

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

January 17, 2002

Present: Acting Assistant Commissioner Jay Doolan, Acting Chairperson
Mr. John F. Knapp, Secretary
Michael Walters, Deputy Attorney General
Dr. Vito Germinario, Chairperson, Legal Committee
Dr. Mary Jean Guidette, Chairperson, Credentials Review Committee
Ms. Ida Bilbow
Mr. James Gay
Ms. Mary Jane McNally
Dr. Michael Knowlton
Dr. Robert Petix
Mr. Peter Tirri

Absent: Dr. Ronald Applbaum
Mr. Richard Dorow
Dr. Donald Farish
Ms. Joanne Gales
Ms. Gloria Tunstall

The meeting was called to order by Acting Assistant Commissioner Jay Doolan. Mr. Doolan announced that notice of the meeting had been provided in accord with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, *N.J.S.A.* 10:4-6 et seq.

The minutes of the December 6, 2001 meeting were approved and adopted.

Individual Credentials Review - Presentation

Quesandra Harris, who is applying for School Social Worker certification, attended the meeting, made a brief presentation and answered questions from the Board regarding her experiences.

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:

Suzanne Riemann - Teacher of Elementary School Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing – Granted

Kathleen Celli - School Nurse – Denied. Partial credit was awarded for 6 credits in school nursing and student teaching.

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

Joseph Bednarczyk – County Substitute Certificate - Permanent disqualification from public school employment by the Office of Criminal History Review due to a conviction for assault with intent to cause physical injury.

Jean Cina – Allegations of unbecoming conduct involving failure to hold two fire drills per month as required by the State Fire Code and filing of false reports that the fire drills had been conducted.

Eric Deering – DYFS substantiated allegations that Mr. Deering had engaged in the physical abuse of a student.

Harvey Dock – Allegations of corporal punishment, unbecoming conduct, excessive absenteeism and insubordination.

Carlos Francis - DYFS substantiated allegations that Mr. Francis engaged in the physical abuse of a student.

Adrian L. Matthew - Conviction for distribution of a controlled dangerous substance, possession of a controlled dangerous substance, child abuse in the 4th degree and endangering the welfare of a child.

Cheryl Packer - County Substitute Certificate - Permanent disqualification from public school employment by the Office of Criminal History Review due to a conviction for wrongful use of a controlled substance (cocaine).

Kenneth W. Reed - Permanent disqualification from public school employment by the Office of Criminal History Review due to a conviction for 2nd degree sexual assault and 2nd degree official misconduct.

Paul Reger - County Substitute Certificate - Permanent disqualification from public school employment by the Office of Criminal History Review due to a conviction for criminal endangering, unlawful storage of hazardous wastes and unlawful storage of incompatible hazardous material.

Douglas A. Scocco - Permanent disqualification from public school employment by the Office of Criminal History Review due to a conviction for possession of a controlled dangerous substance or analog.

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

Andria Washington – Allegations of failure to comply with work assignments, dereliction of duty, excessive absenteeism, job abandonment, insubordination, noncompliance, unethical practices and official misconduct.

Gloria Woolard – Proven tenure charges of unbecoming conduct based on her participation in a scheme to defraud the State Health Benefits Program and her guilty plea to criminal charges stemming from her participation in that scheme.

Revoke

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

Linda Cofield – Criminal conviction for conspiracy to commit murder.

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

Cynthia Pullin – Proven tenure charges of abandonment and incapacity.

William Tierney – Settlement in a tenure proceeding where he agreed to surrender his teaching and administrative certificates and not to contest the State Board of Examiners' revocation of them.

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

In the matter of **Dianne Davis**, the Board voted to table the matter until the list of tenure charges that were certified to the Commissioner are obtained.

In the matter of **Marie Dompierre**, the Board voted to table the matter pending receipt of the initial certification application and supporting documentation submitted by Ms. Dompierre.

In the matter of **Christiana Ikwu**, the Board voted to change Ms. Ikwu's performance rating from a disapproved to an insufficient for her participation in the Provisional Teacher Program/Alternate Route due to technical flaws in the administration of the program. Ms. Ikwu has been provided an additional opportunity to complete the program.

In the matter of **Mark Trach**, the Board voted to block his application for certification as his conviction 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:

Siew Chai

Mark Lang

Felisberto Maceia

Christopher Mingrone

Zena Mitchell

Brandon Mosley

John Spiridon

Secretary John Knapp advised the Board that Joanne Gales was not in attendance due to death in her family. A sympathy card from the Board will be forwarded to Ms. Gales and her family.

Acting Assistant Commissioner Jay Doolan spoke to Board members regarding the January 16, 2002 work session with the State Board of Education concerning the certification discussion paper. He indicated that there was considerable dialogue pertaining to the implementation of the 2.75 Grade Point Average (GPA) requirement for novice teachers. He also indicated that there was discussion regarding the elimination of emergency certification.

The Board voted to go into executive session at 11:25 a.m. to discuss the certification discussion paper that was disseminated to the State Board of Education in December 2001 and proposals in the legal subchapter of the certification code. The Board moved out of executive session at 12:26 p.m.

The next meeting of the State Board of Examiners is scheduled to be held on **Thursday, February 21, 2002**, at the **Library for the Blind**, 2300 Stuyvesant Avenue, Trenton, New Jersey.