

**State Board of Examiners  
Minutes of Meeting  
100 River View Plaza  
First Floor Conference Room  
Trenton, New Jersey  
March 31, 2009**

**Present:** Dr. Robert Higgins, Secretary  
Mr. Michael Walters, Deputy Attorney General  
Ms. JoAnn Gales, Chair, Credentials Committee  
Mr. James Gay, Chair, Legal Committee  
Mr. Terrence Crowley  
Mr. Derek Jess  
Mr. Thomas MacGregor  
Dr. Patricia McGeehan  
Dr. Mary Jane McNally  
Ms. Gloria Tunstall

**Absent:** Dr. Jay Doolan, Assistant Commissioner, Chair  
Dr. Carlos Hernández  
Dr. Christopher Nagy  
Dr. Adam Pfeffer  
Mr. Peter Tirri

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Terrence Crowley, Acting Chair, 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 a new member of the Board, Mr. Thomas MacGregor.

A motion was made to adopt the minutes of the February 23, 2009 meeting, which was duly seconded. With Ms. Gales, Mr. Gay, Mr. MacGregor and Dr. McGeehan 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:

Jasmine Maldonado	Teacher of Elementary School
Douglas Reynolds	School Library Media Specialist

Clarice Howe Johnson, who is seeking a School Library Media Specialist certificate, was 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 consent list, and Dr. McNally seconded the motion. The candidates in the following cases were present at the February 23, 2009 meeting. With Ms. Gales, Mr. Gay, Mr. MacGregor and Dr. McGeehan abstaining, the Board adopted the following actions by a unanimous vote.

Elizabeth Emerson	Substance Awareness Coordinator certificate of eligibility – The Board denied her application for certification.
Gemma Millare	Teacher of the Handicapped – The Board denied her application for certification.
Debra Somerstein	Standard Teacher of Elementary School (K-5) – The Board denied her application for certification.

Ms. Gales made a motion that the Board adopt the decisions in the following matters on the credentials review consent list, and Dr. McNally seconded the motion. The candidates in the following case were not present at the February 23, 2009 meeting. With Ms. Gales, Mr. Gay, Mr. MacGregor and Dr. McGeehan abstaining, the Board adopted the following actions by a unanimous vote.

Jodi Lewis Kahan	School Counselor – The Board granted her application for certification.
Leila Tirado-Smith	School Counselor – 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:

Richardo Bacon – Mr. Bacon appeared before the Board for a hearing on the sanction issue. Mr. Gay made a motion to go into closed session in order to receive legal advice in

this matter. Mr. Jess seconded the motion, which was carried by a unanimous vote. The Board went into closed session at 11:25 a.m. The Board returned to the public session at 11:30 a.m. By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to table this matter in order to give Mr. Bacon the opportunity to seek to have his conviction expunged.

Michael A. Russo – This matter was withdrawn from the agenda.

Raymond L. Gilmore – By a vote of 7 to 0, with Ms. Gales abstaining, the Board voted to revoke his certificate based on the level and nature of the conduct.

Joseph Lemme – By a vote of 7 to 0, with Ms. Gales abstaining, the Board voted to revoke his certificates based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime.

James B. Dougherty – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to revoke his certificate based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime and his disqualification from employment in the public schools.

John Guarni – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to revoke his certificates based on the level and nature of the conduct.

Douglas Hanania – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to revoke his certificate based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime and his disqualification from employment in the public schools.

Daniel R. Peterson – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to revoke his substitute credential based on his disqualification from employment in the public schools.

Carl B. Pietrangelo – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to revoke his certificate based on his disqualification from employment in the public schools.

Eric Vogt – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to table this matter in order to give him the opportunity to seek to have his convictions expunged from his record.

George Clarke – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to revoke his certificates based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime.

Richard A. Deckert – By a vote of 8 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.

Michelle Little – By a vote of 8 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 and her disqualification from employment in the public schools.

Julianna Schultz – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause as to why her certificate should not be revoked based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime and her disqualification from employment in the public schools.

