

**State Board of Examiners  
Minutes of Meeting  
100 Riverview Plaza  
Trenton, New Jersey  
January 22, 2004**

**Present:** Ms. Joan Brady, Secretary  
Mr. Michael Walters, Deputy Attorney General  
Ms. Joanne Gales, Chairperson, Credentials Committee  
Dr. Michael Knowlton, Chairperson, Legal Committee  
Ms. Ida Bilbow  
Dr. Donald Farish  
Mr. James Gay  
Mr. William King  
Ms. Mary Jane McNally  
Dr. Stuart Schnur  
Mr. Peter Tirri  
Ms. Gloria Tunstall

**Absent:** Assistant Commissioner Richard Ten Eyck, Chairperson  
Dr. Robert Petix  
Dr. Rodney Smith

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chair Dr. Donald Farish, who announced that the meeting complied with the Open Public Meetings Act.

The minutes of the December 11, 2003 meeting were approved by a unanimous vote.

### **Individual Credentials Review-Presentation**

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

J. Alyson Nitche	Speech-language Specialist
Deena Dolce O'Connor	Speech-language Specialist
Jeffrey Ruttner	School Psychologist
Deborah S. Taylor	Speech-language Specialist

### **Credentials Review Committee Report**

The Credentials Review Committee reviewed all credentials cases and presented its recommendations to the Board. The Board took the following actions:

Maureen Baldwin	School Social Worker – The Board voted 9 to 0, with Ms. Bilbow abstaining, to deny her request for certification, but to grant her one year of social work experience.
Meredith Bazaar	Speech-language Specialist – The Board voted 9 to 0, with Ms. Bilbow abstaining, to grant her request for certification.
Diane Giachetti	Student Personnel Services – The Board voted 9 to 0, with Ms. Bilbow abstaining, to deny her request for certification, but to grant her two credits in sophomore and junior field experience.
Meredith Gibson	Speech-language Specialist – The Board voted 9 to 0, with Ms. Bilbow abstaining, to deny her request for certification.
Eugenia Hamlett	School Social Worker – The Board voted 9 to 0, with Ms. Bilbow abstaining, to grant her request for certification.
Renee Passman	Teacher of Spanish – The Board voted 9 to 0, with Ms. Bilbow abstaining, to grant her request for certification.
Erin Savell	Speech-language Specialist – The Board voted 9 to 0, with Ms. Bilbow abstaining, to deny her request for certification.

### **Legal Committee Report**

The Legal Committee reviewed all legal cases and presented its recommendations to the Board.

Dr. Knowlton announced that the matter of Patrick Aiello would be removed from the agenda and transmitted to the Commissioner to hear as an appeal of the Board's prior decision.

The Board took the following actions:

Thomas Carney – The Board unanimously voted to issue an Order to Show Cause to him based on the level and nature of his conduct.

Cesar Escurra – The Board unanimously voted to issue an Order to Show Cause to him based on the level and nature of his conduct.

Manuel Ferreira – Dr. Knowlton recused himself from the case. The Board unanimously voted to issue an Order to Show Cause to him based on the level and nature of his conduct.

Kelly Gibbons – The Board unanimously voted to issue an Order to Show Cause to her based on the level and nature of her conduct.

Leon Grove – The Board unanimously voted to table the matter in order to obtain further information.

Anna Humphrey – The Board unanimously voted to take no action against her teaching certificates.

Virginia Rachko – The Board unanimously voted to issue an Order to Show Cause to her based on the level and nature of her conduct.

David St. John – The Board unanimously voted to take no action against his teaching certificates.

Joshua Fava – The Board unanimously voted to take no action to block his application for certification.

Allison Heater – The Board unanimously voted to take no action to block her application for certification.

Portia Lowery – The Board unanimously voted to take no action to block her application for certification.

Leonard Marano – Mr. Gay recused himself from the case. The Board unanimously voted to accept the surrender of his six certificates with the force and effect of a revocation.

DeVette LoVerde – The Board unanimously voted to deny her appeal because she does not meet the regulatory requirement for certification.

