

**State Board of Examiners
Minutes of Meeting
200 River View Plaza
First Floor Conference Room
Trenton, New Jersey
September 16, 2010**

Present: Dr. Robert Higgins, Secretary
Ms. Shannon Ryan, Deputy Attorney General
Ms. JoAnn Gales, Chair, Credentials Review Committee
Dr. R. Barbara Gitenstein
Ms. Kristin Hennessy
Mr. Derek Jess
Dr. Patricia McGeehan
Dr. Mary Jane McNally
Dr. Christopher Nagy, Chair, Legal Committee
Mr. Peter Tirri
Ms. Gloria Tunstall

Absent: Assistant Commissioner, Chair
Mr. Terrence Crowley

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.

Deputy Attorney General Melissa Dutton administered the oath of office to two new members of the Board, Dr. R. Barbara Gitenstein and Ms. Kristin Hennessy.

Dr. Gitenstein made a motion to go into closed session in order to receive legal advice, and Dr. Nagy seconded the motion. With Ms. Tunstall recusing herself, the motion was carried by a unanimous vote. The Board went into closed session at 11:57 a.m. The Board returned to the public session at 12:20 p.m.

Dr. Nagy moved to adopt the minutes of the July 22, 2010 meeting, and Dr. McGeehan seconded the motion. With Dr. Gitenstein, Ms. Hennessy and Dr. McNally 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:

Gina Ball	Teacher of Italian Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing
Gregory Greene	Teacher of Mathematics Certificate of Eligibility With Advanced Standing
Kelly Howlett	School Counselor
Pierre Oscar	School Counselor

Janet Garay, who is seeking Supervisor Certificate, Tiffany Jang, who is seeking a School Library Media Specialist Certificate, Matthew Merkl, who is seeking a Teacher of Health Certificate of Eligibility, and Elisa Quinones, who is seeking a School Counselor 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 22, 2010 meeting. With Dr. Gitenstein, Ms. Hennessy and Dr. McNally abstaining, the Board adopted the following actions by a unanimous vote.

Aaron Bullock	Principal Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied his application for certification.
Michael Carrington	Teacher of English as a Second Language Provisional Certificate (renewal) – The Board granted his application for certification.
Ron Evans	Teacher of Elementary School and Teacher of Students with Disabilities – The Board denied his applications for certification.
Joseph Fano	Teacher of Social Studies and Teacher of Psychology – The Board denied his applications for certification.
Debra Lazar	Teacher of Students with Disabilities – The Board denied her application for certification.
Dr. Anne Miller	School Administrator Certificate of Eligibility – The Board

denied her application for certification but granted her credit for five years of teaching in a school setting.

Ronald Moreno Teacher of Law Enforcement – The Board granted his application for certification.

Lauren Natale Emergency Speech-Language Specialist Certificate – The Board granted her application for certification.

Darlene Yarusinsky Teacher of Preschool through Grade Three – 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 Mr. Jess seconded the motion. The candidate in the following case was not present at the July 22, 2010 meeting. The Board adopted the following action by a unanimous vote.

Timothy Wenger Teacher of German Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied his 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 Mr. Jess seconded the motion. The candidate in the following case was present at the June 10, 2010 meeting. With Dr. Gitenstein, Ms. Hennessy and Dr. McNally abstaining, the Board adopted the following action by a unanimous vote.

Sol Pinero Substance Awareness Coordinator – The Board granted his 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 Mr. Jess seconded the motion. The candidate in the following case was not present at the June 10, 2010 meeting. The Board adopted the following action by a unanimous vote.

William Vanore Director of School Counseling Services Certificate – The Board granted his 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 Mr. Jess seconded the motion. The Board adopted the following action by a unanimous vote.

Kristi Monaghan School Library Media Specialist Provisional Certificate – 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:

James Kazanjian – By a vote of 7 to 0, with Dr. Gitenstein and Ms. Hennessy abstaining, the Board voted to revoke his certificates based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime.

Joseph Mazarella – By a vote of 6 to 0, with Dr. Gitenstein, Ms. Hennessy and Dr. McGeehan abstaining, the Board voted to vacate the order to show cause issued to him regarding his standard principal certificate.

Allison Galiano – 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.

Leonard Gnade – 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.

Jose Gonzales – By a vote of 8 to 0, with Dr. McNally recusing herself, the Board voted to revoke his certificate based on the level and nature of the conduct.

