

**State Board of Examiners  
Minutes of Meeting  
100 River View Plaza  
First Floor Conference Room  
Trenton, New Jersey  
September 11, 2008**

**Present:** Dr. Robert Higgins, Secretary  
Ms. Sookie Bae, Deputy Attorney General  
Ms. Joanne Gales, Chair, Credentials Committee  
Mr. James Gay, Chair, Legal Committee  
Mr. Terrence Crowley  
Mr. Derek Jess  
Mr. Michael Kruczek  
Dr. Patricia McGeehan  
Dr. Mary Jane McNally  
Dr. Christopher Nagy  
Dr. Adam Pfeffer  
Mr. Peter Tirri  
Ms. Gloria Tunstall

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

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.

Deputy Attorney General Sookie Bae administered the oath of office to a new member of the Board, Mr. Terrence Crowley.

A motion was made to adopt the minutes of the July 17, 2008 meeting, which was duly seconded. With Mr. Crowley, Mr. Kruczek, Dr. McNally and Dr. Pfeffer 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:

Teresa Catalano	School Counselor
John Faure	Standard Teacher of Social Studies
Debra Giambra	School Counselor
Marianela Gonzalez	Standard Teacher of Spanish
Jeanne Liwacz	Teacher of Elementary School and Teacher of Elementary School with Subject Matter Specialization in Mathematics Certificates of Eligibility with Advanced Standing
Loretta Lombardi	Teacher of the Handicapped
Diane Nickoloff	School Nurse
Dennis Peterson	Standard Teacher of Earth Science
Denise Uniacke	School Counselor

Pamela Alkins-Guallab, who is seeking a School Psychologist certificate, Kathryn A. Blackstone, who is seeking a Teacher of Elementary School (N-8) certificate, Anita Christian, who is seeking a Substance Awareness Coordinator certificate, and Stacy Snider, who is seeking a Teacher of Speech Arts and Dramatics certificate, 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. Mr. Jess seconded the motion. The candidates in the following cases were present at the July 17, 2008 meeting and made presentations to the Board. With Mr. Crowley, Mr. Kruczek and Dr. McNally abstaining, the Board adopted the following actions by a unanimous vote.

Phyllis Bloom	School Counselor – The Board granted her application for certification.
Cathy Borysewicz	School Social Worker – The Board granted her application for certification.
Mary Beth DiPrima	Standard School Library Media Specialist – The Board denied her application for certification.
Michelle Larsen	School Social Worker – 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 Committee Consent List of cases. Mr. Jess seconded the motion. The candidates in the following cases were present at the July 17, 2008 meeting and made presentations to the Board. With Mr. Crowley, Mr. Kruczek, Dr. McNally and Dr. Pfeffer abstaining, the Board adopted the following actions by a unanimous vote.

Frank Piccillo	School Administrator Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied his application for certification.
Rivkah Schepansky	Teachers of Elementary School and Elementary School with Subject Matter Specialization in Social Studies Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing – The Board denied her application for certification.
Karen Trojanowski	School Nurse – The Board granted her application for certification.
Terri Yessman	Teacher of Elementary School with Subject Matter Specialization in Science – 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 Committee Consent List of cases. Mr. Jess seconded the motion. The candidates in the following cases were not present at the July 17, 2008 meeting. With Mr. Crowley, Mr. Kruczek, Dr. McNally and Dr. Pfeffer abstaining, the Board adopted the following actions by a unanimous vote.

Elsie Kaplow	Reading Specialist – The Board granted her application for certification.
Ana Cecilia Reichert	Teacher of Spanish Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied her 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. Mr. Jess seconded the motion. The candidate in the following case was present at the July 17, 2008 meeting and made a presentation to the Board. With Mr. Crowley, Mr. Kruczek and Dr. McNally abstaining, and Dr. Pfeffer recusing himself, the Board adopted the following action by a unanimous vote.

Suzanne Leichtnam	Teachers of English and Students with Disabilities – The Board denied her application for certification.
-------------------	--

The Board discussed a proposal put forward by Dr. Higgins for modifying the process for reviewing certification appeals so as to clarify the process and establish a clearer demarcation of responsibility. The Board concurred that the credentials review committee should have the responsibility for reviewing all certification appeals and making a recommendation to the Board.

### **Legal Committee Report**

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

Mike Almasri – By a vote of 11 to 0, the Board voted to table this matter in order to obtain further information.

Greg A. Eisenstein – By a vote of 11 to 0, the Board voted to revoke his certificate based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime.

Jacqueline Johnson – 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.

Layshell Layton – By a vote of 11 to 0, the Board voted to amend the order to show cause it had issued so as to show that he had been convicted of criminal mischief.

Daniel McHarris – By a vote of 11 to 0, the Board voted to terminate the suspension of his certificates effective October 16, 2008 and to take no further action against his certificates.

Andrew Monath – By a vote of 11 to 0, the Board voted to dismiss the order to show cause it had issued.

Nina Chavis – By a vote of 11 to 0, the Board voted to deny her request to stay the proceedings before the Board.

Swapan Basu – By a vote of 9 to 0, with Mr. Gay and Mr. Tirri recusing themselves, the Board voted to take no action against his certificates and to dismiss the petition.