Michele Bednarz – The Board unanimously voted to deny her request for certification after revocation because she failed to demonstrate that she is rehabilitated from the conduct that caused the revocation of her certificates.

Karen Gaba – The Board unanimously voted to approve her application for an opportunity to apply for certification after revocation because she has shown rehabilitation from the conduct that was the basis for the revocation.

Ruth Munoz – The Board voted to adopt the recommendation of the Administrative Law Judge in the Initial Decision that the Board accept the proposed settlement changing her “disapproved” rating to “insufficient.” Mr. Tirri abstained from the vote.

DAG Walters reviewed the recent State Board of Education decisions regarding the authority of the State Board of Examiners to review and revoke county substitute certificates. The Board then had a discussion regarding the need for the Department of Education to handle cases concerning county substitute certificates in a timely manner.

Dr. Knowlton made a motion to send a resolution to the State Board of Education expressing the concern of the State Board of Examiners regarding the county substitute situation, with a copy of the resolution sent to the county superintendents of schools. Mr. Tirri seconded the motion and it was passed by a unanimous vote.

Nicola Biehler  
Joseph Bednarczyk  
Muhammad Bey  
Cheri Burgess  
Robin Crudup  
Ralph Dipasquale  
William Duffy  
Ronald Dukes  
David Eagone  
Douglas Fenwick  
Bruce Heagstedt  
Josh Hennion  
Michael Heron  
Rosemary Iannone  
Ray Magee  
Larry Melvin  
Ricardo Moran  
Steve Nelson  
Cheryl Packer  
Mark Persiani  
Gregory Smith  
Joel Smith

Eric Streeter

In accord with the recent decisions of the State Board of Education, the Board voted to vacate the Orders to Show Cause issued to the 23 holders of county substitute certificates and to transmit the cases to the State Board of Education for timely action, with a copy of the transmittal sent to the county superintendents of schools. Ms. Bilbow voted against the motion and the remaining Board members voted in favor of it.

Jeffrey Bolden

Wilton Bridgeforth

Darren James

Suzanne Lepre

Ryan Normandin

Andrianna Perez

Paul Reger

Marvin Simpson

Joseph Spirra

Bryan Walensky

In accord with the recent decisions of the State Board of Education, the Board voted to vacate the Orders of Revocation issued to the 10 holders of county substitute certificates and to transmit the cases to the State Board of Education for timely action, with a copy of the transmittal sent to the county superintendents of schools. Ms. Bilbow voted against the motion and the remaining Board members voted in favor of it.

Jose Acosta II

Tanya Brown

The Board unanimously voted to vacate the two Orders to Show Cause because their county substitute certificates had expired.

Glen Szabo – In accord with the recent decisions of the State Board of Education, the Board unanimously voted to vacate its Order to Table the case and to transmit the matter to the State Board of Education for timely action, with a copy of the transmittal sent to the county superintendents of schools.

Dr. Knowlton made a motion to go into Executive Session in order to discuss a legal matter. Mr. Tirri seconded the motion, which was carried by a unanimous vote, and the Board went into Executive Session at 12:10 P.M.

The Board returned to the public session at 12:12 P.M.

Dr. Knowlton made a motion to reject the proposed settlement in *In the Matter of the Certificate of Larry Schumacher*. Mr. Terri seconded the motion, which was carried by a unanimous vote.

**Old Business**

There was no old business.

### **New Business**

Ms. Brady announced that Jerome Bohnert will become a member of the Board, filling the vacancy created by the retirement of Richard Dorow.

### **Secretary's Report**

Ms. Brady informed the Board that the new certification regulations went into effect on January 20, 2004. Board members will receive a copy of the new regulations with the February agenda.

The Board held a discussion concerning the renewal of emergency certificates.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was carried by a unanimous vote and the meeting was adjourned at 12:20 P.M.

The next meeting of the State Board of Examiners is scheduled for Thursday, February 26, 2004 in the first floor conference room, 100 Riverview Plaza, Trenton, New Jersey.