

**State Board of Examiners  
Minutes of Meeting  
200 River View Plaza  
First Floor Conference Room  
Trenton, New Jersey  
January 20, 2011**

**Present:** Dr. Robert Higgins, Secretary  
Ms. Melissa Dutton, Deputy Attorney General  
Ms. JoAnn Gales, Chair, Credentials Review Committee  
Dr. Patricia McGeehan  
Dr. Mary Jane McNally  
Dr. Christopher Nagy, Chair, Legal Committee  
Mr. Peter Tirri  
Ms. Gloria Tunstall

**Absent:** Assistant Commissioner, Chair  
Ms. Kristin Hennessy  
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.

Ms. Gales moved to adopt the minutes of the December 9, 2010 meeting, and Dr. McNally seconded the motion. With Dr. McGeehan, Dr. Nagy and Ms. Tunstall 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:

Raffael Craig	Teacher of Students with Disabilities
Karen Goldberg	Teacher of Art Certificate of Eligibility
Eliza Hammer	Teacher of Elementary School Certificate of Eligibility

Stephen Hopkins                      Principal

Christine McQuilken                Teacher of Students with Disabilities

Natalie Franco, who is seeking a Teacher of Career and Technical Education: Drafting and Design Technology certificate of eligibility; Louisa Muniz, who is seeking a Reading Specialist certificate; Laszlo Pokorny, who is seeking a Teacher of Business: Finance/Economics/Law certificate; and Bruce Tinor, who is seeking a Teacher of Elementary School certificate, were not present at the meeting.

Dr. McGeehan recused herself from the credentials review of Gregory Cea, who is seeking a Teacher of Career and Technical Education: Carpentry certificate, and the matter was withdrawn from the agenda due to the lack of a quorum. Ms. Tunstall recused herself from the credentials review of Carmen Sanchez, who is seeking a Teacher of Bilingual/Bicultural Education certificate, and the matter was withdrawn from the agenda due to the lack of a quorum.

### **Credentials Review Consent List**

Ms. Gales made a motion that the Board adopt the decision in the following matter on the credentials review consent list, and Dr. McNally seconded the motion. The candidate in the following case was present at the December 9, 2010 meeting. With Dr. McGeehan and Dr. Nagy abstaining, the Board adopted the following action by a unanimous vote.

Geri Esposito                      School Counselor – The Board granted 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 December 9, 2010 meeting. With Dr. McGeehan and Dr. Nagy abstaining, the Board adopted the following actions by a unanimous vote.

Gina Girgis                      Teacher of French Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied her application for certification.

Rachel Lower                      School Business Administrator Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied 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:

R.A. – Evans C. Anyanwu, Esq., counsel for R.A., appeared before the Board for a hearing on the sanction issue. Following Mr. Anyanwu’s presentation, the Board took this matter under advisement and deferred determination until a future meeting.

Stanley Williams – By a vote of 6 to 0, the Board voted to table this matter.

Dr. Nagy made a motion to go into closed session in order to receive legal advice, which was duly seconded by Dr. McNally and carried by a unanimous vote. The Board went into closed session at 12:02 p.m. The Board returned to the public session at 12:12 p.m.

Richard A. Koppenaal, Jr. – By a vote of 6 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.

Karen S. Ledden – By a vote of 5 to 1, with Mr. Tirri opposing, the Board voted to revoke her certificates based on the level and nature of the conduct.

Edgar B. Padilla – By a vote of 6 to 0, the Board voted to revoke his certificates based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime.

Jeffrey K. Powell – By a vote of 6 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.

William Beltran – By a vote of 6 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.

Gerald F. Caputo – Dr. McGeehan recused herself, and this matter was withdrawn from the agenda due to the lack of a quorum.

Michael Dougherty – By a vote of 6 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.

Emmanuel Loiseau – By a vote of 6 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.

Leonard Matarese – By a vote of 6 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.

Jason J. Rodriguez – By a vote of 6 to 0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause as to why his certificates and 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.

Sandra Santora – By a vote of 6 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.

CherylN Sayles – By a vote of 6 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.

Michael J. Seiler – By a vote of 6 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.

Cheryl Sloan – By a vote of 6 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.

Sharonda L. Wilson – Ms. Gales recused herself, and this matter was withdrawn from the agenda due to the lack of a quorum.

John Cohrs – By a vote of 6 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.

Emma Painter – By a vote of 6 to 0, the Board voted to vacate the order to show cause that had been issued to her.

Dawn P. Egerton – By a vote of 6 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block her application for a substitute credential.

Patrick E. DeFranco – By a vote of 6 to 0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of his certificates with the force and effect of a revocation.

Christopher M. Goffi – By a vote of 6 to 0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of his certificates with the force and effect of a revocation.

Matthew J. Smith – By a vote of 6 to 0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of his certificates with the force and effect of a revocation.

Kathleen Kavazanjian – By a vote of 5 to 0, with Ms. Tunstall abstaining, the Board voted to deny her request to expunge the minutes of previous meetings but agreed to amend the minutes of those meetings.

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. McGeehan and Dr. Nagy abstaining, the Board adopted the following orders by a unanimous vote.

Orders to Show Cause

Bryan Broughton  
Lawrence Butler, Jr.  
Brian Gross  
Barbara Lentine  
Benjamin Norton  
Walter Oberwanowicz  
Lawrence Young  
Jill Zell

#### Revocations

Charles Davis  
Nickolas Genovese  
Raymond E. Hyman, Jr.

#### Deny Certification after Revocation

Marylu Vurro

#### **Old Business**

There was no old business.

#### **New Business**

Dr. Higgins read a resolution honoring Terrence Crowley for his service to the Board and conveying best wishes to Mr. Crowley. Dr. Nagy made a motion to adopt the resolution, which was seconded by Dr. McGeehan and approved by a unanimous vote.

The Board reviewed and discussed six reports issued by the Office of Fiscal Accountability and Compliance, and it directed staff to schedule the staff members named in the reports for review at a future meeting.

#### **Secretary's Report**

Dr. Higgins reported that the reciprocity amendments to the licensing code had been adopted by the State Board of Education at its January meeting. Dr. Higgins also reported that bills had been passed by the Legislature and signed into law concerning service by substitute teachers. As a result, several proposed amendments to the licensing code with regard to substitutes had been withdrawn from consideration. In addition, Dr. Higgins reported that amendments to the licensing code had been introduced regarding the alternate route for superintendents in certain districts. Dr. Higgins also reported that the Department of Education's print shop was being transferred to the Treasury Department.

#### **Adjournment**

Dr. Nagy made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was duly seconded by Dr. McGeehan and carried by a unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

The next scheduled public meeting of the State Board of Examiners will be held on Thursday, February 24, 2011, 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-1/20/11