

**State Board of Examiners
Minutes of Meeting
100 Riverview Plaza
Trenton, New Jersey
March 30, 2006**

Present: Dr. Robert Higgins, Acting Secretary
Ms. Carolyn Labin, Deputy Attorney General
Ms. Ida Bilbow, Chair, Legal Committee
Ms. Joanne Gales, Chair, Credentials Committee
Mr. Jerome Bohnert
Ms. Gail Cropper
Mr. James Gay
Dr. Mary Jane McNally
Dr. Robert Petix
Mr. Peter Tirri

Absent: Dr. Jay Doolan, Acting Assistant Commissioner, Chair
Dr. Barbara Gitenstein
Mr. Richard Kaplan
Dr. Stuart Schnur

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

Mr. Bohnert moved to adopt the minutes of the January 19, 2006 meeting and Dr. Petix seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by a unanimous vote. Mr. Gay moved to adopt the minutes of the special meeting of January 30, 2006 and Dr. Petix seconded the motion. The minutes 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:

Donald Bayer	Teacher of French Certificate of Eligibility
Linda Davidoff	Learning Disabilities Teacher-Consultant – Ms. Davidoff was accompanied by Anthony Calandrillo, Director, Special Services, Teaneck School District.
Mali Gurevitch	Standard Preschool through Third Grade certificate
Teresa Iannacco	Standard Teacher of Italian certificate
Christine Maier	School Counselor
Jodie Ricciardi	Teacher of Health and Physical Education Certificate of Eligibility
Jon Zlock	Teacher of English Certificate of Eligibility

Dr. Maureen Ruocco-Murphy, who is seeking both a School Nurse certificate and a standard Teacher of Health Education certificate, and Dr. Sharon Williams, who is seeking an Educational Media Specialist certificate, were not present at the meeting.

Credentials Review Committee Report

Lydia Gilbert	Teacher of Speech Arts and Dramatics – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to deny her application for certification. The Board granted her 5 college credits in speech arts and dramatics at the introductory and intermediate level.
Ismael Khalil	Standard Principal - By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to deny his application for certification. The Board granted him the right to complete the residency required for the standard principal certificate in one year
Carlos Ramirez	Principal Certificate of Eligibility – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to deny his application for certification.
Patricia Robinson	Learning Disabilities Teacher-Consultant – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to grant her application for certification.

Holli Toline

Substance Awareness Coordinator Certificate of Eligibility – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to deny her 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:

Ms. Bilbow read a resolution permitting the State Board of Examiners to go into closed session in order to obtain advice from counsel regarding three legal matters, *In the Matter of the Certificates of John Kurilla*, *In the Matter of the Certificates of Charles Marshall* and *In the Matter of the Certificate of Shelton Harley*. Dr. Petix seconded the motion, which was carried by a unanimous vote, and the Board went into Executive Session at 12:12 P.M.

The Board returned to the public session at 12:35 P.M.

Ms. Bilbow made a motion to add the cases captioned *In the Matter of the Certificates of John Kurilla*, *In the Matter of the Certificates of Charles Marshall* and *In the Matter of the Certificate of Shelton Harley* to the legal agenda. Mr. Gay seconded the motion, which was carried by a unanimous vote. Ms. Bilbow made a motion that the Board reject the proposed settlement in *In the Matter of the Certificates of John Kurilla*, which Dr. Petix seconded. The motion was carried unanimously. She also moved that the Board reject the proposed settlement in *In the Matter of the Certificates of Charles Marshall*. Dr. Petix seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Ms. Bilbow made a motion to accept the proposed settlement in *In the Matter of the Certificate of Shelton Harley*, which Mr. Gay seconded. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote. As a result of the settlement, Mr. Harley's certificate will be suspended for the 2006-07 school year.

Ms. Bilbow made a motion for the Board to go into recess, which Dr. Petix seconded. The vote was unanimous, and the Board went into recess at 12:48 P.M. The Board returned from the recess at 1:14 P.M.

Joseph Bruno – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to issue an Order to Show Cause based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime.

Norman Dellas – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to issue an Order to Show Cause based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime.

Corrado “Charles” Diamente - By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to issue an Order to Show Cause based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime.

Dominic Digioacchino - By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to issue an Order to Show Cause based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime.

Richard Gibbs - By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to issue an Order to Show Cause based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime.

Michael Gudewitz - By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to issue an Order to Show Cause based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime.

Robert Janiszewski - By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to issue an Order to Show Cause based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime.

Frederick Moore - By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to issue an Order to Show Cause based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime.

Robert Quinn - By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to issue an Order to Show Cause based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime.

Jamie Simon - By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to issue an Order to Show Cause based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime.

Mark Steele - By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to issue an Order to Show Cause based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime.

Henry Vanengas-Salcedo - By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to issue an Order to Show Cause based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime.

Arthur Vespgnani - By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to issue an Order to Show Cause based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime.

Curtis Wilson – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board tabled the matter pending receipt of additional information regarding the criminal charges.

Elizabeth Aronson – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to vacate the Order to Show Cause as the underlying criminal charges had been dismissed.

