

**State Board of Examiners
Minutes of Meeting
100 Riverview Plaza
First Floor Conference Room
Trenton, New Jersey
March 27, 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. Carlos Hernández
Mr. Derek Jess
Mr. Michael Kruczek
Dr. Mary Jane McNally
Dr. Adam Pfeffer
Dr. Herman Saatkamp
Mr. Peter Tirri
Mr. Barry Worman

Absent: Dr. Patricia McGeehan
Dr. Christopher Nagy

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.

Deputy Attorney General Michael Walters administered the oath of office to Mr. Derek Jess, who was appointed to fill an unexpired term on the Board.

Mr. Gay moved to adopt the minutes of the February 21, 2008 meeting, and Mr. Kruczek seconded the motion. With Mr. Jess and Dr. Saatkamp 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:

David Fischer	School Counselor
Nancy Gonzalez-Rodriguez	Guidance Counselor
	School Administrator
Karen McGlenn	School Nurse
Carolyn Zimmer	School Psychologist

Diane Giancola, who is seeking a Teacher of Preschool through Grade Three Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing, and Frank R. Hooker, Jr., who is seeking a Teacher of Vocational Arts/Theatre Certificate of Eligibility, did not present at the meeting.

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 February 21, 2008 meeting and made presentations to the Board. With Mr. Jess abstaining, the Board adopted the following actions by a vote of 10 to 0.

Bill Hill	Teacher of Physical Education Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied his application for certification.
Diane Joseph	School Counselor – The Board denied her application for certification.
Jennie Perry	Standard Teacher of Students with Disabilities; Standard Teacher of Elementary School (K-5) – The Board denied her application for certification.
Susan Posniack	Standard Pre-School through Grade 3 – The Board denied her application for certification.
George Sharkey	Supervisor – The Board denied his application for certification.

Ms. Gales made a motion that the Board adopt the decision in the following matter on the Credentials Review Committee Consent List of cases. Dr. Pfeffer seconded the motion. The candidate in the following case was present at the February 21, 2008 meeting and made a presentation to the Board. With Dr. McNally recusing herself and Mr. Jess abstaining, the Board adopted the following action by a vote of 9 to 0.

Graciela Caldero

Standard Teacher of Spanish – The Board granted 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:

Richard Buffa – By a vote of 11 to 0, the Board voted not to take action against his certificate.

Thomas DeCou – By a vote of 11 to 0, the Board voted not to take any action against his certificate at this time and to provide him with the opportunity to correct the deficiencies in his application by August 31, 2009.

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 Mary Sirangelo*. Mr. Tirri seconded the motion, which was carried by a unanimous vote. The Board went into closed session at 11:16 a.m.

The Board returned to the public session at 11:20 a.m.

Mary Sirangelo – By a vote of 10 to 0, with Mr. Jess abstaining, the Board voted to suspend her certificates until her conviction is expunged.

Cheryl Tedesco – By a vote of 11 to 0, the Board voted to revoke her certificate based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime and her disqualification from employment in the public schools.

Mike Almasri – By a vote of 11 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.

Gene R. Clemetson – By a vote of 10 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 suspended pending the resolution of the underlying criminal charges.

Aretus M. Cosby – By a vote of 11 to 0, 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.

Darlene Donahue – By a vote of 11 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.

Timothy P. Fetter – By a vote of 11 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.

Robert L. Godfrey – By a vote of 11 to 0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause as to why his certificates should not be suspended pending the resolution of the underlying criminal charges.

John Guarni – By a vote of 11 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.

Richard A. Koppenaal, Jr. – By a vote of 10 to 0, with Mr. Worman recusing himself, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause as to why his certificates should not be suspended pending the resolution of the underlying criminal charges.

Lawrence S. Lubiner – By a vote of 11 to 0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause as to why his certificates should not be suspended pending the resolution of the underlying criminal charges.

Michelle Morano – By a vote of 11 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.

Lindsay M. Murphy – By a vote of 11 to 0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause as to why her certificate should not be suspended pending the resolution of the underlying criminal charges.

Abel Oderanti – By a vote of 11 to 0, 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.

Anthony Paraskevopoulos – By a vote of 11 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.

David Weidemoyer – By a vote of 11 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.

Allen Harvin – By a vote of 10 to 0, with Dr. Pfeffer abstaining, the Board voted to vacate the order of revocation it had issued and to take no action against his certificate.

