

**State Board of Examiners
Minutes of Meeting
100 Riverview Plaza
First Floor Conference Room
Trenton, New Jersey
February 21, 2008**

Present: Dr. Robert Higgins, Secretary
Mr. Michael Walters, Deputy Attorney General
Ms. Joanne Gales, Chair, Credentials Committee
Mr. James Gay, Chair, Legal Committee
Mr. Michael Kruczek
Dr. Patricia McGeehan
Dr. Mary Jane McNally
Dr. Christopher Nagy
Dr. Adam Pfeffer
Mr. Peter Tirri
Mr. Barry Worman

Absent: Dr. Jay Doolan, Assistant Commissioner, Chair
Dr. Carlos Hernández
Dr. Herman Saatkamp

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

A motion was made to adopt the minutes of the January 17, 2008 meeting, which was duly seconded. With Mr. Kruczek, Mr. Tirri and Mr. Worman abstaining, the minutes were approved as corrected 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:

Graciela Caldero
Bill Hill

Standard Teacher of Spanish
Teacher of Physical Education Certificate of
Eligibility

Diane Joseph
Jennie Perry

Susan Posniack
George Sharkey

School Counselor
Standard Teacher of Students with Disabilities
Standard Teacher of Elementary School (K-5)
Standard Pre-School through Grade 3
Supervisor

Credentials Review Consent List

Ms. Gales made a motion that the Board adopt the decisions in the following matters on the Credentials Review Committee Consent List of cases. Dr. Pfeffer seconded the motion.

The candidates in the following cases were present at the January 17, 2008 meeting and made presentations to the Board. With Mr. Kruczek, Mr. Tirri and Mr. Worman abstaining, the Board adopted the following actions by a vote of 6 to 0.

Suzanne Appleby-Pulman

School Counselor – The Board granted her application for certification.

Tara Duffy

Teacher of Health and Physical Education
Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied her application for certification.

Sarah McClure

School Psychologist – The Board granted her application for certification.

The candidates in the following cases were not present at the January 17, 2008 meeting. With Mr. Kruczek, Mr. Tirri and Mr. Worman abstaining, the Board adopted the following actions by a vote of 6 to 0.

Jessica Fox

Standard Teacher of Spanish – The Board granted her application for certification.

Kimberly McCullen

School Counselor – The Board denied 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:

Laurie Rosen – By a vote of 8 to 0, with Dr. Pfeffer recusing himself, the Board voted to revoke her Substance Awareness Coordinator certificate of eligibility and Learning Disabilities Teacher-Consultant certificate based on the nature and level of the conduct.

Pamela Balogh – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause as to why her certificates should not be revoked based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime.

Keriann M. Brekne – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause as to why her certificates should not be suspended pending the resolution of the underlying criminal charges.

Thomas M. Caffrey – By a vote of 9 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.

William Castel – By a vote of 9 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.

James Cunneely – By a vote of 9 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.

Roy Hermalyn – By a vote of 9 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.

Christopher Parshelunis – By a vote of 9 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.

Ivan Piedra – By a vote of 8 to 0, with Mr. Tirri recusing himself, 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.

Adam H. Roesler – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause as to why his county substitute credential should not be revoked based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime and his disqualification from employment in the public schools.

David A. Roots, Sr. – By a vote of 8 to 0, with Dr. Pfeffer abstaining, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause as to why his county substitute credential should not be suspended pending the resolution of the underlying criminal charges.

Timothy Zisa – By a vote of 9 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.

Harry Baran – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to vacate the order to show cause and order of suspension which had been issued in this matter.

Joseph Scalfaro – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to take no action against his certificates.

Mark Vaccaro – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to take no action against his certificate.

Dana Carmody-Burns – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block her application for certification.

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

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

Amy L. Lordi – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block her application for certification.

Jacqueline D. Williams – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block her application for certification.

Gerald Jones – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to deny his request to place this matter into abeyance.

Carrie D. Ali – By a vote of 8 to 0, with Mr. Tirri recusing himself, the Board voted to transmit this matter to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing.

Robin Marra – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to transmit this matter to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing.

Patricia Minott-Clunis – By a vote of 9 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 Teacher of the Handicapped certificate.

Scott Seidel – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to deny his appeal challenging the determination of the Office of Licensure and Credentials that he is not eligible for the Teacher of Students with Disabilities certificate.