Thomas Etts – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block the application for certification.

Carla LeBon – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board denied her appeal as she does not meet the requirements for the certificate that she is seeking.

Jason Phillips - By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block the application for certification.

Daniel Reiff - By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block the application for certification.

Pamela Thomas - By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block the application for certification.

Arnold Baird – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to vacate the Order to Show Cause as the underlying criminal conviction had been expunged.

Larry Tuorto – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to vacate the Order of Revocation and to direct him to file an Answer to the Order to Show Cause.

Joseph Bastrimovich - By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block the application for certification.

Charles Benz - By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block the application for certification.

Crystal Boyd - By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block the application for certification.

Daniel Choi - By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block the application for certification.

Kimberly Clark - By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block the application for certification.

Sara Gilrain - By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block the application for certification.

Howard Gralla - By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block the application for certification.

Kimberly Searcy - By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block the application for certification.

Felix Taiwo - By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block the application for certification.

Philip Thomas - By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block the application for certification.

Jennifer Whalen - By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block the application for certification.

Jon Leshner – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to accept the surrender of his certificates with the force and effect of a revocation.

Claude Thouret - By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to accept the surrender of his certificates with the force and effect of a revocation.

Ivonne Krasnick – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to transfer her case to the Credentials Committee for its review.

Frederick Costales – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to revoke his certificates based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime.

Scott Peters – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to suspend his certificate pending the resolution of the underlying criminal matter.

Walter Barnes – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to adopt the recommendation of the Administrative Law Judge in the Initial Decision and to dismiss the Order to Show Cause that was issued to him.

Justin Bozinta – With Mr. Gay recusing himself, by a vote of 6 to 0, the Board voted to adopt the recommendation of the Administrative Law Judge in the Initial Decision and to dismiss the Order to Show Cause that was issued to him.

Ernest Chavez – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to adopt the recommendation of the Administrative Law Judge in the Initial Decision that his certificates be revoked.

Sally Anne Mesh – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to adopt with modification the recommendation of the Administrative Law Judge in the Initial Decision that the Order to Show Cause that was issued to her be dismissed. The Board did not accept the ALJ's holding in the Initial Decision regarding the burden of proof.

Ralph Schiavo - By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to adopt the recommendation of the Administrative Law Judge in the Initial Decision and to dismiss the Order to Show Cause that was issued to him.

Ms. Bilbow identified the following matters as items on the consent list for Board approval of the written memorialization of Board actions. The Board originally took action on these matters at its meeting of January 19, 2006.

Anthony Franco – Order to Show Cause
Valarie Fuller – Order to Show Cause
Matthew Harris – Order to Show Cause
Allen Harvin – Order to Show Cause
Keith Kaufman – Order to Show Cause

John Lapetina – Order to Show Cause
Stratos Mandalakis – Order to Show Cause
Daniel Mullay – Order to Show Cause
William Thompson – Order to Show Cause
Mark Givens – Block application for certification
Dexter Green – Block application for certification
John Sain – Block application for certification
Theodore Wurster – Deny motion for stay
Aida Camargo-Wahba – Deny appeal
Eric Harris – Deny appeal
Sandra Mann-Rennie – Deny appeal
Anthony Mangan – Suspend certificates
Michael Nieves – Revoke certificates
Wesley Dillard – Revoke certificate
Talita Robinson – Revoke certificate
Jo-Ann Troublefield – Revoke certificates

Ms. Bilbow made a motion that the Board accept the matters on the consent list and Mr. Gay seconded the motion. The consent list was accepted by a unanimous vote.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Dr. Higgins read a resolution in memory of Elizabeth Haywood, a staff member in the Office of Licensure and Credentials who had worked with the State Board of Examiners for many years. Mr. Tirri moved that the Board adopt the resolution and Ms. Bilbow seconded the motion. The Board adopted the motion by a unanimous vote.

William King, Warren County Superintendent of Schools and Acting Assistant Commissioner-Northern Region, addressed the Board regarding his recent resignation as a Board member due to his increased responsibilities as Acting Assistant Commissioner. Mr. King advised the members how much he had enjoyed his service on the Board.

Secretary's Report

Board members had a discussion regarding their reaction to a CD containing the agenda that was distributed to them. Members offered their opinions regarding the possibility of distributing the agenda electronically.

Dr. Higgins advised the Board that State Board of Examiners revocation and suspension decisions since 1997 have been placed on the Board's website. He asked the Board for guidance regarding what additional Board documents and decisions that the members would like to add to the website.

Dr. Higgins also requested input from the Board concerning how it wished to handle matters that were forwarded from the Criminal History Review Unit in which the teacher has been charged with a disqualifying offense but has not yet been convicted.

Adjournment

Dr. Petix made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Ms. Bilbow and carried by a unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 2:09 P.M.

The next scheduled public meeting will be on Thursday, May 4, 2006 in the first floor conference room, 100 Riverview Plaza, Trenton, New Jersey.

Minutes prepared by Arlene G. Lutz.

Minutes certified by Robert R. Higgins, Acting Secretary.

RRH/AGL/Minutes-3/30/06