

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

May 9, 2002

Present: Dr. Donald Farish, Acting Chairperson
Mr. Jay Doolan, Acting Secretary
Michael Walters, Deputy Attorney General
Dr. Vito Germinario, Chairperson, Legal Committee
Dr. Mary Jean Guidette, 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
Mr. Peter Tirri
Ms. Gloria Tunstall

Absent: Assistant Commissioner Richard C. Ten Eyck, Chairperson

Dr. Farish called the meeting to order.

The minutes of April 11, 2002 meeting were approved and adopted. Ms. Ida Bilbow and Ms. Gloria Tunstall abstained from the vote. Mr. Peter Tirri was not present during the vote.

Individual Credentials Review – Presentation

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

- a. Catherine Glass Substance Awareness Coordinator
- b. Steven Phillips Speech language Specialist

Robert Aloia, who is applying for a School Administrator Certificate of Eligibility, 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:

Anna Marie Castaneda: Standard Teacher of Elementary School –Denied. Partial credit was awarded for student teaching and a year of mentored teaching.

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

Deborah Merolla: Teacher of the Handicapped – Denied. Partial credit was awarded for student teaching, three elective credits in education of the handicapped and two credits in professional education.

Judith Rottenberg: Standard Teacher of Elementary School – Denied. Partial credit was awarded for student teaching and a year of mentored teaching.

Kathleen A. Young: Student Personnel Services – Denied. Partial credit was awarded for a course in interviewing and counseling techniques, vocational guidance, three credits in psychology and three credits in community agencies.

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:

Mark Antunes – A condition for his entrance into a Pre-Trial Intervention Program was the surrender of his certificate.

Marcus M. Bond – Permanent disqualification from public school employment by the Office of Criminal History Review due to a conviction for possession of marijuana/hash.

Donald J. Gerraty – County Substitute Certificate - Permanent disqualification from public school employment by the Office of Criminal History Review due to violation of a conditional discharge stemming from charges of possession of marijuana/hash.

Michael B. Heron – County Substitute Certificate- Permanent disqualification from public school employment by the Office of Criminal History Review due to a conviction for possession of marijuana.

Henry Komorowsky -- Proven tenure charges of unbecoming conduct including discussions with his fifth-grade Gifted and Talented class on methods to torture or kill a student in the class.

Frank Lepre – Criminal conviction on four counts of child abuse and neglect and one count of official misconduct.

Suzanne Lepre – County Substitute Certificate – Permanent disqualification from public school employment due to a conviction for possession of marijuana.

Milton E. Moore, Jr. – Criminal conviction for 2nd degree sexual assault.

Joseph Spirra – County Substitute Certificate - Permanent disqualification from public school employment by the Office of Criminal History Review due to a conviction for 3rd degree felony larceny.

John Tate – Criminal conviction for 2nd degree sexual assault and 4th degree sexual contact.

Maxine King – Proven tenure charges of unbecoming conduct as a result of her improper actions as a teacher.

Adam Mujica - Proven tenure charges of unbecoming conduct as the result of his improper discussions and remarks to his students.

Mahrous Tadros –Allegations that he collected both a pension and a salary from a school district at the same time.

Corey Younger – Allegations of unbecoming conduct involving failure to provide appropriate supervision to a student that was sexually abused by another track coach.

Revocation:

Nicholas Caputi - County Substitute Certificate - Permanent disqualification from public school employment by the Office of Criminal History Review due to a conviction for felony assault.

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

Daniel Papadaniil – The State Board of Examiners adopted the Administrative Law Judge's recommendation that Mr. Papadaniil's certificate be revoked because he had engaged in a sexual relationship with a student.

Appeal:

In the matter of **Cynthia Stuart**, the Board voted to deny Ms. Stuart's appeal of the 2.75 grade point average (GPA) requirement as *N.J.A.C. 6:11-5.1(a)1* requires an overall cumulative GPA of 2.75 for certification.

