

**State Board of Examiners
Minutes of Meeting
100 Riverview Plaza
Third Floor Conference Room
Trenton, New Jersey
September 20, 2007**

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

Absent: Dr. Jay Doolan, Assistant Commissioner, Chair
Dr. Herman Saatkamp
Mr. Peter Tirri

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

Deputy Attorney General Michael Walters then conducted the swearing in of two new members, Dr. Patricia McGeehan and Dr. Carlos Hernández.

Dr. Higgins read the roll call, duly noted on the first page of these minutes.

The minutes of the July 19, 2007 meeting were unanimously adopted, with Mr. Kruczyk, Mr. Worman, and Dr. McNally abstaining.

Mr. Gay 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 Stephan Fox, In the Matter of the Certificates of Christopher Rivera, In the Matter of the Certificates of Robert Selfridge, In the Matter of the Certificates of Kevin Wittekind, In the Matter of the Certificates of William Masuch, and In the Matter of the Certificates of Theodore Wurster.* The Board went into closed session at 10:50 A.M.

The Board returned to the public session at 11:33 A.M.

Individual Credentials Review-Presentations

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

Stacey Fiedler	Teacher of Deaf or Hard of Hearing
Michael Pettola	Standard Teacher of Comprehensive Business
Kevin Bobetich	Supervisor
Deepa Desai	English as a Second Language (specialized pedagogy requirement)
Patricia Hoffman	Teacher of Earth Science Certificate of Eligibility
Maryellen Kidd	Standard Teacher of Preschool through Grade 3
Leah Koot	Standard Teacher of Elementary School and Standard Teacher of Students with Disabilities
Dr. Dennis LaScala	School Counselor
Louise York	Speech Language Specialist

Pasqualina Fiordilino and Mikenzie Helphenstein were scheduled for presentations but did not appear.

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. Nagy seconded the motion. The candidates in the following cases were present at the July 19, 2007 meeting and made presentations to the Board. With Ms. Cropper, Dr. McNally, and Mr. Kruczyk abstaining, the Board adopted the following actions by a vote of 8 to 0.

Donald Aikens	Teacher of Law Enforcement Certificate of Eligibility This case was deferred for decision to November 1, 2007.
Theresa M. (Cota) Bryan	Teacher of Pre-School through Grade Three Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing The appeal was denied.
Deborah Burleigh	Principal Certificate of Eligibility The appeal was denied.

Carol Cannerelli	School Administrator The appeal was granted.
Laura Caramagna	Teacher of Elementary School (K-5) Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing The appeal was granted.
Sharron Coleman	School Counselor The appeal was granted.
Caitlin Dolan	Teacher of Elementary School (K-5), Teacher of Students with Disabilities or Teacher of the Handicapped The appeals for K-5 and Teacher of Students with Disabilities were granted.
Vickie Geannakakis	Associate School Library Media Specialist Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing The appeal was granted.
George Scott Holden	Standard Teacher of Social Studies The appeal was granted.
Silvia Marques	School Counselor The appeal was granted.

Ms. Gales made a motion that the Board adopt the decisions in the following matters on the Credentials Review Committee Consent List of cases in which the candidates were not present at the July 19, 2007 meeting to make presentations. Dr. Nagy seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. With Ms. Cropper, Dr. McNally, and Mr. Kruczyk abstaining, the Board adopted the following actions by a vote of 8 to 0.

Catherine Booth	Substance Awareness Coordinator Standard Certificate The appeal was granted.
Joan M. Buonafide	Teacher of Elementary School (K-5) and Teacher of Elementary School with Subject Matter Specialization in Science The appeal was denied.
Lynn Irby Jackson	Supervisor The appeal was denied.
Paula Griskey McGraw	Standard Teacher of Elementary School (K-5) and Standard School Library Media Specialist The appeal was denied.
Ericka Reed	Teacher of English as a Second Language Standard Certificate The appeal was granted.

Suzanne Wichansky School Counselor
The appeal was granted.

