

**State Board of Examiners  
Minutes of Meeting  
200 River View Plaza  
First Floor Conference Room  
Trenton, New Jersey  
May 12, 2011**

**Present:** Dr. Robert Higgins, Secretary  
Ms. Jennifer Campbell, Deputy Attorney General  
Ms. JoAnn Gales, Chair, Credentials Review Committee  
Ms. Kristin Hennessy  
Mr. Derek Jess  
Dr. Patricia McGeehan  
Dr. Mary Jane McNally  
Dr. Christopher Nagy, Chair, Legal Committee  
Mr. Peter Tirri

**Absent:** Assistant Commissioner, Chair  
Ms. Gloria Tunstall

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. McNally moved to adopt the minutes of the March 31, 2011 meeting, and Dr. Nagy 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:

Elizabeth Brown Reid	Teacher of English as a Second Language
Maria Buono-Higgins	Teacher of Italian
Michelle Derpich	Principal Certificate of Eligibility
Karen Goldberg	Teacher of Art (Reconsideration)

Ryan Lilenthal                      Teacher of Social Studies Certificate of Eligibility

Mary Anne Stravick                School Business Administrator

Melissa Clark, who is seeking a Teacher of Preschool through Grade Three certificate, was not present at the meeting.

**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. Nagy seconded the motion. The candidate in the following case was present at the March 31, 2011 meeting. With Dr. McGeehan recusing herself and Mr. Jess abstaining, the Board adopted the following action by a unanimous vote.

Gregory Cea                      Teacher of Career and Technical Education: Carpentry –  
The Board denied his 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 Ms. Hennessy seconded the motion. The candidates in the following cases were present at the March 31, 2011 meeting. With Mr. Jess abstaining, the Board adopted the following actions by a unanimous vote.

Felicia Alexander                Teacher of Social Studies – The Board denied her  
application for certification but granted her credit for three  
semester hours of social studies.

Michael Benson                 School Counselor – The Board denied his application for  
certification.

Jennifer Diszler                 Teacher of Elementary School with Subject Matter  
Specialization in Mathematics – The Board denied her  
application for certification.

Deborah Gichan                 Teacher of Art – The Board denied her application for  
certification but granted her credit for three semester hours  
at the advanced level for photography.

Meghan Lordon                 Teacher of English as a Second Language – The Board  
denied her application for certification.

Nancy Nunes                     Teacher of Elementary School (K-5) – The Board denied  
her application for certification.

Carmen Sanchez                 Standard Teacher of Bilingual/Bicultural Education – 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 not present at the March 31, 2011 meeting. With Mr. Jess abstaining, the Board adopted the following actions by a unanimous vote.

Deborah Brisk	Teacher of Students with Disabilities and Teacher of Elementary School Certificates of Eligibility with Advanced Standing – The Board denied her applications for certification.
Kristen Cooper	School Counselor – The Board granted her application for certification.
Cecilia Crespo	Principal Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied her application for certification.
Rosa Gonzalez	Teacher of Bilingual/Bicultural Education (Renewal of provisional certificate) – The Board denied her request for renewal of her provisional certificate.
Jessica Lundgren	Teacher of Preschool through Grade Three Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing – The Board granted 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:

Sameria R. O’Neil – By a vote of 7 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.

Stanley Williams – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to revoke his certificate based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime.

Steven M. Arpaia – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to table this matter for further review.

Juan C. Borja – 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.

Kevin M. Kriesel – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to revoke his certificates based on the level and nature of the conduct.

Wendell Lee – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to revoke his certificate based on the level and nature of the conduct.

Marcus Rhaney – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to revoke his certificates based on the level and nature of the conduct.

Sandrea Steinmetz – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to revoke her certificates based on the level and nature of the conduct.

Lawrence R. Young – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to revoke his certificates based on the level and nature of the conduct and his disqualification from holding a teaching position in the State.

Larry A. Angney, II – 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 and crime and the surrender of his teaching certificates in Pennsylvania in lieu of discipline.

Mukundcha Bhatt – By a vote of 7 to 0, 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.

Fredric Cluggish – 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.

Darnell J. Coleman – 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.

Ryan A. Giovanelli – 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 and crime.

Robert C. Hawkins – 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 and crime and the surrender of his teaching certificates in Pennsylvania in lieu of discipline.

Joel A. Levy – 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 suspended pending resolution of the underlying criminal charges.

William Mayes – 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 and crime and his disqualification from employment in the public schools.

Kevin A. Ricardo – 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 and crime and his disqualification from employment in the public schools.

Craig A. Rokosz – 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 and crime and his disqualification from employment in the public schools.

John P. Socrates – 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 and crime and his disqualification from employment in the public schools.

Michael Steele – By a vote of 6 to 0, with Dr. McNally recusing herself, 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 and crime and his disqualification from employment in the public schools.

Steve Gallon III – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to withdraw this matter from the agenda and add it to the consent list.

Adam Aquilina – 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 certificates with the force and effect of a revocation.

Sandy Almagro – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of her certificates with the force and effect of a revocation.

Bryan L. Broughton – 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.

Lynn Ann D’Amelio – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to deny her request for reconsideration.

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

Shmuel B. Blau – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to block his application for certification for one year.

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

Julius Young – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to table this matter for further review.

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. The Board adopted the following orders by a unanimous vote.

Orders to Show Cause

Laurie Cancalosi  
Kathleen Dorsett  
Leslie Dorsett  
Maureen Flaherty  
Steve Gallon III  
Kenyatta O’Bryant  
Cheryl Swider  
Gary Villapiano

Revocations

Daniel Flynn  
Jeffrey Harrington  
Abel Oderanti

Block Application for Certification

Alex J. Toth

Dr. Nagy made a motion that the Board adopt the following matter that was on the legal consent list memorializing the Board’s legal decision from a previous meeting and reported that the Board had received and reviewed an additional submission in the matter. Dr. McGeehan seconded the motion. The Board adopted the following order by a unanimous vote.

Revocation

Erin Markakis

Dr. Nagy made a motion that the Board adopt the following matter that was on the legal consent list memorializing the Board’s legal decision from a previous meeting, and Dr. McGeehan seconded the motion. With Ms. Gales recusing herself, the Board adopted the following order by a unanimous vote.

Order to Show Cause

Sharonda Wilson

**Old Business**

There was no old business.

**New Business**

Dr. Higgins reported that the Board had received a copy of a report issued by the State Auditor regarding the Trenton School District. Dr. Nagy made a motion that the Board discuss the report at its next meeting, which was duly seconded by Dr. McGeehan and carried by a unanimous vote. Dr. Higgins also reported that the office has been reviewing revocations and suspensions of teaching certificates in other states in order to identify individuals who also hold certification in New Jersey. In addition, Dr. Higgins reported that the vendor contract for the Teacher Certification Information System will be going out to bid and that the specs should be issued by the fall.

### **Secretary's Report**

There was no secretary's report.

Dr. Nagy made a motion to go into closed session in order to receive legal advice, which was duly seconded by Dr. McGeehan and carried by a unanimous vote. The Board went into closed session at 12:23 p.m. The Board returned to the public session at 12:58 p.m.

Sara L. Lamont – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to accept the proposed settlement agreement in this matter, which is currently on appeal to the Commissioner.

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, which was duly seconded and carried by a unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 12:59 p.m.

The next scheduled public meeting of the State Board of Examiners will be held on Thursday, June 16, 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-5/12/11