

**State Board of Examiners  
Minutes of Meeting  
100 Riverview Plaza  
Trenton, New Jersey  
May 4, 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  
Ms. Gail Cropper  
Dr. Barbara Gitenstein  
Mr. James Gay  
Mr. Richard Kaplan  
Dr. Mary Jane McNally  
Dr. Robert Petix  
Dr. Stuart Schnur  
Mr. Peter Tirri

**Absent:** Dr. Jay Doolan, Acting Assistant Commissioner, Chair  
Mr. Jerome Bohnert

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.

Dr. Petix moved to adopt the minutes of the March 30, 2006 meeting and Dr. Schnur 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:

Joel DeLong	Teacher of Chemistry Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing
Jennifer Dixon	School Counselor
Castor Losada	Certificate of Eligibility-Teacher of Health and Physical Education
Michele Metula	Reading Specialist
Elaine Schardien	School Counselor
Stephanie Thomas	Learning Disabilities Teacher-Consultant – Ms. Thomas was accompanied by Vicki Pede, Chief School Administrator, Harmony School District, who spoke on her behalf.

Ruthanne Hamann, who is seeking a School Social Worker certificate, Michael S. Landis, who is seeking a Standard Elementary School certificate with Subject Matter Specialization in Social Studies, Allison Larger, who is seeking a School Counselor certificate, and Henry Pita, who is seeking a Teacher of Mathematics Certificate of Eligibility, were not present at the meeting.

### **Credentials Review Committee Report**

Donald Bayer	Teacher of French Certificate of Eligibility – With Dr. Gitenstein, Mr. Kaplan and Dr. Schnur abstaining, by a vote of 6 to 0, the Board voted to deny his application for certification.
Linda Davidoff	Learning Disabilities Teacher-Consultant – With Dr. Gitenstein, Mr. Kaplan and Dr. Schnur abstaining, by a vote of 6 to 0, the Board voted to grant her application for certification.
Mali Gurevitch	Standard Preschool through Third Grade certificate - With Dr. Gitenstein, Mr. Kaplan and Dr. Schnur abstaining, by a vote of 6 to 0, the Board voted to grant her application for certification.
Teresa Iannacco	Standard Teacher of Italian certificate – With Dr. Gitenstein, Mr. Kaplan and Dr. Schnur abstaining, by a vote of 6 to 0, the Board voted to grant her application for certification.

Christine Maier	School Counselor – With Dr. Gitenstein, Mr. Kaplan and Dr. Schnur abstaining, by a vote of 6 to 0, the Board voted to deny her application for certification.
Jodie Ricciardi	Teacher of Health and Physical Education Certificate of Eligibility – With Dr. Gitenstein, Mr. Kaplan and Dr. Schnur abstaining, by a vote of 6 to 0, the Board voted to grant her application for certification.
Jon Zlock	Teacher of English Certificate of Eligibility – With Dr. Gitenstein, Mr. Kaplan and Dr. Schnur abstaining, by a vote of 6 to 0, the Board voted to grant his application for certification.
Maureen Ruocco-Murphy	School Nurse certificate, standard Teacher of Health Education certificate – With Dr. Gitenstein, Mr. Kaplan and Dr. Schnur abstaining, by a vote of 6 to 0, the Board voted to grant her application for both certificates.
Sharon Williams	Educational Media Specialist certificate – With Dr. Gitenstein, Mr. Kaplan and Dr. Schnur abstaining, by a vote of 6 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:

Craig Brodman - By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to issue an Order to Show Cause based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime.

Thomas Cantillon - By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to issue an Order to Show Cause based on the level and nature of the conduct.

William Conwell – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to issue an Order to Show Cause based on his disqualification from public school employment.

Scott Copperman - By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to issue an Order to Show Cause based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime.

Albert J. DiEmidio - By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to issue an Order to Show Cause based on his disqualification from public school employment.

Richard Goldstein – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to table the matter pending receipt of additional information.

Peter Higginson – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to issue an Order to Show Cause based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime.

Brian Krieger – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to issue an Order to Show Cause based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime.

Thomas McNeill – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to issue an Order to Show Cause based on the level and nature of the conduct.

Gregory Netschert – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to issue an Order to Show Cause based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime.

Jose Pizarro – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to issue an Order to Show Cause based on the level and nature of the conduct.

Ron Rivas – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to accept the surrender of his certificates with the force and effect of a revocation.

Stanley Roger – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to issue an Order to Show Cause based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime.

Michael Schailey – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to issue an Order to Show Cause based on the level and nature of the conduct.

Richard Segars - By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to table the matter pending receipt of additional information.

Samuel Shiffman – With Dr. McNally recusing herself, by a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to take no action against his certificates.

Brian Weiss - By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to issue an Order to Show Cause based on his disqualification from public school employment.

Daniel Bertelli – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to vacate the Order to Show Cause because the underlying criminal charges had been dismissed.

Luisa Blanche – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block the application for certification.

James Grinnen - By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block the application for certification.

Troy Hylick – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to send him a letter asking for his explanation for his failure to appear at the prehearing conference.

Douglas Klein – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to vacate the Order to Show Cause because the underlying criminal conviction had been expunged.

Victor Littles - By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block the application for certification.

Clarke MacMillan - By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block the application for certification.

Mikkel Matsouka - By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block the application for certification.

Michael McNair – By a vote of 9 to 0, the board voted to block his application for certification due to the nature of his conviction.

Natalie Milstein - By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block the application for certification.

DeShan Moore - By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block the application for certification.

Badia Abdus-Salaam – With Mr. Kaplan voting no, by a vote of 8 to 1, the Board voted to take no action to block the application for certification.

Vivaldie Adams - With Mr. Kaplan voting no, by a vote of 8 to 1, the Board voted to take no action to block the application for certification.