Alfonso Jennings – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to adopt the conclusion in the Initial Decision that his certificates should not be revoked or suspended.

Frank Verga – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to adopt the conclusion in the Initial Decision that his certificates should not be revoked or suspended.

Donna Ronburg – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block her application for certification following revocation.

Celeste Adamski – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of her teaching certificates with the force and effect of a revocation, with all attendant consequences.

Shawn Feeney – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of his teaching certificates with the force and effect of a revocation, with all attendant consequences.

Marcy Spencer – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of her teaching certificates with the force and effect of a revocation, with all attendant consequences.

Mr. Gay made a motion that the Board adopt the following matters that were on the legal consent list memorializing the Board’s legal decisions from the January 17, 2008 meeting, and Dr. McGeehan seconded the motion. The following decisions on the legal consent list were adopted as corrected by a vote of 6 to 0, with Mr. Kruczek, Mr. Tirri and Mr. Worman abstaining.

Orders to Show Cause

Seth Canata
Lisa Denardi
Greg Eisenstein
Lawrence Hart
Beatrice Hemmings
Eric Larson
Daniel Peterson
Carl Pietrangelo
Michael Russo
Erica Umosella
Marylu Vurro
Thomas Weir

Hearings

Paul Borek
Daniel Edwards
Michael Festa
Joseph Giorgio
Kevin Jordan
Steven Kramer
Stratos Mandalakis
Edward Margotti
Tara O’Neill
Robert Paladino
Jamie Riccardi
Diane Rothacker

Other

Barbara Danback
Sopharie Leang

Lewis Lewis
Frank Ruppert
Adrienne Zangari-Feraco
Neil Ziskind

Mr. Gay made a motion that the Board adopt the Order to Show Cause in the matter captioned *In the Matter of the Certificates of William Johnson*, that was on the legal consent list, and Dr. McGeehan seconded the motion. The motion was passed by a vote of 5 to 1, with Dr. Pfeffer opposing and Mr. Kruczek, Mr. Tirri and Mr. Worman abstaining.

Mr. Gay made a motion that the Board adopt the decision in the matter captioned *In the Matter of the Application of Gildardo Hernandez*, that was on the legal consent list, and Dr. McGeehan seconded the motion. The motion was passed by a vote of 5 to 1, with Ms. Gales opposing and Mr. Kruczek, Mr. Tirri and Mr. Worman abstaining. As a result, Mr. Hernandez's application for certification is blocked.

Dr. McGeehan made a motion that the Board adopt the decision in the matter captioned *In the Matter of the Certificates of Dario Camara*, that was on the legal consent list, and Dr. Nagy seconded the motion. The motion was passed by a vote of 5 to 0, with Dr. McNally recusing herself and Mr. Kruczek, Mr. Tirri and Mr. Worman abstaining.

Mr. Gay made a motion to go into closed session in order to receive legal advice on the matter captioned *In the Matter of the Certificates of Marianne Madara*. Dr. Nagy seconded the motion, which was carried by a unanimous vote. The Board went into closed session at 11:45 a.m.

The Board returned to the public session at 11:52 a.m.

Mr. Gay made a motion to reject the proposed settlement in *In the Matter of the Certificates of Marianne Madara*. Mr. Kruczek seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Dr. Pfeffer shared his concerns regarding a new memorandum of agreement, stating that it should be reviewed carefully before being applied to the suspension or revocation of certificates.

The Board discussed the circumstances under which it would take action on the basis of underlying conduct against a certificate holder who, following an arrest, is placed into a pre-trial intervention program. The Board also discussed the circumstances under which it would take action against a certificate holder pending disposition of criminal charges. In order to assist the Board, staff agreed to provide information about the number and type of reports which have been received involving criminal charges and other allegations currently pending against certificate

holders. In addition, the Board reaffirmed its policy that it would not take action to block the application for certification of an applicant who reports a DUI conviction.

Dr. Higgins announced that the State Board of Education had approved the appointment to the Board of Derek Jess to fill the unexpired term of Jerome Bohnert, who had retired from the Board.

Secretary's Report

Dr. Higgins announced that the licensing regulations, which expire in January 2009, are being prepared for submission to the State Board of Education for readoption.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, which was duly seconded and carried by a unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

The next scheduled public meeting of the State Board of Examiners will be on Thursday, March 27, 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

RRH/JHL/Minutes-2/17/08