

**State Board of Examiners
Minutes of Meeting
200 Riverview Plaza
Trenton, New Jersey
December 8, 2005**

Present: Dr. Robert Higgins, Acting Secretary
Ms. Carolyn Labin, Deputy Attorney General
Ms. Joanne Gales, Chair, Credentials Committee
Ms. Gail Cropper
Mr. James Gay
Dr. Barbara Gitenstein
Mr. Richard Kaplan
Dr. Mary Jane McNally
Dr. Robert Petix
Dr. Stuart Schnur
Mr. Peter Tirri

Absent: Dr. Jay Doolan, Acting Assistant Commissioner, Chair
Ms. Ida Bilbow, Chair, Legal Committee
Mr. Jerome Bohnert
Mr. William King

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. Schnur moved to adopt the minutes of the November 3, 2005 meeting and Dr. Petix seconded the motion. With Dr. Gitenstein, Ms. Cropper and Mr. Kaplan abstaining, 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:

Ben Brennan	Substance Awareness Coordinator Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing
Jennifer Larsen	Standard Teacher of Preschool through Grade 3
Marlene Russell	School Counselor – Ms. Russell was accompanied by Dr. Mariana Marchese, Director of Guidance, West Morris Regional High School District, who spoke on her behalf.
Jason Touw	Standard Teacher of Biological Science and Teacher of Earth Science – Mr. Touw was accompanied by Ed Sattler, District appointed mentor, Warwick Valley Central School District, Warwick, New York, who spoke on his behalf.

Credentials Review Committee Report

Susan Koller	School Nurse/Non-instructional – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board denied her application for certification. The Board granted her partial credit for 6 credits in school nursing.
Hsuan Labowsky	Teacher of Mathematics Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board denied her application for certification.
Michelle Lee	Learning Disabilities Teacher-Consultant – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board granted her application for certification.
Kenneth Zurich	School Counselor – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board granted 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:

Ronald Blatnik – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to issue an Order to Show Cause based on his disqualification from public school employment pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1 et seq.*

Shauna Ehlers - By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to issue an Order to Show Cause based on her disqualification from public school employment pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1 et seq.*

Mary Tyson – 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.

Julius Young – 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.

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

Noah Meineke - By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block his application for certification.

Robert Parker – With Mr. Kaplan voting no, by a vote of 7 to 1, the Board voted to vacate the Order to Show Cause as the respondent has died.

Edward Sanicki – With Mr. Kaplan voting no, by a vote of 7 to 1, the Board voted to vacate the Order to Show Cause as the underlying offense has been expunged.

Diane West – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board accepted her voluntary surrender of her certificates with the force and effect of a revocation.

Otoniel Diaz – With Mr. Kaplan abstaining, by a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block his application for certification.

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

Jeremy Dusza - By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block his application for certification.

Germer Ledford - By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block his application for certification.

Mirella Price – With Mr. Kaplan and Dr. Schnur voting no, by a vote of 6 to 2, the Board voted to take no action to block her application for certification.

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

Stephen Wilson - By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block his application for certification.

Brianne Fitzpatrick – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to deny her appeal since she must meet the current requirements for certification.

Lindsey Reggo – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to deny her appeal since she must complete additional coursework for certification.

Janine Vallese-Bower - By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to deny her appeal since she must meet the current requirements for certification.

William Wells – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to grant his appeal since he completed the residency required for the Principal certificate.

Johanna Widuch - By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to deny her appeal since she must meet the current requirements for certification.

Kevin Wittekind – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to deny his motion for a stay of the proceedings against him.

Arnold Baird – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to table the matter pending the expungement of the underlying criminal offense.

John Caucino – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to revoke his certificate as the result of his disqualification from school employment.

Rodney Dotson – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to table the matter and to serve the Order to Show Cause at his most recent address.

Timothy Eisenhauer – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to revoke his certificate based on the level and nature of the conduct.

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

John Howard – With Mr. Gay recusing himself, by a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to revoke his certificate based on the level and nature of the conduct.

Todd Lippen - 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.

Dennis Powers – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to suspend his certificate pending resolution of the underlying criminal matter.

Vinnette Richardson – With Mr. Gay recusing himself, by a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to table the matter pending the outcome of the pending criminal proceeding.

Angela Stellwag - By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to suspend her certificate pending resolution of the underlying criminal matter.

Larry Tuorto –With Mr. Gay voting no, by a vote of 7 to 1, the Board voted to revoke his certificate based on the level and nature of his conduct.

Maureen Udokwu – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to revoke her certificate based on her disqualification from public school employment.

Anthony Vesper - By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to revoke his certificate based on his disqualification from public school employment.

Elizabeth Berger – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to deny her appeal since she must complete the required coursework.

Larry Rosen - By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to deny his appeal since he must complete the required coursework.

Secretary Higgins 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 Carmella Confessore*, *In the Matter of the Certificates of George Featherson*, and *In the Matter of the Certificate of Charles Marshall*. The resolution was carried by a unanimous vote, and the Board went into Executive Session at 12:35 P.M.

The Board returned to the public session at 12:51P.M.

Dr. Schnur made a motion to reject the proposed settlements in *In the Matter of the Certificates of Carmella Confessore*, *In the Matter of the Certificates of George Featherson*, and *In the Matter of the Certificate of Charles Marshall*. Dr. McNally seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Old Business

Dr. Schnur requested that districts that comply with the district reporting requirement receive acknowledgement from the State Board of Examiners of their submission.

New Business

The Board had a discussion on the issue of a policy that covers protected speech when an applicant provides information regarding his or her criminal history.

Joanne Gales, Chair of the Credentials Review Committee, offered her thanks to Peggy Smith for her work with the Committee. Ms. Gales stated the Ms. Smith, who will no longer be working with the Committee, has been extremely helpful in enabling the Committee to fulfill its responsibilities.

Secretary's Report

Dr. Higgins advised the Board that its decisions will be placed on the internet.

The Secretary also thanked Ms. Smith for her work with the State Board of Examiners. He then welcomed Judith Cifone, Manager, Office of Licensure and Credentials, who will assume staff duties with the Credentials Review Committee.

Dr. McNally made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Dr. Petix and carried by a unanimous vote.

The next meeting of the State Board of Examiners is scheduled for Thursday, **January 19, 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-12/8/05