

**State Board of Examiners  
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting  
held at the Library for the Blind,  
2300 Stuyvesant Avenue, Trenton, NJ**

**December 7, 2000**

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

**Absent:** Assistant Commissioner Ellen Schechter  
Dr. Ronald Applbaum  
Dr. Donald Farish  
Mr. James Gay

Dr. Mary Jean Guidette, Acting Chairperson, called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the November 2, 2000 meeting were approved and adopted. Peter Tirri 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:

Kim Lambert	School Social Worker
Marilyn Mazer	School Nurse
Barbara Noonan	Speech-language Specialist

Kristin Piperno          Speech-language Specialist  
 Ms. Piperno was accompanied by her former supervisor, Kathleen Freno, who is a  
 Speech-language Specialist at Harrison Township Public Schools.  
 Patricia Stevens          Principal Certificate of Eligibility

### **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:

Esta Alliker                  Speech-language Specialist - Granted  
 Kay Harris                  Teacher of Health Education - Granted  
 Jeanne Leise                School Social Worker- Denied  
 Vincent Lucrezi            Substance Awareness Coordinator – Denied

The Board determined that in combination with his experience, once Mr. Lucrezi successfully completes course Counseling 450 (Montclair State University) in which he is currently enrolled, he would be awarded partial credit for the following areas of study: fundamentals of drug and alcohol abuse and dependency; child and adolescent development; coordination and delivery of intervention and referral services in a school setting and evaluation and counseling of drug and alcohol affected students and their families.

### **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**

**Roy Alexander** - Disqualification from public school employment by the Office of Criminal History Review due to a conviction for a drug offense.

**Shelton L. Austin** - Disqualification from public school employment by the Office of Criminal History Review due to a conviction on charges of possession of marijuana/hash.

**John E. Burke** - After indictment for official misconduct, theft by deception, forgery, uttering a false instrument and unsworn falsification, entrance into a Pre-Trial Intervention Program was predicated on resignation from school employment and the agreement not to seek further employment with any school or public agency in Morris County. The Order to Show Cause is against Mr. Burke's Secretarial Studies, General Business Studies and Teacher Coordinator of Business Education certificates.

**Nicholas Ciuffi** - Proven tenure charges of unbecoming conduct involving sexual touching.

**Randall Dunham** - Proven tenure charges of unbecoming conduct involving leaving vulgar and obscene messages on a telephone answering machine for two students.

**Jimmy Dykes** - Proven tenure charges of unbecoming conduct involving participation in a scheme to defraud the State Health Benefits Program.

**Grace Folger** - Proven tenure charges of excessive absenteeism.

**Rasheed Jackson** - Disqualification from public school employment by the Office of Criminal History Review due to a felony conviction for resisting arrest.

**Kevin Litts** - Criminal conviction for second degree endangering the welfare of a child.

**Celeste Segall** - Proven tenure charges of chronic and excessive absenteeism.

**William Tierney** - Settlement agreement in response to tenure charges for unbecoming conduct, insubordination, incapacity and abandonment of position, which included an agreement to surrender all teaching certificates and not to contest the State Board of Examiners' revocation of them.

**David Wunsch** - Allegations of inappropriate access and use of the Internet during school hours, visiting potentially pornographic websites.

### **Revoke**

**Pamela Bailey** – Teacher's conviction for possession of a controlled dangerous substance (heroin), possession of a controlled dangerous substance with intent to distribute and possession of a controlled dangerous substance (cocaine) with intent to distribute within 1000 feet of school property constitutes conduct unbecoming a certificate holder.

**Peter Bellomo** - Teacher's conviction for possession of marijuana or hash and subsequent disqualification from public school employment constitutes conduct unbecoming a certificate holder.

**John E. Burke** – After indictment for official misconduct, theft by deception, forgery, uttering a false instrument and unsworn falsification, entrance into a Pre-Trial Intervention Program was predicated on resignation from school employment and the agreement not to seek further employment with any school or public agency in Morris County. Teacher voluntarily surrendered his *administrative* certificates and waived his right to a hearing.