James F. Jetter – 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.

James Squicciarini – By a vote of 8 to 0, with Mr. Tirri recusing himself, the Board voted to revoke his certificates based on the level and nature of the conduct.

Joseph F. Zinkiewicz – 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.

Daniel D. Belton – 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.

Kathleen M. Dorsett – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause as to why her certificates should not be suspended pending disposition of criminal charges.

Daniel M. Flynn – 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.

Jeffrey B. Harrington – By a vote of 9 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 and his disqualification from employment in the public schools.

Kevin M. Kriesel – By a vote of 8 to 1, with Mr. Tirri opposing, 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.

Erin M. Markakis – By a vote of 9 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 and crime and her disqualification from employment in the public schools.

Gemar Mills – The Board granted a request by Kenyatta Stewart, Esq. to address the Board. Following a presentation by Mr. Stewart and Mr. Mills, the Board voted 8 to 0, with Mr. Tirri recusing himself, to table this matter in order to obtain additional information.

Sameria R. O’Neil – By a vote of 9 to 0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause as to why her substitute credential should not be revoked based on a misrepresentation on her application, the level and nature of the conduct and crime and her disqualification from employment in the public schools.

Matthew N. Russell – 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.

Dr. McGeehan left the meeting at this time.

Diane A. Hahn – 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.

Abel Oderanti – By a vote of 8 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 and his disqualification from employment in the public schools.

Thomas Papa – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to vacate the order to show cause which had been issued to him pending disposition of criminal charges. By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted 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 and his disqualification from employment in the public schools.

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

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

Vishrani P. Prag – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block her application for certification.

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

John R. Hickman, Jr. – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to grant his request to apply for certification after revocation.

Eric L. Johansen, Jr. – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to grant his request to amend the revocation order in order to clarify his conviction.

Samantha Brooks – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to remove the block on her application for certification.

Anthony J. Iazzetta – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of his certificates with the force and effect of a revocation.

Joseph Mauro – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of his certificates with the force and effect of a revocation.

Loren Caso – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to accept the proposed settlement and consent order in this matter, in which he relinquished his substitute credential 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. Jess seconded the motion. With Dr. Gitenstein and Ms. Hennessy abstaining, the Board adopted the following orders by a unanimous vote.

Orders to Show Cause

R.A.
Mary Ellen Bechard
Broderick Boxley
Richard Koppenaal, Jr.
Megan Laboy
Edgar Padilla
Jeffrey Powell
Marcus Rhaney
Tamica Ruffin
Lawrence Young

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. Jess seconded the motion. With Dr. Gitenstein and Ms. Hennessy abstaining, the Board adopted the following decisions by a unanimous vote.

Revocations/Suspensions

John Hilkevich
Eric L. Johansen, Sr.
Scott Powell
Luciana Recchione
Jilianna Schultz
Gilbert Young, Jr.

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 Mr. Jess seconded the motion. With Dr. Gitenstein and Ms. Hennessy abstaining, the Board adopted the following Order to Show Cause by a unanimous vote.

Karen Ledden

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. Jess seconded the motion. With Mr. Tirri recusing himself and Dr. Gitenstein and Ms. Hennessy abstaining, the Board adopted the following revocation decisions by a unanimous vote.

Carlos Garcia
Michael J. Smith

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

The Board discussed a report issued by the Office of Fiscal Accountability and Compliance (OFAC) titled "Berkeley Heights School District, Charitable Donations by the Board of Education."

Dr. Gitenstein made a motion that the Board adopt a resolution honoring former Board member, Dr. Dawood Farahi, for his service to the Board, and Dr. Nagy seconded the motion. With Mr. Jess abstaining, the Board adopted the resolution by a unanimous vote. Dr. Nagy made a motion that the Board adopt a resolution honoring former Board member, Mr. Thomas MacGregor, for his service to the Board, and Mr. Jess seconded the motion. The Board adopted the resolution by a unanimous vote.

Secretary's Report

Dr. Higgins reported that the number of certification applications is down slightly, presumably as the result of economic conditions and the fact that school districts are hiring fewer staff. In addition, Dr. Higgins indicated that the office would revisit the idea of scanning meeting documents in order to provide them to the Board on a CD.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, which was duly seconded and carried by a unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 1:17 p.m.

The next scheduled public meeting of the State Board of Examiners will be held on Thursday, October 28, 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-9/16/10