Legal Consent List

Mr. Gay made a motion that the Board adopt the matters that were on the Legal Committee consent list memorializing the Board's legal decisions from the July 19, 2007 meeting, and Mr. Kruczyk seconded the motion. With Ms. Cropper, Dr. McNally, and Mr. Kruczyk abstaining, the Board adopted the following actions by a vote of 8 to 0.

Orders to Show Cause

None

Hearings

None

Other

Meryl Gill – adopt the decision to deny appeal for certification due to lack of test.

Isben Jedy – adopt the decision to block his application based on the serious nature of his conviction

Francis Monahan – adopt the decision to block his application based on the serious nature of his conviction

Leslie Phillips – adopt the decision to block his application based on the serious nature of his conviction

Peter Sadek-Nejad – adopt the decision to deny appeal for certification because he is not eligible for the certificate.

Matters With Board Member Recusals

Pamela Griffin – adopt the denial of her appeal for certification because she is not eligible for the certificate. Peter Tirri was originally to have recused himself from this vote, however Mr. Tirri was absent from this meeting.

Legal Committee Report

The Legal Committee reviewed all legal cases and presented its recommendations to the Board. The Board took the following actions:

Initial Review

Micheal Albano – By a vote of 11-0, the Board voted to table this case pending further legal advice.

William Friend – By a vote of 11-0, the Board voted to table this case pending further legal advice.

Sheryl Gleim – By a vote of 11-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause to revoke Ms. Gleim’s certificate(s).

Rebecca Kurzweil – By a vote of 11-0, the Board voted to table this case in order to seek additional information from the district.

Richard McGilvery – By a vote of 11-0, the Board voted to table this case pending further legal advice.

Jennifer Ostile – By a vote of 10-0 with Mr. Kruczyk abstaining, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause to revoke Ms. Ostile’s certificate(s).

Eli Pieretti – By a vote of 11-0, the Board voted to table this case pending further legal advice.

Brendan Roberts – By a vote of 11-0, the Board voted to table this case in order to seek additional information from the prosecutor.

Joseph Scalfaro – By a vote of 11-0, the Board voted to table this case pending further legal advice.

Guy Suabedissen – By a vote of 11-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause to revoke Ms. Suabedissen’s certificate(s).

Mark Vaccaro – By a vote of 10-1 with Dr. Pfeffer voting no, the Board voted to table this case and to write Mr. Vaccaro asking him to have the conviction expunged.

David Vanden Heuvel – By a vote of 11-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause to revoke Ms. Vanden Heuvel’s certificate(s).

Second Review

Julianna Abbattista – By a vote of 11-0, the Board voted to take no action to block Ms. Abbattista’s application for certification.

Thomas DeCou – By a vote of 11-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause to revoke Ms. DeCou’s certificate(s).

Joan Winter – By a vote of 11-0, the Board voted to vacate the order to show cause and to take no action to block Ms. Winter’s application for certification.

Motion for Stay

James Misoka – By a vote of 11-0, the Board voted to deny the request for a stay and to transmit this case to the Office of Administrative Law.

Reopened Case

Albert Sorrell – By a vote of 11-0, the Board voted to vacate Mr. Sorrell's suspension.

Surrender

John Collins – By a vote of 11-0, the Board voted to accept the voluntary surrender of Mr. Collins' certificate(s) with the full force and effect of revocation.

Initial Decision from OAL

Christopher Grendysa – By a vote of 11-0, the Board voted to accept the decision by the Office of Administrative Law to revoke Mr. Grendysa's certificate(s) for the reasons set forth in the decision.

Other Business:

In the Matter of the Certificates of Christopher Rivera: The Board voted to accept the settlement of voluntary surrender of his certificates with the full force and effect of revocation.

In the Matter of the Certificates of Robert Selfridge: The Board voted to accept the settlement of revocation.

Adjournment

The meeting ended at 1:49 p.m.

The next scheduled public meeting of the State Board of Examiners will be on Thursday, December 6, 2007, in the **Third** floor conference room, 100 Riverview Plaza, Trenton, New Jersey.

Minutes prepared and certified by Robert R. Higgins, Secretary

RRH /Minutes-9/20/07