

**State Board of Examiners
Minutes of Meeting
100 River View Plaza
First Floor Conference Room
Trenton, New Jersey
February 23, 2009**

Present: Dr. Jay Doolan, Assistant Commissioner, Chair
Dr. Robert Higgins, Secretary
Ms. Sookie Bae, Deputy Attorney General
Mr. Terrence Crowley
Mr. Derek Jess
Dr. Mary Jane McNally
Dr. Christopher Nagy
Dr. Adam Pfeffer
Ms. Gloria Tunstall

Absent: Ms. JoAnn Gales, Chair, Credentials Committee
Mr. James Gay, Chair, Legal Committee
Dr. Carlos Hernández
Dr. Patricia McGeehan
Mr. Peter Tirri

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Jay Doolan, Assistant Commissioner, Chair, 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 13, 2009 meeting, which was duly seconded. With Dr. Nagy abstaining, the minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

Individual Credentials Review

The following individuals attended the meeting to respond to any questions from the Board regarding their experience:

Elizabeth Emerson	Substance Awareness Coordinator
Gemma Millare	Teacher of the Handicapped

Debra Somerstein Teacher of Elementary School in Grades K-5

Jodi Lewis Kahan, who is seeking a School Counselor certificate, and Leila Tirado-Smith, who is seeking a School Counselor certificate, were not present at the meeting.

Credentials Review Consent List

Dr. Pfeffer made a motion that the Board adopt the decisions in the following matters on the credentials review consent list, and Mr. Jess seconded the motion. The candidates in the following cases were present at the January 13, 2009 meeting. With Dr. Nagy abstaining, the Board adopted the following actions by a unanimous vote.

Kathleen Cheski	School Counselor – The Board granted her request to utilize her alternative experience to fulfill the six semester hour practicum required for certification.
Dr. Partha Das	Teacher of Social Studies Certificate of Eligibility – The Board granted his application for certification.
Steven Friedman	Teacher of Business Education: Economic, Finance and Law – The Board denied his application for certification but gave him credit for three semester hours in finance.
Wafa Hozien	Teacher of Social Studies – The Board granted her application for certification.
Scott Lindstrom	Teacher of Students and Disabilities – The Board denied his application for certification.
Joseph Oettinger, III	Teacher of Chemistry – The Board denied his application for certification but added that he was entitled to complete the program requirements for licensure recommendation by another school district.

Dr. Pfeffer made a motion that the Board adopt the decision in the following matter on the credentials review consent list, and Mr. Jess seconded the motion. The candidate in the following case was not present at the January 13, 2009 meeting. With Dr. Nagy abstaining, the Board adopted the following action by a unanimous vote.

Rita Osvai	Substance Awareness Coordinator – The Board denied her application for certification.
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Legal Committee Report

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

Raymond Gilmore – Mr. Gilmore appeared before the Board for a hearing on the sanction issue. The Board will determine this matter at a future meeting.

Joseph Lemme – Mr. Lemme appeared before the Board for a hearing on the sanction issue. The Board will determine this matter at a future meeting.

Jannette Duran – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to suspend her certificates for two years, effective March 31, 2009, based on the level and nature of the conduct

Gregory Monsolino – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to revoke his certificates based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime and his disqualification from employment in the public schools.

Raymond Nasta – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to revoke his certificates based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime and his disqualification from employment in the public schools.

William O’Leary – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to revoke his certificates based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime.

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

Darrin L. Scott – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to revoke his substitute credential based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime and his disqualification from employment in the public schools.

Anthony Wade – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to revoke his certificates based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime and his disqualification from employment in the public schools.

Michael C. Passe – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to deny his appeal challenging the issuance date of his certificate.

James Coleman – By a vote of 6 to 0, with Ms. Tunstall abstaining, 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.

Elizabeth A. Peters – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause as to why her substitute credential should not be revoked based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime and her disqualification from employment in the public schools.

Nicholas Provanzana – 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.

Robert B. Rosenberg – 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.

Deirdre Simon – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to take no action against her certificates.

Robert Spivey, Jr. – 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.

