

State Board of Examiners
Minutes of Meeting

September 21, 2000

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

Absent: Assistant Commissioner Ellen Schechter, Chairperson
Dr. Ronald Applbaum
Dr. Donald Farish

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Mary Jean Guidette, Acting Chairperson.

The minutes of the June 15, 2000 meeting were approved and adopted.

Secretary Ida B. Graham introduced Mr. Richard Dorow, Dr. Michael Knowlton, Ms. Mary Jane McNally and Ms. Gloria Tunstall to the Board. Deputy Attorney General Michael Walters swore them in as new members 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:

Ann McGowan - Standard Elementary School Teacher

Diane Schiavone - Speech-language Specialist. Ms. Schiavone was accompanied by Margo Rick, principal of The Early Childhood Intervention Program in Mercer County, who spoke on Ms. Schiavone's behalf.

JoAnn Chamberlain, who is applying for Speech-language Specialist certification, and Gina Walk, who is applying for School Nurse certification, did not attend the meeting.

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:

Maureen Ambinder School Social Worker – Denied. Partial credit was awarded for study in social casework and community organization and public welfare services.

Cathleen Jenkins Principal & School Administrator Certificates of Eligibility. Denied. Partial credit was awarded for graduate study in leadership and human resource management, communications, quantitative decision-making and finance.

Neil Torino Director of Student Personnel Services – 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

Linda Cofield – Conviction on charges of conspiracy to commit murder in the 3rd degree

Gregory Daglis – Conviction on charges of possession of marijuana

John Godinsky - Conviction on charges of possession of marijuana

Lucy Lester - Proven tenure charges of unbecoming conduct involving participation in a scheme to defraud the State Health Benefits Program (SHBP)

Anthony Scheri – Allegations of an inappropriate relationship with a female student

Revoke

Robert Bolmer – His convictions for sodomy of a juvenile, debauching and impairing the morals of a minor and a weapons charge constituted conduct unbecoming a certificate holder.

Sandra Joyner – The proven tenure charges of chronic and excessive absenteeism and abandonment of position constitute conduct unbecoming a certificate holder.

Rossie Kearson – Teacher's conviction of theft by deception and subsequent disqualification from public school employment constitutes conduct unbecoming a certificate holder.

Brian Yatauro – Proven tenure charges of having engaged in an inappropriate sexual relationship with a minor student constitute conduct unbecoming a certificate holder.

Suspend

Vincent Martone – Effective November 1, 2000 until August 31, 2001. Proven tenure charges of violating the security of the 1995 Early Warning Test constitute conduct unbecoming a certificate holder.

In the matter of **Amy Blanchard**, the Board unanimously voted to block issuance of a Teacher of Elementary School Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing. Ms. Blanchard self-reported a felony drug conviction which would permanently disqualify her from public school employment under N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1 et seq.

In the matter of **Richard Anzuini**, the Board unanimously voted to accept his settlement offer, which includes the voluntary surrender of his certificates with the same force as revocation.

In the matter of **Mark Brignola**, the Board voted to table the matter and request that the Office of Compliance investigate allegations that Mr. Brignola was sexually involved with a student.

In the matter of **Luz Castillo**, the Board voted to approve Ms. Castillo's petition pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:11-5.5 to seek an additional opportunity to participate in the Provisional Teacher Program/Traditional Route in another school district.

In the matter of, **Glenn J. Davis**, the Board voted to vacate the Order to Show Cause issued to Mr. Davis on June 15, 2000 as Mr. Davis' criminal conviction was reversed by the Appellate Division of the Superior Court of New Jersey. The Board further voted to take no action against Mr. Davis' certificate at this time.

In the matter of **James Johnson**, the Board voted to table the matter and request a copy of investigative records from the State-Operated School District of the City of Jersey City.

In the matter of **Sawson Labib**, the Board voted to deny the Motion for Stay pending appeal. The Board noted that no additional information was provided that would cause the Board to set aside its decision to suspend Ms. Labib's certificates for two (2) years and that Ms. Labib did not meet the four (4) prong test that would cause the Board to grant a stay of its decision.