Vacate Order to Show Cause:

In the matter of **Michael Novak**, the Board voted to vacate the Order to Show Cause issued November 2, 2000 as the Commissioner reversed the decision of the Office of Criminal History Review that disqualified him from public employment.

In the matter of **Emanuel Tumino**, the Board voted to vacate the Order to Show Cause issued January 17, 2002 as the Office of Criminal History Review had rescinded its determination that Mr. Tumino was disqualified from public employment.

Deny application for certification:

In the matter of **Ronald Sanger**, the Board voted to block his application for certification as he has been permanent disqualified from public school employment by the Office of Criminal History Review due to three drug convictions.

Other legal actions:

In the matter of **Lidia De Los Santos**, the Board voted to table the matter pending receipt of further information regarding her criminal history.

In the matter of **Joseph De Shan**, the Board voted to table the matter and request that the Office of Compliance investigate the allegations set forth by the Cinnaminson Board of Education that Mr. DeShan had been sexually involved with a fourteen year-old girl while he was a priest.

In the matter of **Cora Beekman**, the Board voted to table the matter pending receipt of further information regarding her conviction.

In the matter of **Thomas G. Davis**, the Board voted to table the matter pending receipt of further information regarding his conviction.

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

Shawna Graves-Coles
Yvonne Saltzman

Dr. Knowlton raised the issue of the proposed amendments currently before the State Board of Education concerning the grade point average (GPA) of 2.75 for initial teacher certification. The proposed amendments include a provision that would allow candidates who do not meet the GPA requirement or proposed alternatives to appeal to the State Board of Examiners for relief. The Board was concerned that the proposed regulation does not establish criteria for the review of appeals, there may be a large number of candidates appealing to the Board for relief, and a GPA is a matter between a higher institution and a candidate and cannot be changed by the Board. Mr. Tirri reminded Board members that they originally recommended

that the 2.75 GPA requirement for instructional certification be applied initially to students who entered college in 2000 or 2001, so that individuals seeking teacher certification would have ample notice of the requirement.

Acting Secretary Jay Doolan advised the Board that the State Board of Education would be hearing public testimony regarding the 2.75 GPA amendments on May 15, 2002 and that, if no Board member was available to offer public testimony on that date, the Board could submit its concerns to the State Board of Education in writing by June 19, 2002. The consensus of the Board was to submit written comments to the State Board of Education. A draft of the comments will be prepared for the Board's review. Mr. Doolan also advised the Board that, if the proposed provision for appeal before the State Board of Examiners is adopted, the Board would need to develop criteria for its review of 2.75 GPA appeals.

Mr. Doolan disseminated the updated draft letter to legislators addressing the Board's concern regarding the current criminal history record statute, *N.J.S.A. 18A-6-7.1 et seq.* The Board approved the letter and all Board members present signed it. A letter to Commissioner Librera will also be drafted to request his support of the Board's position. Board members also approved and signed a letter to Commissioner Librera concerning the termination and short-term extension of employment of key support staff.

The Board was advised that Dr. Ronald Applbaum had resigned from the Board as he had resigned the presidency of Kean University and taken a position in another state.

Mr. Doolan distributed a schedule with proposed meeting dates for the 2002-2003 school year and advised that, since the new parking deck would be completed in upcoming weeks, Board meetings will be scheduled at 100 Riverview Plaza for the 2002-2003 school year. He also announced that Board members would be contacted about the end-of-year luncheon to be held immediately after the June meeting. Board members were further advised that a letter has been prepared for dissemination to County Superintendents advising that they may call the Office of Licensure and Credentials for assistance in identifying individuals mentioned in Board minutes, if the need arises.

The next meeting of the State Board of Examiners is scheduled to be held on **Thursday, June 13, 2002**, at the **Library for the Blind**, 2300 Stuyvesant Avenue, Trenton, New Jersey.