Donna Tolley – By a vote of 4 to 1, with Dr. Pfeffer opposing, Ms. Tunstall abstaining and Mr. Jess recusing himself, 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.

Gilbert Young, Jr. – 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.

Christopher Parshelunis – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to table this matter for further review.

Isaac Pitts – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to vacate the order to show cause it had issued and to take no action against his certificate.

Hassan Vann – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to vacate the order to show cause it had issued and to issue a new order to show cause as to why his certificates should not be revoked based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime.

Carmen Heyaime – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to table this matter for further review.

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

Migdalia Flores – Dr. Nagy made a motion that the Board take no action to block her application for certification, and Mr. Crowley seconded the motion. By a vote of 4 to 3, with Mr. Jess, Dr. McNally, Dr. Pfeffer and Ms. Tunstall opposing the motion, the Board voted to reject the motion. Mr. Crowley made a motion to go into closed session in order to receive legal advice in this matter. Dr. Nagy seconded the motion, which was carried by a unanimous vote. The Board went into closed session at 12:50 p.m. The Board returned to the public session at 12:53 p.m. Dr. Pfeffer made a motion that the Board

block Ms. Flores' application for certification, and Mr. Jess seconded the motion. By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to block her application for certification based on the level and nature of the conduct and crimes.

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

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

Cambrella Pinckney – This matter was withdrawn from the agenda.

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

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

John Blanton – By a vote of 6 to 0, with Dr. Pfeffer abstaining, the Board voted to deny Mr. Blanton's petition to amend its decision of June 18, 1998 in this matter.

Kevin Beebe – By a vote of 7 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.

Jenna Berkowitz – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to accept the proposed settlement in this matter and to suspend her certificate for one year, effective July 1, 2009.

Jessica Oravitz – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to reject the proposed settlement in this matter. By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to propose that Ms. Oravitz's certificate be suspended for four years, effective March 31, 2009, in settlement of this matter.

David Vanden Heuvel – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to reject the proposed settlement in this matter.

William Castel – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to reject the proposed settlement in this matter.

Dr. Pfeffer 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 13, 2009 meeting, and Mr. Crowley seconded the motion. The Board adopted the following decisions by a unanimous vote.

Orders to Show Cause

Dawn Benson

Neil Brown
Julie DeFeo
John Goudy
Paul McCarthy
Anthony Paraskevopoulos
Carole Petersen
Eli Pieretti
Cecelia Schneider
Paul Stanziale
Errol Stawart
Christopher Strazza
Sharon Troutman
Demetrick Williams

Hearings

Pamela Balogh
Joanne Carter-Lee
Nina Chavis
J.M.
Marianne Madara
Ruth Megargee
Bernard Saez
Felipe Silva
Richard Slayton

Other

Sheryl Gleim
Peter Gorman

Mr. Crowley made a motion to go into closed session in order to receive legal advice with regard to the matter captioned *In the Matter of the Certificates of Darlene Donahue*. Dr. Nagy seconded the motion, which was carried by a unanimous vote. The Board went into closed session at 1:02 p.m. The Board returned to the public session at 1:10 p.m. and detailed the aggravating and mitigating factors which were pertinent to its vote at the January 13, 2009 meeting to revoke Ms. Donahue's certificates.

Old Business

Dr. Higgins read a resolution commending Michael Kruczek for his service to the State Board of Examiners. A motion was made to adopt the resolution, which was duly seconded and approved by a unanimous vote.

New Business

Dr. Pfeffer thanked Dr. Higgins for providing breakfast for the Board.

Secretary's Report

Dr. Higgins reported that the Department is moving forward with a system that provides for all certification applications to be completed and submitted online.

Adjournment

Mr. Crowley moved to adjourn the meeting, which was duly seconded by Dr. Nagy and carried by a unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 1:17 p.m.

The next scheduled public meeting of the State Board of Examiners will be held on Tuesday, March 31, 2009, in the first floor conference room, 100 River View Plaza, Trenton, New Jersey.

Minutes prepared by Jeffrey H. Lieberman

Minutes certified by Robert R. Higgins, Secretary

RRH/JHL/Minutes-2/23/09