In the matter of **Paul Lombardi**, the Board unanimously voted to block issuance of a County Substitute certificate based on his permanent disqualification from public school employment by the Office of Criminal History Review under provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1 et seq.

In the matter of **Peter Loria**, the Board unanimously voted to deny the Motion for Stay pending appeal. The Board noted that no additional information was provided that would cause the Board to set aside its decision to revoke Mr. Loria's certificates, that Mr. Loria did not meet the four (4) prong test that would cause the Board to grant a stay of its decision and finally that the Board is not required to consider evidence of rehabilitation during the context of a revocation hearing.

In the matter of **Joan McNutt**, the Board unanimously voted to amend its Order to Show Cause to reflect that she was employed by the State-Operated School District of the City of Jersey City and not Newark, as initially indicated.

In the matter of **Michelle Meservie**, the Board unanimously voted to grant Ms. Meservie's appeal of the "disapproved" performance rating she received for her participation in the Provisional Teacher Program/Traditional Route during the 1998-99 school year based on the proofs she submitted to the Board. The Board noted that despite repeated efforts to obtain a response to Ms. Meservie's appeal from the Jersey City Community Charter School, it failed to submit additional proofs. The Board changed the "disapproved" performance rating to an "insufficient" performance rating to allow Ms. Meservie an additional opportunity to complete the Provisional Teacher Program/Traditional Route.

In the matter of **Gary Mobley**, the Board unanimously voted to vacate the April 6, 2000 Order to Show Cause based on a dismissal of Mr. Mobley's criminal charges.

In the matter of **Patrick Riley**, the Board voted to hold the February 24, 2000 Order to Show Cause in abeyance until December 31, 2000 while he pursues an expungment of his conviction.

In the matter of **Craig C. Williams**, the Board unanimously voted to direct Mr. Williams to provide both the police record and Judgment of Conviction in the matter of his 1989 assault and battery conviction.

In the matter of **David Wunsch**, the Board unanimously voted to table the matter and request a copy of investigative records from Sussex County Technical School.

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

Robert Alvarez	Cynthia D. McClendon
Daniel Feder	Cornel Mends-Cole
Vyvian Felder	Michael Savage
Megan Fritz	Jay Schwartz
Randi-Beth Hansen	Crystal Scott
Donald Gilson	Tracey Singletary
Jennifer Iulucci	Debra F. Tumarkin
Lisa Jarusiewicz	
Ronald Maurais	

Dr. Vito Germinario made a motion for the Board to go into executive session at 12:32 P.M. to discuss a legal matter. The Board moved out of executive session at 12:40 P.M.

Secretary Ida B. Graham welcomed the new Board members, expressed her appreciation to the whole Board for all the fine work it does on behalf of the Office of Licensing and the Department of Education and apologized for the voluminous size of the September 21st agenda. Secretary Graham also reviewed with the Board a draft letter to legislators expressing the Board's concern regarding public school employees with criminal convictions from many years ago who are permanently barred from public school employment. It was determined that the draft letter should be forwarded through Board Chairperson, Assistant Commissioner Ellen Schechter to the Commissioner for transmittal to the legislature.

Acting Chairperson Dr. Mary Jean Guidette appointed Mr. Richard Dorow to the Credentials Review Committee.

Dr. Guidette and Secretary Graham also discussed the sudden death, in June 2000, of former board member and Chairperson, Credentials Review Committee, Dr. Richard Malanowski. After discussion, it was decided that Secretary Graham would write a resolution from the Board to be forwarded to Dr. Malanowski's family. A donation to the Dr. Malanowski Scholarship Fund will also be made on behalf of the Board.

Dr. Petix made a motion for all Board members to provide their e-mail addresses to Secretary Graham to allow another vehicle for contact.

The following cases should be retained by Board members for future reference:

Mark Brignola	Diane Schiavone
Jo-Ann Chamberlain	Craig C. Williams
Linda Cofield	Gina Walk
Gregory Dagleis	David Wunsch
John Godinsky	
James Johnson	
Lucy Lester	
Ann McGowan	
Joan McNutt	
Patrick Riley	
Anthony Scheri	

The next meeting of the board is scheduled to be held on Thursday, November 2, 2000 in the first floor conference room, 100 Riverview Plaza, Trenton, New Jersey.