

State Board of Examiners
Minutes of Meeting

November 2, 2000

Attending: Assistant Commissioner Ellen Schechter, Chairperson
Ms. Ida B. Graham, Secretary
Dr. Vito Germinario, Chairperson, Legal Committee
Dr. Mary Jean Guidette, Acting 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
Ms. Gloria Tunstall

Absent: Dr. Ronald Applbaum
Dr. Donald Farish
Mr. Peter Tirri
Michael Walters, Deputy Attorney General

The meeting was called to order by Assistant Commissioner Ellen Schechter, Chairperson. Deputy Attorney General, Allison Eck, was available to the Board by telephone from the Office of the Attorney General.

The minutes of the September 21, 2000 meeting were approved and adopted.

Individual Credentials Review - Presentation

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

Jeanne Leise – School Social Worker
Vincent Lucrezi – Substance Awareness Coordinator

Due to a death in her immediate family, candidate Esta Alliker, who is requesting Speech-language Specialist certification, could not attend the meeting. Ms. Alliker's supervisor, Nina Longer, attended the meeting and spoke on Ms. Alliker's behalf.

Kay Harris, who is applying for Teacher of Health Education 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:

JoAnn Chamberlain - Speech-language Specialist – Unanimously granted

Ann McGowan - Standard Elementary School Teacher – Unanimously granted

Diane Schiavone - Speech-language Specialist – Unanimously granted

Gina Walk - School Nurse - Unanimously 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

Kimberly Bell - Allegations of being inebriated while working as a School Nurse.

Brian Eilert – Proven tenure charges of encouraging an assault on one of his students.

Deborah Suitt-Green – Proven tenure charges of unbecoming conduct, corporal punishment and insubordination.

Laura Issac – Settlement agreement that included resignation in response to tenure charges alleging uncorrected inefficiencies.

Brian D. Klein – County Substitute. Conviction for felony lewd and lascivious behavior.

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

Michael Novak – Disqualification from public school employment by the Office of Criminal History Review due to a conviction for operating a motor vehicle while in possession of a controlled dangerous substance.

Cynthia Pullin – Settlement agreement in response to tenure charges alleging abandonment of teaching position, being incapable of performing job duties and being

unable to return to her teaching position.

Revoke

Robin R. Cornell - Teacher's two (2) convictions for possession of a controlled dangerous substance or analog and subsequent disqualification from public school employment constitutes conduct unbecoming a certificate holder.

Jeanne Cuttito – Teacher's admission to a sexual relationship with her student during an interview with law enforcement officials constitutes conduct unbecoming a certificate holder.

Fred Del Guercio – Teacher's conviction of illegal possession of marijuana and subsequent disqualification from public school employment constitutes conduct unbecoming a certificate holder.

Randy Kleiner - Teacher's conviction of possession of narcotics (heroin) and subsequent disqualification from public school employment constitutes conduct unbecoming a certificate holder.

Walter Moore - Teacher's conviction of subscribing to a false tax return contrary to the provisions of 26 USC 7206(1) constitutes conduct unbecoming a certificate holder.

William Porpora – County Substitute - Teacher's conviction of indecent exposure and subsequent disqualification from public school employment constitutes conduct unbecoming a certificate holder.

Jeffrey Weingarten – County Substitute - Teacher's two (2) convictions for attempted criminal sale of a controlled dangerous substance and felony criminal sale of a controlled dangerous substance and subsequent disqualification from public school employment constitutes conduct unbecoming a certificate holder.

In the matter of Donald C. Anderson, the Board unanimously voted to direct Mr. Anderson to seek an employment approval letter from the Office of Criminal History Review. The Board will then review the matter of Mr. Anderson's certification application.

In the matter of Richard Anzuini, the Board unanimously voted to withdraw the Order to Show Cause and accept the settlement proposal, which included Anzuini's agreeing to the revocation of all certificates.

In the matter of Michael Novak, the Board voted to block issuance of a County Substitute certificate to him based on his disqualification from public school employment by the Office of Criminal History Review due to a conviction for operating a motor vehicle while in possession of a controlled dangerous substance. The Board also issued an Order to Show Cause in the matter of Mr. Novak's Teacher of English Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing.

In the matter of Lisa Rosenberg, the Board unanimously voted to allow Ms. Rosenberg an additional opportunity to complete the Provisional Teacher Program/Alternate Route.

In the matter of Robert E. Smith, the Board unanimously voted to vacate the Order to Show Cause issued to him on April 6, 2000 due to expungement and dismissal of charges.

In the matter of Silvana Zircher, the Board voted to deny standard Teacher of Elementary School certification to Ms. Zircher. Ms. Zircher did not satisfy all of the criteria necessary for certification in that she did not function as an Elementary School teacher. Instead, she taught Spanish to elementary school children. Furthermore, she did not provide documentation to show that she was working as an elementary school teacher at least half time rather than as a Spanish teacher.

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

Cher B. Di Bartolo	Arnold Perrone
Valaida Franklin	Alicia Scott
James Johnson	Benjamin Seabrook
Ann Lovell	Susan Stepien

Chairperson Ellen Schechter appointed Dr. Mary Jean Guidette as chairperson of the Credentials Review Committee and Ms. Mary Jane McNally as a member of the Credentials Review Committee.

The Board unanimously adopted the resolution in memory of the late Dr. Richard Malanowski that will be forwarded to his family along with \$120.00 for the Dr. Richard Malanowski scholarship fund.

The Board was advised that in the case of Linda Avellino v. State Board of Examiners the Commissioner held that the Board had acted properly when it denied standard certification to Ms. Avellino because she lacked the appropriate alternate route teaching experience.

The Board discussed the issue of having a Deputy Attorney General available only by telephone to advise the Board on legal matters. Chairperson Ellen Schechter asked Secretary Graham to seek clarity from the Office of the Attorney General to determine if this will happen again.

Secretary Graham advised the Board that due to the increasing number of legal cases to review there would be an adjustment in the times the Board would be meeting in the future. The Legal Committee would continue to meet at 9:00 A.M., the Credentials Review Committee would meet at 9:45 A.M. and the full Board would meet at 10:30 A.M.

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

Esta Alliker	Brian D. Klein
Donald C. Anderson	Jeanne Leise
Kimberly Bell	Vincent Lucrezi
Brian Eilert	Robert G. Morton
Deborah Suitt-Green	Michael Novak
Kay Harris	Cynthia Pullin
Laura Issac	

The next meeting of the board is scheduled to be held on Thursday, December 7, 2000 in the conference room of the Library for the Blind, located at 2300 Stuyvesant Avenue, Trenton, New Jersey.

IBG/EAH/kb:11-2-00 minutes