

**State Board of Examiners
Minutes of the Meeting
Held in the First Floor Conference Room
100 Riverview Plaza, Trenton, NJ**

May 10, 2001

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

Absent: Dr. Ronald Applbaum
Ms. Ida Bilbow
Dr. Donald Farish
Mr. Peter Tirri

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

The minutes of the April 5, 2001 meeting were approved and adopted. Ms. Gloria Tunstall abstained from the vote.

Individual Credentials Review – Presentation:

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

Susan Buchen	Speech-language Specialist
Denise Gastineau	Teacher of Spanish
Mary Lynn Reid	School Administrator Certificate of Eligibility
Gary Shannon	Teacher of Health and Physical Education Certificate of Eligibility

The Credentials Review case of Wendi J. O'Donnell, for School Social Worker certification, was removed from the agenda at Ms. O'Donnell's request.

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:

Michael Chenkin	Substance Awareness Coordinator Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing (CEAS) - Granted
Susan Paroly	Speech-language Specialist - Granted
Linda Quattrini	School Nurse - Denied
Danielle Vorbe	Standard Elementary School Teacher - Denied

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:

Johnnie Bennett – Conviction for second-degree conspiracy and third degree theft by deception for participation in a scheme to defraud the State Health Benefits Program.

Hattie Black – Allegations that she breached the security of the Elementary School Proficiency Assessment test.

Dale Brooks – Proven tenure charges of incapacity due to chronic and excessive absenteeism and conduct unbecoming a teacher.

Wendy Clothier – Allegations that she engaged in inappropriate sexual contact with her 12-year-old student.

Tom Henel – County Substitute Certificate – Lewdness conviction. The victim was a 15-year-old student.

Barbara Horner – Conviction for creating or causing to be created a disturbance or annoyance to the comfort and repose of any person.

Nicholas Martin – Lewdness conviction.

Ray S. Normanin – County Substitute Certificate – Permanent disqualification from public school employment by the Office of Criminal History Review due to a conviction for possession of under 50 grams of marijuana/hash.

Joel A. Smith – County Substitute Certificate - Permanent disqualification from public school employment by the Office of Criminal History Review due to three drug convictions between 1983 and 2000.

Terry Stocker – Allegations that he bound a student with duct tape.

Danita Wilson – Allegations of excessive absenteeism and unbecoming conduct as a result of unauthorized absences and abandonment of position.

Revocation:

Brian D. Klein – County Substitute Certificate – Permanent disqualification from public school employment by the Office of Criminal History Review due to a conviction for lewd and lascivious behavior.

Lucy Lester – Proven tenure charges that she participated in a scheme to defraud the State Health Benefits Program.

Robert G. Morton – Proven tenure charges of unbecoming conduct involving a drug conviction..

Patricia Rector - Permanent disqualification from public school employment by the Office of Criminal History Review due to a conviction for possession of marijuana.

Suspension:

Joan McNutt – Violation of State test security procedures.

In the matter of **Robert Crawford**, the Board voted to adopt the Administrative Law Judge’s decision to accept the consent order establishing the record in this case.

In the matter of **David Hommel**, the Board voted to deny Mr. Hommel’s request for certification following revocation because he presented insufficient evidence of rehabilitation and because of the egregious nature of his conduct that led to revocation.

In the matter of **Sheldon Manns**, the Board voted to deny his request for certification because his multiple drug convictions and burglary conviction would permanently disqualify him from public school employment pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18:A:6.7-1 et seq.

In the matter of **Joy Northrop-DiVencenzi**, the Board voted to reject the settlement proposal. Mr. James Gay and Mr. Richard Dorow recused themselves from the vote.

In the matter of **Alexander Radzikowski**, the Board voted to direct Mr. Radzikowski to provide a Judgment of Conviction in the matter of his 1994 criminal mischief and theft conviction.

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

Ward P. Bacon	Shae-Brie McPhail-Dow
Alicia Brennan	Val Rougas
Thomas Butterfield	Diana Santoro
Chad E. Davis	Margaret Sidberry
Robert Barnes Driscoll	Paul E. Van Laere
Rome Ibera	
Richard G. Kirk	
Michael Mayer	

Dr. Vito Germinario made a motion for the Board to go into executive session at 11:10 A.M. to discuss a legal matter. The Board moved out of executive session at 11:17 A.M.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Chairperson Ellen Schechter announced to the Board that, effective July 1, 2001, she is resigning as Assistant Commissioner and therefore would no longer be serving as chairperson of the Board. Chairperson Schechter further told the Board that it has been a privilege to serve as Board Chairperson. On behalf of the Board, Dr. Petix thanked Chairperson Schechter for the dignity, poise and grace with which she served as Board chairperson.

Both Deputy Attorney General Michael Walters and Secretary John Knapp updated the Board concerning their letter of September 11, 2000 to the members of the State Legislature concerning N.J.S.A. 18:A:6-7.3 and Assembly Bill No. 2437. The Board was advised that the letter had been forwarded to the Office of the Counsel to the Governor and that the Governor's Office would need to support the Board's position before it could be forwarded to members of the State Legislature. Efforts are still being made to determine the status of the letter.

Deputy Attorney General Michael Walters also updated the Board concerning the Appellate Division's decision concerning the appeal by the Bergen Record. The newspaper is seeking a redacted copy of the Initial Decision in State Board of Examiners v. M.S. The Board directed all parties in that matter and the Bergen Record to file written submissions on how the decision should be redacted.

Secretary's Report

There was discussion concerning the Board's calendar for 2001-2002 and Secretary Knapp advised the Board that Eva Smith, Administrative Assistant, would be contacting them concerning the end of the year luncheon to be held after the June 14, 2001 meeting.

The next meeting of the board is scheduled to be held on Thursday, June 14, 2001 in the first floor conference room, **200 Riverview Plaza**, Trenton, New Jersey.

JFK/EAH/es: SBE minutes May 10, 2001