Anthony W. Yurchak – By a vote of 7 to 0, with Dr. McGeehan recusing herself, 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.

Curtis Robinson – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to issue another 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 8 to 0, the Board voted to vacate the order to show cause it had issued and to take no action against his substitute credential.

James Balzano – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block his application for certification.

Thomas A. Dean – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block his application for certification.

Marc A. Norton – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block his application for a substitute credential.

Joseph Panetta – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block his application for certification.

Erik R. Scott – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to block his application for certification.

Jennifer Stanislaski – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block her application for certification.

Lucy Soto – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block her application for certification.

Nicholas Arminio – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to deny his application for certification after revocation.

Michelle Morano – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of her certificates with the force and effect of a revocation.

Stephen Fox – By a vote of 7 to 0, with Mr. Crowley recusing himself, the Board voted to reject the proposed settlement in this matter.

William Johnson – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to reject the proposed settlement in this matter.

Guy Suabedissen – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to accept the proposed settlement in this matter and to suspend his certificates for three years, effective immediately.

Jessica Oravitz – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to accept the consent order in this matter and to suspend her certificate for four years, effective immediately.

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 a previous meeting, and Dr. McNally seconded the motion. The Board adopted the following decisions by a unanimous vote.

**Orders to Show Cause**

James Coleman  
Elizabeth Peters  
Nicholas Provanzana  
Robert Rosenberg  
Richard Spivey, Jr.  
Hassan Vann  
Gilbert Young, Jr.

**Hearings**

Darlene Donahue  
Jannette Duran  
Raymond Nasta  
William O’Leary  
Ivan Piedra  
Darrin Scott  
Anthony Wade

**Other**

Migdalia Flores  
James Lyback  
Jennifer Ostile  
Michael Passe

Ms. Gales made a motion that the Board adopt the legal decision denying the Petition to Amend the Order of Revocation filed in the matter captioned *In the Matter of the Certificate of John Blanton* that was on the legal consent list, and Mr. Jess seconded the motion. The decision was adopted by a vote of 7 to 0, with Mr. Gay recusing himself.

Dr. McNally made a motion that the Board adopt the order to show cause in the matter captioned *In the Matter of the Certificates of Donna Tolley* that was on the legal consent list, and Dr. McGeehan seconded the motion. The decision was adopted by a vote of 7 to 0, with Mr. Jess recusing himself.

### **Old Business**

Dr. Higgins requested that the Board go into closed session in order to receive legal advice in the matter involving the report issued by the Office and Fiscal Accountability and Compliance titled “Stanhope School District, Possible Deficit and Reporting Deficiencies.” Mr. Gay made a motion to go into closed session in order to receive legal advice in this matter. Dr. McGeehan seconded the motion, which was carried by a unanimous vote. The Board went into closed session at 11:55 a.m. The Board returned to the public session at 11:58 a.m.

Deputy Attorney General Michael Walters reported to the Board that DAG Sookie Bae had resigned from her position in the Attorney’s General’s Office and that DAG Cynthia Rimol would be assuming the responsibility for providing legal advice to the Board.

### **New Business**

There was no new business.

### **Secretary’s Report**

Dr. Higgins reported that, as the result of budget considerations and the end of overtime payments, the Office of Licensure and Credentials was falling behind in reviewing applications for certification. Dr. Higgins indicated that the time for processing applications was approaching 12 to 13 weeks. Dr. Higgins also reported that it appeared that the Office would be moving to 200 River View Plaza in about a month.

In addition, Dr. Higgins reported that the Office of Fiscal Accountability and Compliance is investigating school district staff in administrative positions who possess certificates of eligibility but have not applied for provisional certificates in a timely manner.

Dr. Higgins welcomed new member Thomas MacGregor to the Board.

### **Adjournment**

Dr. McGeehan moved to adjourn the meeting, which was duly seconded by Mr. Gay and carried by a unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 p.m.

The next scheduled public meeting of the State Board of Examiners will be held on Monday, May 11, 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-3/31/09