**Tobias Fox – County Substitute Certificate.** Teacher's conviction for failing to give a controlled dangerous substance to police and subsequent disqualification from public school employment constitutes conduct unbecoming a certificate holder.

**Marilyn Kirby – County Substitute Certificate.** – Teacher's conviction for possession of cocaine on or near school property and subsequent disqualification from public school employment constitutes conduct unbecoming a certificate holder.

**Hilary Mumma** – A condition of criminal probation was the consent to revocation of his principal/supervisor's certificate.

**John Popek** – Teacher’s conviction for 4<sup>th</sup> degree criminal sexual contact constitutes conduct unbecoming a certificate holder.

**John Schorling – County Substitute Certificate.** Teacher’s conviction for criminal possession of a controlled substance constitutes conduct unbecoming a certificate holder.

In the matter of **Nicholas Caputi**, the Board voted to table the matter while staff conducts further research regarding his 1989 criminal conviction.

In the matter of **Frank Dominianni**, the Board voted to deny his appeal of the certification review of his credentials. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:11-9.2, college degrees are recognized for purposes of administrative or supervisory certificates in New Jersey only from colleges accredited or approved by the State Board of Education of the state in which the college exists. The Hawaii Department of Education does not approve the American State University, from which Dominianni received his master’s degree.

In the matter of **James M. Lumley**, the Board voted to forward a letter to Mr. Lumley advising that there is no provision in law allowing voluntary surrender of his certificate. He may, in the alternative, submit an affidavit agreeing to the revocation of his certificates and waive his right to a hearing before the State Board of Examiners.

In the matter of **Dolores Richards**, the Board voted to block her application for School Nurse and Teacher of Health certification because her burglary conviction would permanently disqualify her from public school employment under provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A: 6-7.1 et seq.

In the matter of **Matthew Sprang**, the Board voted to block his application for a County Substitute Certificate because his conviction for criminal mischief would permanently disqualify him from public school employment under provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1 et seq.

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

Anthony Carloni	Bernice Harris
Jeremiah Clifford	Donna Kulisz
William Conwell	Nicole Legander
Daniel J. Dougher	Linval Lewis
Morgan W. Greenwald	John D. Zalot

Secretary Ida Graham read the acknowledgement received from the Bayonne Board of Education for the Board’s contribution to the Dr. Richard J. Malanowski Scholarship Fund. Secretary Graham also updated the Board on the proposed schedule for adoption of the licensing code and advised the Board that the New Jersey Education Association has challenged the recent equivalency and waiver policy decision for employment of superintendents in Abbott school districts.

In addition, Secretary Graham introduced Eva Smith, Administrative Assistant in the Office of Licensing, who will be providing additional staff support to the Board.

Peter Tirri advised that he was changing his vote in the matter of Tobias Fox.

Discussion centered on the letter the Board asked Secretary Graham to forward to the Commissioner of Education voicing its concern about not having a Deputy Attorney General physically present at the November 2, 2000 Board meeting. Deputy Attorney General Michael Walters indicated that at the present time there is a temporary shortage of education Deputy Attorneys General due to an extraordinary turnover.

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

Roy Alexander	Kevin Litts
Shelton L. Austin	James M. Lumley
John E. Burke	Marilyn Mazer
Nicholas Caputi	Barbara Noonan
Nicholas Ciufi	Kristin Piperno
Randall Dunham	Celese Segall
Jimmy Dykes	Patricia Stevens
Grace Folger	William Tierney
Rasheed Jackson	David Wunsch
Kim Lambert	

The next meeting of the board is scheduled to be held on Thursday, **February 22, 2001**, at **10:30 a.m.** in the first floor conference room, **200 Riverview Plaza**, Trenton, New Jersey.