Christina Meijer - With Mr. Kaplan voting no, by a vote of 8 to 1, the Board voted to take no action to block the application for certification.

Nadira Raghunandan - With Mr. Kaplan and Dr. Gitenstein voting no, by a vote of 7 to 2, the Board voted to take no action to block the application for certification.

Rui Reguinho - With Mr. Kaplan voting no, by a vote of 8 to 1, the Board voted to take no action to block the application for certification.

Zara Sinanian - With Mr. Kaplan and Dr. Gitenstein voting no, by a vote of 7 to 2, the Board voted to take no action to block the application for certification.

Griselda Almonte – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to table the matter and to seek further information about the case.

Janet Braker - By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to table the matter and to seek further information about the case.

Robert Graf – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to deny his appeal because he lacks the work experience required for the certificate he is seeking.

Kibwe Miller – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to deny his appeal because he lacks the grade point average required for certification.

Murtaza Ozdemir - By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to deny his appeal because he lacks the grade point average required for certification.

Michael Pede – With Dr. Petix voting no, by a vote of 8 to 1, the Board voted to deny his appeal because he lacks a passing score on the test required for certification.

William Thompson – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to grant his motion for a stay pending the resolution of the criminal charges against him.

George Featherson – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to adopt the recommendation of the Administrative Law Judge and dismissed the Order to Show Cause.

Ronald Blatnik – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to revoke his teaching certificates based on the level and nature of his conduct and the crime.

Sattik Deb - By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to revoke his teaching certificates based on the level and nature of his conduct and the crime.

Christine Gallagher - By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to revoke her teaching certificates based on the level and nature of her conduct and the crime.

Isaac Green - By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to revoke his teaching certificates based on the level and nature of his conduct and the crime.

Anderson Kendrick – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to suspend his teaching certificates for two years based on the level and nature of his conduct.

Paul Messino - By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to revoke his teaching certificates based on the level and nature of his conduct and the crime.

Mary Tyson - By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to revoke her teaching certificates based on the level and nature of her conduct.

Ms. Bilbow made a motion that the Board adopt the matters that were on the legal consent list and Dr. Petix seconded the motion. The consent list was the written memorialization of certain legal actions that the board took at its meeting of March 30, 2006 meeting. The following cases were on the legal consent list:

Orders to Show Cause

Joseph Bruno  
Norman Dellas  
Corrordo “Charles” Diamante  
Dominic DiGioacchino  
Richard Gibbs  
Michael Gudewitz  
Robert Janiszewski  
Frederick Moore  
Robert Quinn  
Jamie Simon  
Mark Steele  
Henry Vanegas-Salcedo  
Arthur Vespignani

Decisions after Hearings

Walter Barnes – Dismiss Order to Show Cause  
Justin Bozinta – Dismiss Order to Show Cause  
Ernest Chavez – Revoke certificate  
Frederick Costales – Revoke certificate  
Sally Anne Mesh – Dismiss Order to Show Cause  
Scott Peters – Suspend certificate  
Ralph Schiavo – Dismiss Order to Show Cause

Appeals

Carla LeBon – Deny appeal

The consent list was adopted by a unanimous vote.

Ms. Bilbow made a motion to go into closed session in order to receive legal advice on the following cases: *In the Matter of the Certificate of John Kurdilla*; *In the Matter of the Certificate of Corey Vaughan*; *In the Matter of the Certificates of Joanne Alessio*; *In the Matter of the Certificates of Charles Marshall*; and *In the Matter of the Certificate of Barry Stanton*. Dr. Petix seconded the motion, which was carried by a unanimous vote. The Board went into closed session at 12:37 P.M.

The Board returned to the public session at 1:30 P.M.

Ms. Bilbow made a motion that the Board accept the recommendation of the Deputy Attorney General that it withdraw the Order to Show Cause in *In the Matter of the Certificates of Joanne Alessio*. Dr. Petix seconded the motion, which was carried by a unanimous vote.

Ms. Bilbow made a motion that the Board accept the proposed settlement in *In the Matter of the Certificate of John Kurdilla*. Dr. Petix seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. Mr. Kurdilla agreed to surrender his certificate with the force and effect of a revocation.

Ms. Bilbow made a motion that the Board accept the proposed settlement in *In the Matter of the Certificates of Charles Marshall*. Dr. Petix seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. Mr. Marshall agreed to surrender his certificates with the force and effect of a revocation.

Ms. Bilbow made a motion that the Board reject the proposed settlement in *In the Matter of the Certificate of Barry Staton*. Dr. Petix seconded the motion, which was carried by a unanimous vote.

Ms. Bilbow made a motion that the Board accept the proposed settlement in *In the Matter of the Certificates of Corey Vaughan*. Dr. Petix seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. Mr. Vaughan agreed to surrender his certificate with the force and effect of a revocation.

### **Old Business**

There was no old business.

### **New Business**

Dr. Schnur made a motion that the Board send letters to the Plainfield and Sayreville school districts regarding their employing uncertified teachers. Mr. Kaplan seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

### **Secretary's Report**

Dr. Higgins 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. The Board discussed the possibility of putting these cases on the agenda.

The secretary also advised the Board that, in the interest of streamlining meetings, members would receive credentials review committee proposed decisions on a consent



list. The first credentials review consent list would be forwarded to members for their vote at the June 8, 2006 meeting.

### **Adjournment**

By consensus, the meeting adjourned at 2:05 P.M. for lack of a quorum.

The next scheduled public meeting will be on Thursday, June 8, 2006 in the first floor conference room, **200** Riverview Plaza, Trenton, New Jersey.

Minutes prepared by Arlene G. Lutz.

Minutes certified by Robert R. Higgins, Acting Secretary.

RRH/AGL/Minutes-5/4/06