

**State Board of Examiners
Minutes of Meeting
200 River View Plaza
First Floor Conference Room
Trenton, New Jersey
September 17, 2009**

Present: Dr. Robert Higgins, Secretary
Ms. Cynthia Rimol, Deputy Attorney General
Ms. JoAnn Gales, Chair, Credentials Committee
Mr. Derek Jess
Dr. Patricia McGeehan
Dr. Mary Jane McNally
Dr. Christopher Nagy
Dr. Adam Pfeffer
Mr. Peter Tirri
Ms. Gloria Tunstall

Absent: Barbara Gantwerk, Assistant Commissioner, Chair
Mr. Terrence Crowley
Dr. Carlos Hernández
Mr. Thomas MacGregor

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. McGeehan moved to adopt the minutes of the July 28, 2009 meeting, and Ms. Gales seconded the motion. With Dr. McNally and 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:

Nancy Billek	Emergency Educational Interpreter
Iris Polan-Pierri	Teacher of Chemistry
Amanda Powers	Supervisor
Charles Shepherd	Teacher of Students with Disabilities

Aimee Paez, who is seeking a Teacher of Elementary School (K-5) certificate, and Peter Pantano, who is seeking a Teacher of Mathematics 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 Mr. Jess seconded the motion. The candidates in the following cases were present at the July 28, 2009 meeting. With Dr. McNally and Dr. Nagy abstaining, the Board adopted the following actions by a unanimous vote.

Anne Marie Contino	Teacher of Preschool through Grade Three Certificate of Eligibility – The Board granted her application for certification.
Christian D’Alessio	Teacher of Audio/Visual Broadcast Production Technology Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing – The Board granted his application for certification.
Peter Davis	Teacher of Technology Education – The Board denied his application for certification.
Gina DeMonte	Standard Substance Awareness Coordinator – The Board denied her application for certification.
Annette Frohlich	Teacher of Comprehensive Business – The Board denied her application for certification.
Theresa Kerschner	Teacher of Elementary School with Subject Matter Specialization in Mathematics – The Board granted her application for certification.
Amber Palmieri	Teacher of the Handicapped – The Board denied her application for certification.

Debelvia Peterson Learning Disabilities Teacher-Consultant – The Board denied her application for certification.

Franklin Stebbins Supervisor – The Board denied his application for certification but gave him credit for a course in curriculum.

Ms. Gales 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 July 28, 2009 meeting. With Dr. McNally and Dr. Nagy abstaining, the Board adopted the following action by a unanimous vote.

Karen LeVasseur School Counselor – The Board denied her application for certification but gave her credit for a six semester hour practicum in a school setting.

Legal Committee Report

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

Christopher Gentile – This matter was withdrawn from the agenda.

Curtis Robinson – This matter was withdrawn from the agenda.

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

William Callahan – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to revoke his certificate based on the level and nature of the conduct.

Elizabeth A. Peters – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to revoke her substitute credential based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime and her disqualification from employment in the public schools.

Gregory Monsolino – By a vote of 7 to 0, with Ms. Gales recusing herself, 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.

Dean Howarth – This matter was withdrawn from the agenda.

V.R. – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to adopt the recommendation of the Administrative Law Judge that no action was warranted against her certificates.

Tracy L. Booth – 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.

Eric L. Johansen – By a vote of 7 to 0, with Dr. Pfeffer recusing himself, 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.

Nelson Trias – By a vote of 8 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.

Jannette Duran – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause as to why her Teacher of English as a Second Language certificate of eligibility should not be suspended for a two-year period concurrent with the previously ordered suspension of her Teacher of Elementary School certificates based on the level and nature of the conduct.

Robert L. Godfrey – By a vote of 8 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.

Lawrence S. Lubiner – By a vote of 8 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 the fact that he was required to forfeit his certificates as a condition of his acceptance into a Pretrial Intervention program.

Carol Anne Futrell – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to vacate the suspension order it had issued and to take no further action against her certificate.

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

Douglas B. Dixon – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to table this matter in order to obtain additional information.

Jason B. Franklin – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to table this matter in order to obtain additional information.

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

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

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

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

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

Valerie R. Ivkovich – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to block her application for certification based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime.

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

Barry Staton – By a vote of 6 to 2, with Mr. Jess and Dr. Pfeffer opposing, the Board voted to grant his application for certification after revocation.

Thomas Decou – By a vote of 5 to 0, with Mr. Jess, Dr. Pfeffer and Ms. Tunstall abstaining, the Board voted to grant his request for additional time to satisfy the requirements for issuance of a Teacher of Social Studies certificate of eligibility.

Christopher P. Ciuppa – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted preliminarily to grant his request to redact the minutes on the Department’s website as a result of the expungement of his record.

Patricia K. Flanagan – 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.

Dr. Nagy made a motion to go into closed session in order to receive legal advice on settlement proposals. Dr. McGeehan 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 12:47 p.m.

Paul O. Stanziale – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to reject the proposed settlement in this matter and to propose a counteroffer in settlement of the matter.

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 Dr. McGeehan seconded the motion. With Dr. McNally and Dr. Nagy abstaining, the Board adopted the following decisions by a unanimous vote.

Orders to Show Cause

Todd Broxmeyer
Michael Hailey

Anne Holmes
Patricia Johnson
Robert Johnson
Joseph Macanga
Steven McGuire
Juanita Worthy
Keah Worthy

Hearings

Keri Ann Brekne
Steven Gonzalez
Carl Hill
Gary Holman
Layshell Layton
Samantha Pytleski
Cecelia Schneider
Demetrick Williams

Initial Decision from Office of Administrative Law

L.H.

Block application for certification

Sherri Parmenter

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Mr. Jess asked whether there were any provisions in law that required the attendance of Board members at meetings. Dr. Higgins responded that there was no requirement in law. Dr. Nagy commented on the issue of redacting the minutes of previous Board meetings when a certificate-holder mentioned in the minutes has had a conviction expunged. After a discussion, the Board requested legal advice from the Attorney General's Office concerning action that can be taken with regard to minutes that are posted on the Department's website.

Secretary's Report

Dr. Higgins reported that the licensing office will be moving to 200 River View Plaza on October 2, 2009. Dr. Higgins also reported that the office continues to be short-staffed.

Adjournment

Dr. Nagy made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was duly seconded by Dr. Pfeffer and carried by a unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

The next scheduled public meeting of the State Board of Examiners will be held on Thursday, October 22, 2009, 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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