Curtis L. Wilson – By a vote of 11 to 0, the Board voted to take no action against his certificates.

Neal Ziskind – By a vote of 10 to 0, with Dr. Pfeffer abstaining, the Board voted to vacate its order blocking his application for certification and to take no action to block his application.

Marc Altenau – By a vote of 11 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block his application for certification.

Jillian A. Ernst – By a vote of 11 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block her application for certification.

John Keiter – By a vote of 11 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block his application for certification.

Andrea Mara – By a vote of 11 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block her application for certification.

Michael Marchlik – By a vote of 11 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block his application for certification.

David Rebels – By a vote of 11 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block his application for certification.

Matthew Roach – By a vote of 11 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block his application for certification.

Chantal Derisse – By a vote of 11 to 0, the Board voted to transmit this matter to the Office of Administrative Law.

Karen Douglass-Collins – By a vote of 11 to 0, the Board voted to table this matter in order to obtain further information.

Eileen Eloie – By a vote of 11 to 0, the Board voted to grant her appeal challenging the determination of the Office of Licensure and Credentials that she is not eligible for the Teacher of Practical Nursing certificate

Aimee Masters – By a vote of 10 to 0, with Dr. Pfeffer recusing himself, the Board voted to transmit this matter to the Office of Administrative Law.

Jennifer Bozek – By a vote of 11 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 Family and Consumer Sciences certificate.

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 February 21, 2008 meeting, and Dr. McNally seconded the motion. The following decisions on the legal consent list were adopted by a vote of 11 to 0.

Order to Show Cause

Pamela Balogh
Keriann Brekne
Thomas Caffrey
William Castel
Roy Hermalyn
Christopher Parshelunis
Adam Roesler
David Roots, Sr.
Timothy Zisa

Hearings

Alfonso Jennings
Frank Verga

Other

Gerald Jones
Patricia Minott-Clunis
Scott Seidel

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 James Cunneely*, that was on the legal consent list, and Mr. Tirri seconded the motion. The motion was passed by a vote of 10 to 0, with Mr. Worman recusing himself.

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 Ivan Piedra*, that was on the legal consent list, and Mr. Worman seconded the motion. The motion was passed by a vote of 10 to 0, with Mr. Tirri recusing himself.

Mr. Gay made a motion that the Board remove the matter captioned *In the Matter of the Certificates of Laurie Rosen* from the legal consent list as a result of the death of Ms. Rosen and vacate as moot the Order to Show Cause that had been issued. Dr. Saatkamp seconded the motion. The motion was passed by a vote of 10 to 0, with Dr. Pfeffer recusing himself.

Dr. Doolan 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 Elaine Nestel*. Dr. Saatkamp seconded the motion, which was carried by a unanimous vote. The Board went into closed session at 11:39 a.m.

The Board returned to the public session at 11:40 a.m.

Mr. Gay made a motion to accept the proposed settlement in the matter captioned *In the Matter of the Certificates of Elaine Nestel*. Mr. Kruczek seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Old Business

Dr. Pfeffer resumed the discussion from the previous meeting with regard to how the Board would like to handle criminal charges and other allegations pending against certificate holders. Dr. Higgins informed the Board that overtime could be provided to staff to assist in processing the backlog of pending charges and that a process could be developed for dealing expeditiously with those matters.

Dr. Pfeffer reiterated his concerns regarding an updated Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement Between Education and Law Enforcement Officials. Staff agreed to make copies of the Memorandum, which Dr. Pfeffer had provided, for distribution to the members of the Board.

Mr. Kruczek requested an update with regard to the prospect of obtaining laptops for Board members. Dr. Higgins responded that the staff time required to convert documents into PDF format was a problem but that some staff members were being recalled.

Mr. Tirri inquired whether it was necessary to retain copies of the papers distributed in the matter captioned *In the Matter of the Certificate of Thomas DeCou*, in which the Board had voted to not take any action at this time. DAG Walters responded that Board members were not required to retain copies of those papers.

New Business

Dr. Higgins reported that the licensing regulations, which expire in January 2009, are scheduled for consideration at the first discussion level by the State Board of Education at its April meeting. In addition, Dr. Higgins informed the Board that an amendment had been added to the proposed regulations that would adopt new professional teaching standards on professional responsibility.

Secretary's Report

There was no secretary's report.

Adjournment

Mr. Gay made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Dr. Saatkamp and carried by a unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

The next scheduled public meeting of the State Board of Examiners will be on Thursday, May 1, 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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