committee Report

The Credentials Review Committee reviewed all credentials review cases and presented its recommendations to the Board. The Board took the following actions:

Kim Lambert	School Social Worker – Denied
-------------	-------------------------------

Ms. Lambert was awarded partial credit for courses in medical information for social workers and social casework.

Marilyn Mazer	School Nurse - Granted
Barbara Noonan	Speech-language Specialist - Granted
Kristin Piperno	Speech-language Specialist – Granted

Patricia Stevens	Principal Certificate of Eligibility – Denied
------------------	---

Ms. Stevens was awarded partial graduate credit for leadership and human resource management and communication.

Legal Committee Report

The Legal Committee reviewed all legal cases and presented its recommendations to the Board. The Board took the following actions:

Order to Show Cause

Sabrin Abdullah – Permanent disqualification from public school employment by the Office of Criminal History Review due to a conviction for illegal possession of narcotics.

Sheree Baker – Conviction for conspiracy and theft by deception involving participation in a scheme to defraud the State Health Benefits Program.

Leonard Bart – Allegations of harassment made against Mr. Bart by a high school female student.

Juan Cotto - Proven tenure charges of unbecoming conduct involving the use of excessive force in disciplining students.

Cecelia James – Proven tenure charges of unbecoming conduct involving participation in a scheme to defraud the State Health Benefits Program.

Connie Sminkey – Permanent disqualification from public school employment by the Office of Criminal History Review due to a drug conviction.

Audrey Sullivan - Permanent disqualification from public school employment by the Office of Criminal History Review due to a conviction on charges of conspiracy to commit a drug offense.

Stephen Vespe *

* The order to show cause was vacated on Oct. 1, 2001.

Jermaine Young - Permanent disqualification from public school employment by the Office of Criminal History Review due to a conviction for possession of marijuana/hash.

Revoke

Linda Armour – County Substitute Certificate – Teacher’s felony conviction for obstructing police and subsequent disqualification from public school employment constitutes conduct unbecoming a certificate holder.

Beverly Foley – County Substitute Certificate - Teacher’s conviction for threatening to commit a crime and subsequent disqualification from public school employment constitutes conduct unbecoming a certificate holder.

Markos Guess - County Substitute Certificate - Teacher’s convictions of possession of a controlled dangerous substance and subsequent disqualification from public school employment constitutes conduct unbecoming a certificate holder.

Abdel Rahim Ishmael - County Substitute Certificate - Teacher’s conviction for possession of marijuana and subsequent disqualification from public school employment constitutes conduct unbecoming a certificate holder.

George La Marra - County Substitute Certificate - Teacher’s conviction for resisting arrest by a police officer, violation of a conditional discharge for possession of marijuana/hash and possession of marijuana/hash and subsequent disqualification from public school employment constitutes conduct unbecoming a certificate holder.

Aquil Lawson - County Substitute Certificate - Teacher’s conviction for possession of marijuana and narcotic equipment and subsequent disqualification from public school employment constitutes conduct unbecoming a certificate holder.

In the matter of **Mary Bauer**, the Board voted to table the matter pending the Board’s receipt and review of the Initial Decision in the tenure matter.

In the matter of **John E. Burke**, a motion was made to reconsider the decision on December 7, 2000 to issue an Order to Show Cause against Mr. Burke’s instructional and educational services certificates. The Board voted to vacate the Order to Show Cause.

In the matter of **Charles Dreyer**, the Board voted to transfer the matter to the Office of Administrative Law for hearing.

In the matter of **Grace Folger**, a motion was made to reconsider the decision on December 7, 2000 to issue an Order to Show Cause against Ms. Folger's certificates. The Board voted to vacate the Order to Show Cause.

In the matter of **Damon Morgan**, the Board voted to block issuance of a County Substitute Certificate due to his permanent disqualification from public school employment by the Office of Criminal History Review. The disqualification was based on his conviction for possession of a controlled dangerous substance.

In the matter of **Loretta Palumbo**, the Board voted to contact the Old Tappan School District to determine if it has any further documentation relative to allegations that Ms. Palumbo engaged in a sexual relationship with a student.

In the matter of **Ellen Rubin**, the Board denied the request for certification following revocation. The Board found that Ms. Rubin did not provide sufficient evidence of rehabilitation to warrant certification after revocation.

In the matter of **Celese Segall**, a motion was made to reconsider the decision on December 7, 2000 to issue an Order to Show Cause against Ms. Segall's certificate. The Board voted to proceed with issuance of the Order.

In the matter of **Margaret Shaffer**, the Board voted to table the matter pending further research and review.

In the matter of **Matthew Sprang**, a motion was made to reconsider the Board's action on December 7, 2000 to block issuance of a County Substitute Certificate to him. Mr. Sprang has received an employment approval letter from the Office of Criminal History Review. The Board voted to take no action to block certificate issuance, if eligible.

In the matter of **Danita Wilson**, the Board voted to table the matter until the Board Secretary can obtain exhibits A-L in the tenure matter for the Boards review.

In the matter of **Kenneth Wilson**, the Board voted to table the matter pending further research and review.

The Board voted to take no action to suspend, revoke or block certificates of the following individuals:

Vernon Butler	Anthony J. Mistretta
Stewart Diaz	Cheryl Nias
Kelly A. Gallagher	Donald Pantalone
Donna M. Johnson	Brian M. Sabourin
Elaine Miles	James Widmann

Dr. Robert Petix made a motion for the Board to go into executive session at 11:45 a.m. to discuss a legal matter. The Board moved out of executive session at 11:47 a.m.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Chairperson Ellen Schechter appointed Dr. Michael Knowlton to the Board's Legal Committee.

Chairperson Schechter also informed the Board that effective March 1, 2001, Ida Graham would no longer be serving as secretary to the Board as she was retiring. Chairperson Schechter reviewed Ms. Graham's thirty-five (35) years of stellar service when reading a resolution from the Board warmly congratulating Ms. Graham on her retirement and wishing her every happiness.

In appreciation, the Board presented Ms. Graham with an engraved silver bowl and a cake in celebration of her well-deserved retirement.

Secretary Graham expressed her heartfelt appreciation to the Board for all their efforts and fine work over the years and indicated that she would greatly miss her role as secretary with such a committed and dedicated Board.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Ida Graham advised the Board that the proposed licensing code was forwarded to Assistant Commissioner Ellen Schechter for review. Ms. Graham further advised that the proposed code was scheduled for first discussion before the State Board of Education on April 4, 2001.

The next meeting of the board is scheduled to be held on **Thursday, April 5, 2001**, in the first floor conference room, **100 Riverview Plaza**, Trenton, New Jersey.