

**State Board of Examiners
Minutes of the Meeting held at
100 Riverview Plaza, First Floor Conference Room
Trenton, NJ**

September 26, 2002

Present: Assistant Commissioner Michael Rush, Acting Chairperson
Ms. Joan Brady, Secretary
Allison Colsey-Eck, Deputy Attorney General
Ms. Ida Bilbow, Acting Chairperson, Legal Committee
Ms. Joanne Gales, Chairperson, Credentials Review Committee
Mr. Richard Dorow
Dr. Donald Farish
Mr. James Gay
Dr. Michael Knowlton
Ms. Mary Jane McNally
Dr. Robert Petix
Dr. Stuart Schnur
Dr. Rodney Smith
Mr. Peter Tirri
Ms. Gloria Tunstall

Absent: Assistant Commissioner Richard C. Ten Eyck
Deputy Attorney General Michael Walters

The meeting was called to order by Assistant Commissioner Michael Rush, Acting Chairperson, who announced that the meeting complied with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Dr. Stuart Schnur and Dr. Rodney Smith were sworn in as members of the State Board of Examiners. Deputy Attorney General Allison Colsey-Eck administered the Oath of Office.

The minutes of the June 13, 2002 meeting were approved and adopted.

Laurie Rosen was removed from the legal agenda at the request of Deputy Attorney General Allison Colsey-Eck.

Individual Credentials Review – Presentation:

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

Adele Berenz	School Psychologist
Kathleen Berlin	School Nurse
Tracy Jamison	Student Personnel Services
Karheem Mattioli	Bilingual/Bicultural Education
Greta Williams	Standard Elementary School Teacher and standard Supervisor certificates

The following individuals who are applying for certification did not attend the meeting:

Christine Cerrotta	Speech-language Specialist
Susan Elmer	Speech-language Specialist

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:

Karen Carlson	Teacher of Reading - Granted
Edith Melie	School Administrator Certificate of Eligibility - Denied Principal Certificate of Eligibility – Denied Partial credit was awarded for both certificate areas for graduate study in leadership and human resource management, quantitative decision making and communications.
Kathleen Ploshay	Speech -language Specialist - Granted
Sandra Rose	Reading Specialist - Granted

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:

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

Revocation:

Jose Acosta - County Substitute Certificate - Permanent disqualification from public school employment by the Office of Criminal History Review due to a drug conviction.

Johnnie Bennett – Pled guilty to second degree conspiracy and third degree theft by deception after allegations that she participated in a scheme to defraud the State Health Benefits Program.

Reginald Boswell – Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing – Permanent disqualification from public school employment by the Office of Criminal History Review due to a robbery conviction.

Joann Mc Donough -- Ms. Mc Donough consented to the revocation of her certificate and waived her right to a hearing after the Division of Youth and Family Services substantiated allegations that she emotionally abused a fourteen year-old boy by having a highly inappropriate relationship with him.

Rogelio Hernandez – Proven tenure charges of corporal punishment on two of his students.

Ryan Ing – Proven tenure charges that he attempted to forge an inappropriate relationship with a 13 year-old student.

Thomasina Lemon – Proven tenure charges of inappropriate physical contact with students, insubordination and excessive absenteeism.

James Lumley – Mr. Lumley consented to the revocation of his certificate and waived his right to a hearing after the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office charged that he had extensive child pornography on his computer, as well as marijuana and drug paraphernalia in his office in the school district in which he was employed as an administrator.

Appeal:

In the matter of **Arthur Klein**, the Board voted to deny Mr. Klein'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.

In the matter of **Walter Perekupka**, the Board voted to deny Mr. Perekupka'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.

Deny application for certification:

In the matter of **Glenn W. Braun**, the Board voted to block his application for certification as his 1973 convictions for assault and battery on a police officer and possession of over 25 grams of marijuana would permanently disqualify him from employment in any school or institution under the supervision of the Department of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A 6-7.1 et seq.

In the matter of **Robert Elmezzi**, the Board voted to block his application for certification following revocation because the conduct that was the basis of the revocation, forging a teaching certificate, was so egregious, and his application failed to show rehabilitation. In addition, the Board voted to issue an Order to Show Cause why

he should not have his County Substitute certificate revoked, as he had applied for the certificate after the revocation of his Certificate of Eligibility.

In the matter of **Mark Goulet**, the Board voted to block his application for certification as his convictions for possession of marijuana, disorderly conduct, larceny and property crimes would permanently disqualify him from employment in any school or institution under the supervision of the Department of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A 6-7.1 et seq.