Rhinold Ponder – By a vote of 9 to 0, with Mr. Gay and Mr. Tirri recusing themselves, the Board voted to take no action against his certificate and to dismiss the petition.

Barbara Taylor – By a vote of 9 to 0, with Mr. Gay and Mr. Tirri recusing themselves, the Board voted to take no action against her certificates and to dismiss the petition.

Raymond L. Gilmore – 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.

Joseph Lemme – 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.

Scott Marlin – 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.

Christian P. McCarthy – 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 and his disqualification from employment in the public schools.

Keri Ann M. Brekne – By a vote of 11 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 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.

Robert DiLullo – By a vote of 10 to 0, with Mr. Crowley recusing himself, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause as to why his 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.

Mr. Gay made a motion to deny the application for certification after revocation filed in the matter captioned *In the Matter of the Application of Nicholas Arminio for Certification after Revocation*, and Mr. Kruczek seconded the motion. Following a request by Robert G. Gerage, Esq., counsel for Mr. Arminio, to address the Board, Dr. Nagy made a motion to go into closed session in order to receive legal advice on this matter. Mr. Crowley seconded the motion, which was carried by a unanimous vote. The Board went into closed session at 12:18 p.m.

The Board returned to the public session at 12:28 p.m. and granted Mr. Gerage's request to address the Board. Nicholas Arminio appeared before the Board with counsel, Mr. Gerage, to present argument and testimony on his application. Thereafter, Mr. Crowley made a motion to go into closed session in order to receive further legal advice on this matter. Dr. McGeehan seconded the motion, which was carried by a unanimous vote. The Board went into closed session at 12:52 p.m.

The Board returned to the public session at 1:05 p.m. Mr. Gay withdrew his motion to deny Mr. Arminio's application for certification after revocation. By a vote of 11 to 0, the Board voted to table this matter in order to obtain further information.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Brendon Walsh – By a vote of 10 to 1, with Dr. Pfeffer opposing, the Board voted to take no action to block his application for certification.

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

Elizabeth Emerson – By a vote of 11 to 0, the Board voted to table this matter in order to obtain further information.

Louise Fitzgerald – 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 certificate she is seeking.

Kristen M. Longa – By a vote of 11 to 0, the Board voted to table this matter in order to obtain further information.

Gemma Millare – By a vote of 11 to 0, the Board voted to table this matter in order to obtain further information.

Donald Osbourne – By a vote of 11 to 0, the Board voted to table this matter in order to obtain further information.

Janet Romano – By a vote of 10 to 0, with Dr. Pfeffer abstaining, the Board voted to deny her appeal challenging the determination of the Office of Licensure and Credentials that she is not eligible for the certificate she is seeking.

Judy Safi – 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 certificate she is seeking.

Eileen Bowker – 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 certificate she is seeking.

Peter B. Davis – By a vote of 11 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 certificate he is seeking.

Lauren C. Gricco – 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 certificate she is seeking.

Stephanie Nock – 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 certificate she is seeking.

Coswaylo Harris-Riley – 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 certificate she is seeking.

Julie Sachson – 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 certificate she is seeking.

Janice Jones – By a vote of 9 to 0, with Mr. Jess and Dr. Pfeffer abstaining, the Board voted to accept the proposed settlement in this matter and to impose a two-year suspension of her certificate retroactive to July 5, 2007.

Rosalyn Vinson – By a vote of 9 to 0, with Mr. Jess and Dr. Pfeffer abstaining, the Board voted to accept the proposed settlement in this matter and to impose a two-year suspension of her certificates retroactive to July 5, 2007.

Alexis Anderson – By a vote of 11 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.

Victoria N. Blevins – By a vote of 11 to 0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of her teaching certificate with the force and effect of a revocation, with all attendant consequences.

Barbara Horner – By a vote of 11 to 0, the Board voted to adopt the recommendation of the Administrative Law Judge that no action was warranted against her certificates.

Stephen Fox – By a vote of 10 to 0, with Mr. Crowley recusing himself, the Board voted to reject the proposed settlement in this matter.

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 July 17, 2008 meeting, and Dr. Nagy seconded the motion. The Board adopted the following decisions by a unanimous vote.

Order to Show Cause

Jovan Alvarez  
James Dougherty  
Anthony Franco  
Ryan Lore  
Luciano Martinez  
Isaac Pitts  
Maria Saco  
Christopher Welch

Hearings

Eric Larson  
William Thompson

Other

Amaris Brown-Davis  
Madeline Capizzio  
Tara Friel  
Dolores Hyman  
Stephen Kramer  
Adriana Preacher  
Jason Purvis  
Davon Williams

Dr. Nagy made a motion that the Board adopt the legal decision in the matter captioned *In the Matter of the Certificate of K.W.* 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. Crowley, Mr. Kruczek and Dr. McNally abstaining, and Mr. Gay recusing himself.

**Old Business**

There was no old business.

**New Business**

The Board discussed the following reports issued by the Office and Fiscal Accountability and Compliance: “Stanhope School District, Possible Deficit and Reporting Deficiencies” and “Freehold Regional High School District, Review of Academic Compensation.”

**Secretary’s Report**

There was no secretary’s report.



## **Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, which was duly seconded and carried by a unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 1:46 p.m.

The next scheduled public meeting of the State Board of Examiners will be held on Thursday, October 16, 2008, 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-9/11/08