

**State Board of Examiners  
Minutes of Meeting  
200 River View Plaza  
First Floor Conference Room  
Trenton, New Jersey  
March 25, 2010**

**Present:** Dr. Robert Higgins, Secretary  
Ms. Cynthia Rimol, Deputy Attorney General  
Mr. Terrence Crowley  
Dr. Dawood Farahi  
Ms. JoAnn Gales, Chair, Credentials Review Committee  
Mr. Thomas MacGregor  
Dr. Patricia McGeehan  
Dr. Mary Jane McNally  
Dr. Christopher Nagy, Chair, Legal Committee  
Mr. Peter Tirri  
Ms. Gloria Tunstall

**Absent:** Assistant Commissioner, Chair  
Mr. Derek Jess

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

Mr. Crowley moved to adopt the minutes of the January 7, 2010 meeting, and Dr. Nagy seconded the motion. The minutes, as amended, 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:

Gia Guyton	Teacher of Preschool through Grade Three Certificate of Eligibility
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Kristen Sonnek Schmelz	Supervisor
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Kathleen Sullivan

Teacher of American Sign Language

Dr. George Pangalos, who is seeking a Teacher of Earth Science certificate, and Greta Marie Scott, who is seeking a Teacher of the Handicapped certificate, were 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. McGeehan seconded the motion. The candidates in the following cases were present at the December 2, 2009 meeting. The Board adopted the following actions by a unanimous vote.

Taheedah Baker Jones

Supervisor; Principal – The Board denied her application for a Supervisor certificate but granted partial credit for three graduate elective credits in staff supervision and/or curriculum development. The Board granted her application for a Principal Certificate of Eligibility.

James Maher

Teacher of Music Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing; Teacher of Elementary School Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing – The Board denied his applications for certification.

Kristi Monaghan

School Library Media Specialist – 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. Nagy seconded the motion. The candidates in the following cases were present at the January 7, 2010 meeting. With Mr. MacGregor and Dr. McNally abstaining, the Board adopted the following actions by a unanimous vote.

David Davenport

School Counselor – The Board granted his application for certification.

Kimberly Scott

Supervisor – 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 consent list, and Dr. Nagy seconded the motion. The candidate in the following case was not present at the January 7, 2010 meeting. With Mr. MacGregor and Dr. McNally abstaining, the Board adopted the following action by a unanimous vote.

Erin Gardner

Teacher of Elementary School (K-5) ; Teacher of Business: Finance and Economics – The Board granted her applications 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:

Juanita Worthy – By a vote of 6 to 0, with Dr. Farahi, Mr. MacGregor and Dr. McNally abstaining, the Board voted to revoke her certificates based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime.

Keah Worthy – By a vote of 4 to 3, with Ms. Gales, Mr. Tirri and Ms. Tunstall opposing, and Dr. Farahi and Dr. McNally abstaining, the Board voted to revoke her certificates based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime.

Timothy A. Yurchak – By a vote of 7 to 0, with Dr. Farahi abstaining and Dr. McGeehan recusing herself, the Board voted to revoke his certificates based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime.

Paul Ash – By a vote of 8 to 0, with Dr. Farahi abstaining, the Board voted to revoke his certificate based on the level and nature of the conduct.

Todd J. Broxmeyer – By a vote of 9 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.

Brian T. Coar – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to revoke his certificates based on the level and nature of the conduct.

Jannette Duran – By a vote of 8 to 1, with Ms. Tunstall opposing, the Board voted to suspend her English as a Second Language certificate of eligibility until March 31, 2011 based on the level and nature of the conduct.

Michael Hailey – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to revoke his certificates based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime.

Patricia Johnson – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to revoke her certificates based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime.

Michelle Little – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to revoke her certificates based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime and her disqualification from employment in the public schools.

Joseph E. Macanga – By a vote of 9 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.

Steven B. McGuire – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to revoke his certificate based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime.

Nicholas Polisenio – By a vote of 9 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.

William Castel – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to adopt the recommendation of the Administrative Law Judge to revoke his certificates.

Anthony Paraskevopoulos – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to adopt the findings of the Administrative Law Judge but to modify the recommended penalty and suspend his certificates for two years based on the level and nature of the conduct.

Erik Saunders – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to table this matter for further review.

David Vanden Heuvel – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to table this matter for further review.

Michael S. Drebes – By a vote of 9 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.