In the matter of **Otto Krupp**, the Board voted to block his application for certification following revocation due to the level and nature of the crime upon which the revocation was based.

In the matter of **Harry Lecuyer**, the Board voted to block his application for certification as his conviction for possession of a handgun without a permit would permanently disqualify him from employment in any school or institution under the supervision of the Department of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A 6-7.1 et seq.

In the matter of **Sandra Pina**, the Board voted to block her application for certification as her conviction for knowingly and intentionally using and causing to be used a communication facility in facilitating a conspiracy to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute cocaine would permanently disqualify her from employment in any school or institution under the supervision of the Department of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A 6-7.1 et seq.

In the matter of **William Tierney**, the Board voted to block his application for certification following revocation due to insufficient time having passed for him to demonstrate rehabilitation.

In the matter of **Jessica Tighe**, the Board voted to block her application for certification as her conviction for attempted robbery would permanently disqualify her from employment in any school or institution under the supervision of the Department of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A 6-7.1 et seq.

In the matter of **Sandra Ruff-Person**, the Board voted to deny certification based on the repetitive nature of her three shoplifting offenses. In addition, the Board was concerned that the convictions had occurred when she was an adult.

In the matter of **Michael Whalen**, the Board voted to block his application for certification as his conviction for indecent exposure would permanently disqualify him from employment in any school or institution under the supervision of the Department of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A 6-7.1 et seq.

In the matter of **Craig Williams**, the Board voted to block his application for certification as his conviction for criminal mischief and battery would permanently disqualify him from employment in any school or institution under the supervision of the Department of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A 6-7.1 et seq.

Other legal actions:

In the matter of **Buffy Bohinski**, the Board voted to table the matter in order to obtain further information regarding the offense.

In the matter of **David Hommel**, the Board voted to table the matter in order to obtain information from the attorneys regarding their intention in submitting a supplemental report from a psychologist.

In the matter of **Dean Ilconich**, the Board directed Mr. Ilconich to seek a letter of qualification pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1. If the criminal history check conducted by the Office of Criminal History Review determines that Mr. Ilconich is now qualified for public school employment, the Board will vacate the Order to Show Cause that was issued to him.*

* Ilconich had the offense expunged by way of an Order of Expungement dated June 14, 2002.

In the matter of **Robert Rothschild**, the Board voted to table the matter in order to obtain further information from the applicant.

In the matter of **Cordell Wise**, the Board voted to table the matter in order to obtain further information from the district reporting his conduct.

The Board voted to go into executive session at 12:25 P.M. to discuss legal matters. The Board moved out of executive session at 12:44. P.M.

In the matter of **Michael Covello**, the Board voted to withdraw the Order to Show Cause that it had previously issued to him.

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

Justyna Brunetti *	Robin L. Miller
Roland Carter	Barbara Ann Nieves
Angela Marie Gross	Brian T. Orsini
Brian Grossano	Dennis Palatini
Rose Lapsley-Morrisroe	Linda Shute
Michael Mayer	Michael Tasker
Melisa Mc Phatter	Mertice Thomas

* Brunetti had the offense expunged by way of an Order of Expungement dated November 2, 2005.

The Board had a discussion regarding the status of the backlog in issuing certificates. The members were advised that there is currently a Request for Proposal to install a new computer system in the Office of Licensure and Credentials. In addition, the Department of Education has created three regional offices, which will also be involved in the certification process. The new computer system and the regional offices will help to eliminate the backlog.

The Board also had a discussion about issuing certificates to applicants who had previously had their certificates revoked.

Dr. Petix requested that the agendas be sent to the members with sufficient time for the members to read them.

Board Secretary Joan Brady announced that Joanne Gales had accepted the position of Chairperson of the Credentials Review Committee. In addition, Ida Bilbow had agreed to serve as the Acting Chairperson of the Legal Committee.

Ms. Brady also welcomed the two new Board members, Dr. Stuart Schnur and Dr. Rodney Smith. She announced that William King had also been appointed to the Board but was unable to attend the meeting because of a prior commitment. He will be sworn in as a new member of the Board at the meeting of November 14, 2002.

Ms. Brady introduced David Powers, a new staff member who will also be working with the Board.

Assistant Commissioner Rush stated that the meeting was his first experience with the Board and it made him appreciate the work that the members of the Board are doing.

The next meeting of the board is scheduled to be held on Thursday, November 14, 2002 in the first floor conference room, 100 Riverview Plaza, Trenton, New Jersey.