

**State Board of Examiners
Minutes of Meeting
200 River View Plaza
First Floor Conference Room
Trenton, New Jersey
April 29, 2010**

Present: Dr. Robert Higgins, Secretary
Ms. Cynthia Rimol, Deputy Attorney General
Mr. Terrence Crowley
Ms. JoAnn Gales, Chair, Credentials Review Committee
Mr. Derek Jess
Dr. Mary Jane McNally
Dr. Christopher Nagy, Chair, Legal Committee
Mr. Peter Tirri
Ms. Gloria Tunstall

Absent: Assistant Commissioner, Chair
Dr. Dawood Farahi
Mr. Thomas MacGregor
Dr. Patricia McGeehan

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.

Dr. Nagy moved to adopt the minutes of the March 25, 2010 meeting, and Dr. McNally seconded the motion. With Mr. Jess 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:

Altagracia Acosta	School Counselor
Lorraine Ferrante	Teacher of Students with Disabilities

Barbara Nichols	Associate School Library Media Specialist
Juliana Pollara Parsons	Teacher of Elementary School and Teacher of Elementary School with Subject Matter Specialization in Science
Sharon Daye Rider	Substance Awareness Coordinator
Raymond Ruiz	Substance Awareness Coordinator

Loretta Lombardi, who is seeking a Teacher of Students with Disabilities certificate, Vincent Spadavecchia, who is seeking a Teacher of Technology Education certificate, and Rebecca Weintraub, who is seeking a Substance Awareness Coordinator 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. McNally seconded the motion. The candidates in the following cases were present at the March 25, 2010 meeting. With Mr. Jess abstaining, the Board adopted the following actions by a unanimous vote.

Gia Guyton	Teacher of Preschool through Grade Three Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied her application for certification.
Kristen Sonnek Schmelz	Supervisor – 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 cases were not present at the March 25, 2010 meeting. With Mr. Jess abstaining, the Board adopted the following actions by a unanimous vote.

Dr. George Pangalos	Teacher of Earth Science – The Board granted his application for certification.
Greta Marie Scott	Teacher of the Handicapped – The Board denied her application for certification.

Ms. Gales made a motion that the Board adopt the decision on reconsideration in the following matter on the credentials review consent list, and Dr. McNally seconded the motion. With Mr. Crowley and Mr. Jess abstaining, the Board adopted the following action by a unanimous vote.

Teresa Catalano	School Counselor – The Board granted her application for
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certification.

Legal Committee Report

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

Joseph Mazzarella – This matter was withdrawn from the agenda.

John A. Teopengco – 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.

Tracy L. Booth – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to revoke her certificate based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime.

Warren H. Brown – 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.

Robert L. Godfrey – 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.

Nelson Trias – 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.

Erik Saunders – By a vote of 6 to 1, with Ms. Gales opposing, 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.

David Vanden Heuvel – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to grant his motion to supplement the record and to adopt the recommendation of the Administrative Law Judge to revoke his certificates based on the level and nature of the conduct.

James S. Craig – 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.

Charles M. Davis – 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.

James D. Kearney, Jr. – Since Ms. Tunstall recused herself, this matter was withdrawn from the agenda for lack of a quorum.

Joseph Mifsud – 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.

Joseph Quartaro – 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.

David A. Singer – 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.

Angela Stellwag – By a vote of 7 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.

Kristine M. Yarmula – By a vote of 7 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.

Lynn Ann D’Amelio – 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 crime.

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

Michelle L. Hartman – 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.

Vanda Ronald Horton – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to block his application for certification based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime.

Matthew T. Messa – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to block his application for certification based on the level and nature of the conduct and crimes.

Michael C. Saunders – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to table this matter in order to obtain additional information.

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

Kerry Dressel – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of her certificate with the force and effect of a revocation.

Jared Kolodziejczyk – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of his certificates with the force and effect of a revocation.

Barry Staton – Mr. Staton was permitted to address the Board. Following Mr. Staton’s presentation, Dr. Nagy made a motion to go into closed session in order to receive legal advice in this matter, and Mr. Crowley seconded the motion. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote. The Board went into closed session at 12:13 p.m. The Board returned to the public session at 12:33 p.m. By a vote of 6 to 1, with Mr. Tirri opposing, the Board voted to deny Mr. Staton’s motion for reconsideration of the Board’s decision granting his application for certification after revocation to the extent that it required him to meet the current requirements for certification.

Joel D. Ignall – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to deny his request to redact the records of previous action taken by the Board. However, the Board agreed to amend the minutes of a previous meeting.

David Weidemoyer – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to accept the proposed settlement and consent order in this matter, in which he relinquished his certificate 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

Michael Drebes
Morris Gartenberg
Rose Giovinazzi
Leonard Gnade
James Jetter
Richard Voza

Revocations/Suspensions

Paul Ash
Todd Broxmeyer
William Castel
Brian Coar
Jannette Duran
Michael Hailey
Patricia Johnson
Michelle Little
Joseph Macanga
Steven McGuire
Nicholas Polisenno
Juanita Worthy
Keah Worthy
Timothy Yurchak

Dr. Nagy made a motion that the Board adopt a modified order in the matter captioned *In the Matter of the Certificate of Anthony Paraskevopoulos* that was on the legal consent list, and Mr. Crowley seconded the motion. By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board adopted the modified order suspending his certificate for six months.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Dr. Higgins reported that the OFAC report concerning the Plainfield School District, which had been distributed to the members of the Board, had been reviewed by the Legal Committee and that the Superintendent of Schools in Plainfield would be scheduled for initial review by the Board at the June 10 meeting for consideration of whether to initiate proceedings against his certificates.

Secretary's Report

Dr. Higgins reported that he had been instructed to draft proposed amendments to the licensing code that would grant reciprocity to educators holding certificates issued in other states. Dr. Higgins reported that he also had been instructed to draft proposed amendments that would give the licensing office flexibility to consider experience and extenuating circumstances in reviewing applications for certification.

Adjournment

Mr. Crowley made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was duly seconded by Dr. Nagy and carried by a unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 12:53 p.m.

The next scheduled public meeting of the State Board of Examiners will be held on Thursday, June 10, 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

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