

**State Board of Examiners
Minutes of Meeting
100 Riverview Plaza
Trenton, New Jersey
February 24, 2005**

Present: Mr. Michael Klavon, Acting Secretary
Mr. Peter Tirri, Acting Chair
Ms. Carolyn Labin, Deputy Attorney General
Dr. Donald Farish, Chair, Legal Committee
Ms. Joanne Gales, Chair, Credentials Committee
Ms. Ida Bilbow
Mr. James Gay
Mr. William King
Dr. Robert Petix
Dr. Stuart Schnur

Absent: Assistant Commissioner Richard Ten Eyck, Chair
Mr. Jerome Bohnert
Dr. Barbara Gitenstein
Mr. Richard Kaplan
Ms. Mary Jane McNally
Ms. Gloria Tunstall

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

The minutes of the January 20, 2005 meeting were approved as corrected.

Individual Credentials Review-Presentation

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

Connie Pellegrino Condie
Gregory James

School Social Worker
School Counselor

Matthew J. Kuliszewski

Supervisor

Susan Shipley, who is seeking a School Psychologist certificate, was not present at the meeting.

Credentials Review Committee Report

Connie Pellegrino Condie

Counselor – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to grant her application for certification.

Elizabeth Ramos

School Social Worker – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to deny her application for certification. The Board voted to give her partial credit for the required study in education.

Elisa Verran

School Counselor – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to grant her application for certification.

Yakik Rumley,

Supervisor certificate – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to deny his application for certification.

Legal Committee Report

The Legal Committee reviewed all legal cases and presented its recommendations to the Board. The Board took the following actions:

Bruce Bercun – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to issue an Order to Show Cause based on the level and nature of the conduct.

Rodney Dotson – With Mr. Tirri recusing himself, by a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to issue an Order to Show Cause seeking suspension pending resolution of the underlying criminal charges.

Gwendolyn King El-Amin – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to issue an Order to Show Cause seeking suspension pending resolution of the underlying criminal charges.

Gregory Monsolino – With Ms. Gales recusing herself, by a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to issue an Order to Show Cause seeking suspension pending resolution of the underlying criminal charges.

Theodore Hoover – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to vacate the Order to Show Cause that was issued to him as his disqualification was rescinded.

Tiffany Rhea – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block her application for certification.

Timothy Kelly – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block his application for certification.

Michelle Bowen-Ashwin - By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block her application for certification.

Stanley Crougter – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to table the matter pending receipt of additional information.

Sandra Farrakhan – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block her application for certification.

Mark Stephen Givens - By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to table the matter pending receipt of additional information.

Margaret Moore - By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block her application for certification.

Amanda Papa – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board denied her appeal for a K-8 certificate.

Marcella Taylor – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board denied her application for certification after revocation.

Elaine Nestel – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board denied her motion for a stay of the proceedings.

David Toler – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board denied his motion for a stay of the Order of Revocation.

Diane West – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board granted her motion for a stay pending resolution of the criminal matter.

Mary Ellen Berbenich – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to revoke her certificated based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime.

Gerald Fowlkes - By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to revoke his certificate based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime.

John Gardner – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to revoke his certificate based on his disqualification from public school employment.

Samuel Gitkin - By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to revoke his certificate based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime.

Leonard Moore - By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to revoke his certificate based on the level and nature of the conduct.

Peter Vanechanos - By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to revoke his certificate based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime.

Dr. Farish made a motion to adopt a resolution to go into closed session in order to obtain advice from counsel regarding a current legal matter, *In the Matter of the Certificates of John Buller*, and Mr. Gay seconded the motion. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote, and the Board went into Executive Session at 11:16 A.M.

The Board returned to the public session at 11:18 A.M.

Dr. Farish made a motion to add to the agenda the cases captioned *In the Matter of the Certificates of John Buller* and *In the Matter of the Appeal of Ariana Palmer*. The motion was seconded by Dr. Schnur and carried by a unanimous vote. Dr. Farish then made a motion to accept the proposed settlement in *Buller*, in which Mr. Buller agreed to relinquish his certificate with the force and effect of a revocation. Dr. Schnur seconded the motion, which was carried by a unanimous vote. Dr. Farish made a motion to grant Ms. Palmer's appeal requesting that her coursework be deemed to meet the requirement for a Teacher of Art certificate. Dr. Schnur seconded the motion, which was carried by a unanimous vote.

Old Business

Secretary Klavon advised the Board that a letter had been sent to the New Providence School District, as the Board requested. In addition, a letter was sent to district superintendents reminding them of the responsibility of districts to notify the Board when teaching staff members leave the district for cause.

New Business

There was no new business.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary informed the Board that the Office of Licensure and Credentials is on target to eliminate the backlog in issuing certificates.

Dr. Schnur made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Dr. Farish and carried by a unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 11:26 A.M.

The next meeting of the State Board of Examiners is scheduled for Thursday, March 31, 2005 in the first floor conference room, 100 Riverview Plaza, Trenton, New Jersey.

Minutes prepared by Arlene G. Lutz.

Minutes certified by Michael K. Klavon, Acting Secretary

MKKAGL/Minutes-2/24/05