

**State Board of Examiners
Minutes of Meeting
100 Riverview Plaza
First Floor Conference Room
Trenton, New Jersey
January 17, 2008**

Present: Dr. Jay Doolan, Assistant Commissioner, Chair
Dr. Robert Higgins, Secretary
Mr. Michael Walters, Deputy Attorney General
Ms. Joanne Gales, Chair, Credentials Committee
Mr. James Gay, Chair, Legal Committee
Dr. Patricia McGeehan
Dr. Mary Jane McNally
Dr. Christopher Nagy
Dr. Adam Pfeffer

Absent: Dr. Carlos Hernández
Mr. Michael Kruczek
Dr. Herman Saatkamp
Mr. Peter Tirri
Mr. Barry Worman

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dr. Jay Doolan, who read the appropriate notice that the meeting complied with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Dr. McGeehan moved to adopt the minutes of the December 6, 2007 meeting, and Dr. Nagy seconded the motion. With Mr. James Gay abstaining, the minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

Individual Credentials Review-Presentations

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

Suzanne Appleby-Pulman

School Counselor

Richard Bonnette – This matter was removed from the agenda.

Seth Canata – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause as to why his certificate should not be revoked based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime and his disqualification from employment in the public schools.

Dr. Doolan made a motion to go into closed session in order to receive legal advice on the matters captioned *In the Matter of the Certificates of Lynne Harkness* and *In the Matter of the Certificates of William Johnson*. Dr. McGeehan seconded the motion, which was carried by a unanimous vote. The Board went into closed session at 12:00 PM.

The Board returned to the public session at 12:05 P.M.

Lynne Harkness – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to take no action against her certificates and to send her a letter regarding her conduct.

William Johnson – With Dr. Pfeffer abstaining, the Board voted 6 to 0 to issue an order to show cause as to why his certificates should not be suspended for two years based on the level and nature of the conduct.

Eric Larson – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause as to why his certificates should not be revoked based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime and his disqualification from employment in the public schools.

Lori Lowenstein-Mase – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to table the case until a later meeting pending receipt of additional information.

Daniel Peterson – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause as to why his county substitute credential should not be revoked or suspended based on his disqualification from employment in the public schools.

Frank Ruppert – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to block his application for certification based on his disqualification from employment in the public schools.

Erica Umosella – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause as to why her certificates should not be revoked or suspended based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime and her disqualification from employment in the public schools.

Marylu Vurro – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause as to why her certificates should not be revoked or suspended based on her disqualification from employment in the public schools.

Thomas Weir – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause as to why his certificates should not be revoked or suspended based on the level and nature of the conduct.

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

Gildardo A. Hernandez – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to block his application for certification based on the level and nature of the crime.

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

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

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

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

Jennifer Bozek – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to table the case until a later meeting and to refer the matter to the Credentials Review Committee.

Barbara Danback – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to deny her appeal challenging the determination of the Office of Licensure and Credentials that she is not eligible for the School Counselor certificate.

Nicole Franchino – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to table the case until a later meeting pending receipt of additional information.

Adrienne Zangari-Feraco – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to deny her appeal challenging the determination of the Office of Licensure and Credentials that she is not eligible for the Principal certificate.

Kevin Jordan – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to reject the recommendation in the Initial Decision and to revoke his teaching certificates.

Steven Kramer – By a vote of 5 to 2, the Board voted to reject the recommendation in the Initial Decision and to suspend his administrative certificates for two years.

Sopharie Leang – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to adopt the recommendation in the Initial Decision to accept the settlement in which her overall evaluation and licensure recommendation rating of “Insufficient” is changed to “Approved.”

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

Mr. Gay made a motion that the Board adopt the matters that were on the legal consent list memorializing the Board's legal decisions from the December 6, 2007 meeting, and Dr. McGeehan seconded the motion. The following decisions on the legal consent list were adopted by a unanimous vote:

Orders to Show Cause

Kathleen Bowler
Jacqueline Johnson
Gerald Jones
Alyson Kerr
James Lyback
Daniel McHarris
Jessica Oravitz

Hearings-OAL Decisions

Christopher Grendysa
Aikaterini Karis
William Mascuch
Anita Natalini

Other

John Ahern-settlement
Kelliann Garcia-settlement
Paul Glass-settlement
Christopher Rivera-settlement
Michael Schailey-settlement
Robert Selfridge-settlement
Theodore Wurster-settlement

Mr. Gay made a motion that the Board accept the proposed settlement in *In the Matter of the Certificates of Lewis Lewis*, wherein Mr. Lewis agreed to the surrender of his teaching certificates with the force and effect of a revocation. Dr. Nagy seconded the motion, which was carried by a unanimous vote, and Mr. Lewis' certificates were revoked effective immediately.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

There was no new business.

Secretary's Report

Dr. Higgins announced that Phase 5 licensing code had been adopted by the State Board of Education at its December meeting and that the revised code took effect on January 7, 2008. The office will hold training soon for counties, districts, and higher education institutions. Also, preparation of the licensing code renewal is underway. This code will be at first reading at the April meeting of the State Board of Education and will take effect in January 2009.

Dr. Higgins also announced that Gail Cropper has resigned from the Board.

Adjournment

Dr. McGeehan made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Dr. McNally and carried by a unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 12:22 p.m.

The next scheduled public meeting of the State Board of Examiners will be on Thursday, February 21, 2008, in the first floor conference room, 100 Riverview Plaza, Trenton, New Jersey.

Minutes prepared by Jeffrey H. Lieberman

Minutes certified by Robert R. Higgins, Secretary

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