Rose M. Giovinazzi (Biagi) – By a vote of 8 to 0, with Mr. MacGregor recusing himself, 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.

Leonard Gnade – By a vote of 9 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.

Edwin T. Griffin – By a vote of 8 to 1, with Ms. Gales opposing, the Board voted to take no action against his certificates.

Diane A. Hahn – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to table this matter in order to obtain additional information.

James F. Jetter – By a vote of 9 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.

Richard M. Voza – By a vote of 9 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.

Morris Gartenberg – By a vote of 9 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.

John Aiello, Jr. – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block his application for certification.

Brian B. Browne – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block his application for certification.

Hernan J. Castro – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block his application for certification.

Kyle S. Dyer – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block his application for certification.

Michael I. Lewenson – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block his application for certification.

Patrick E. Thompson – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block his application for certification.

Migdalia Flores – The Board granted the request by Kathleen M. Theurer, Esq., counsel for Ms. Flores, to address the Board. Following Ms. Theurer's appearance, the Board deferred determination until a future meeting.

James J. Atkinson, III – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of his certificate with the force and effect of a revocation.

Philip A. Bevilacqua – By a vote of 8 to 0, with Mr. Crowley recusing himself, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of his certificates with the force and effect of a revocation.

Lawrence S. Lubiner – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of his certificates with the force and effect of a revocation.

John Stenz – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to accept the proposed settlement and consent order in this matter, in which he relinquished his certificates with the force and effect of a revocation.

Dr. Nagy 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 Mr. Crowley seconded the motion. The Board adopted the following orders by a unanimous vote.

#### Orders to Show Cause

Donald Barnes  
James Byrd  
Loren Caso  
Allison Galiano  
Joseph Mauro  
Scott Powell  
Dennis Wright  
Joseph Zinkiewicz

#### Revocation/Suspension Orders

Jeffrey Doogan  
Abel Oderanti  
Robert Spivey, Jr.

Dr. Nagy made a motion that the Board adopt the orders in the matters captioned *In the Matter of the County Substitute Certificate of Christopher Ciuppa, In the Matter of the Certificates of Deirdre Simon, In the Matter of the Certificates of Michael Smith* and *In the Matter of the Certificates of James Squicciarini* that were on the legal consent list, and Mr. Crowley seconded the motion. By a vote of 8 to 0, with Mr. Tirri recusing himself, the Board adopted the orders.

Dr. Nagy made a motion that the Board adopt the order in the matter captioned *In the Matter of the Certificates of Emma Painter* that was on the legal consent list, and Dr. McGeehan seconded the motion. By a vote of 8 to 0, with Mr. Crowley recusing himself, the Board adopted the order.

Dr. Nagy made a motion that the Board adopt the orders in the matters captioned *In the Matter of the Certificate of Jose Gonzales* and *In the Matter of the Certificates of Christopher Strazza* that were on the legal consent list, and Mr. MacGregor seconded the motion. By a vote of 8 to 0, with Dr. McNally recusing herself, the Board adopted the orders.

#### Old Business

There was no old business.

#### New Business

Dr. Higgins read a resolution honoring Dr. Adam Pfeffer for his service to the State Board of Examiners and conveying best wishes to Dr. Pfeffer. Mr. Crowley made a motion to adopt the resolution, which was seconded by Dr. Nagy and approved by a unanimous vote. Dr. Nagy commented that it had been an honor and privilege to serve with Dr. Pfeffer, a sentiment reiterated by Mr. Tirri on behalf of the Board.

#### Secretary's Report

Dr. Higgins reported that the State Board of Education was considering two amendments to the licensing code – an amendment that would increase the number of renewals for an emergency Speech Language Specialist certificate and an amendment that would authorize the licensing office to accept credits which appear on the transcript of a regionally-accredited two-year college.

Dr. Higgins also reported that the licensing office continues to have severe staffing problems for its phones and examiners section but that there is an agreement in theory with the Governor's office to use some of the extra fees that were approved several years ago to increase staffing in those two areas.

### **Adjournment**

Dr. Farahi made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was duly seconded by Mr. Crowley and carried by a unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 12:36 p.m.

The next scheduled public meeting of the State Board of Examiners will be held on Thursday, April 29, 2010, in the first floor conference room, 200 River View Plaza, Trenton, New Jersey.

Minutes prepared by Jeffrey H. Lieberman

Minutes certified by Robert R. Higgins, Secretary

RRH/JHL/Minutes-3/25/10