

**State Board of Examiners
Minutes of Meeting
200 River View Plaza
First Floor Conference Room
Trenton, New Jersey
January 17, 2014**

Present: Dr. Robert Higgins, Secretary
Ms. Daniela Ivancikova, Deputy Attorney General
Ms. JoAnn Gales
Ms. Kristin Hennessy
Mr. Derek Jess
Dr. Patricia McGeehan
Dr. Mary Jane McNally
Dr. Timothy Purnell
Mr. Peter Tirri
Ms. Gloria Tunstall

Absent: None

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Tirri, Acting Chair, who read the appropriate notice that the meeting complied with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Dr. Purnell moved to adopt the minutes of the meeting of December 6, 2013, and Dr. McNally seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

Individual Credentials Review

The following applicants attended the meeting to respond to any questions from the Board regarding their applications:

Erika Bakelmun
David Cuzzo
James DiDonato (Ms. Gales recused herself.)
Debra Hunter
James Kramer
Suzanne Manning

Jennifer Palma
Jessica Walder

Dawn Sponheimer was 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 December 6, 2013 meeting. The Board adopted the following actions by a unanimous vote.

Amy Bleacher	Teacher of Bilingual/Bicultural Education – The Board denied her application for certification.
James Damiano	Teacher of Students with Disabilities Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing – The Board denied his application for certification.
Jonathan Hart	School Administrator Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied his application for certification.
Nelisette Morales	Principal Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied her application for certification.
Lauren Naselli	Teacher of English as Second Language Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing – The Board denied her application for certification.
Avi Strulson (reconsideration)	Teacher of Mathematics Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing – The Board granted 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 Mr. Jess seconded the motion. The candidates in the following cases were not present at the December 6, 2013 meeting. The Board adopted the following actions by a unanimous vote.

Qiao Jones	Teacher of Chinese Certificate of Eligibility – The Board granted her application for certification.
Allison Miles	Teacher of Mathematics – The Board denied her application for certification but granted her credit for two of the eight semester-hour credits.
Jenna Rinaldi	School Counselor – The Board denied her application for certification.

Fran Sergi-Campolo
(reconsideration)

Principal 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:

Gerard Carroll, Jr. – This matter was withdrawn from the agenda.

Kurt Zimmermann – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to vacate the order to show cause that had been issued to him.

Yakik Rumley – Mr. Rumley and his attorney, Jason E. Sokolowski, Esq., appeared before the Board for a hearing on the sanction issue. Following the hearing, the Board took the matter under advisement and deferred determination until a future meeting.

Catherine DePaul – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to reject the proposed settlement and consent order in this matter. By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to revoke her certificates based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime and her disqualification from public employment.

Francis DeStefano – By a vote of 7 to 0, with Mr. Jess recusing himself, the Board voted to revoke his certificates based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime.

Kelly Anne Orbin – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to vacate the order to show cause that had been issued to her.

Elliot L. Ramo – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to suspend his certificate for 6 months based on the level and nature of the conduct.

Walter V. Davis – This matter was withdrawn from the agenda.

Benjamin J. Norton – The Board granted the request by counsel for Mr. Norton to appear before the Board on his motion to settle the record on appeal. Harold N. Springstead, Esq. and Geoffrey N. Stark, DAG addressed the Board. Following the presentations, Dr. McGeehan made a motion to go into closed session in order to receive legal advice in this matter, which was duly seconded by Dr. Purnell and carried by a unanimous vote. The Board went into closed session at 12:40 p.m. The Board returned to the public session at 12:45 p.m. By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to deny the motion to settle the record on appeal.

Craig L. Bell – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to grant the motion filed by the Deputy Attorney General assigned to the case to file reply exceptions as within time. The Board denied the request by counsel for Mr. Bell for oral argument in this matter. By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to table this matter for further review.

Dr. McGeehan made a motion to go into closed session in order to receive legal advice regarding the matter captioned *In the Matter of the Certificate of Cathleen Van Vorst*, which was duly seconded by Mr. Jess and, with Dr. Purnell recusing himself, carried by a unanimous vote. The Board went into closed session at 12:50 p.m. The Board returned to the public session at 12:55 p.m.

Cathleen Van Vorst – By a vote of 7 to 0, with Dr. Purnell recusing himself, the Board voted to adopt the decision of the Administrative Law Judge in this matter, with modification as to the reasoning and dicta, and to take no action against her certificate.

Justin Dobish – 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.

Kim Innocenti – By a vote of 8 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, her disqualification from employment in the public schools and her failure to report her arrest and conviction to her district.

Robyn Z. Kent – 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 and her disqualification from employment in the public schools.

Barbara Bampoe-Parry – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to table this matter.

Thelma Hurd – By a vote of 8 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.

Kristine Krzeminski – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to table this matter.

Debra Stallone – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to table this matter.

Sandra Sussman – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to table this matter.

Nancy Yacabonis – By a vote of 8 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.

Nelson Evans, Jr. – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to grant his motion for a stay of the Board's suspension order pending determination of his appeal to the Commissioner.

Salaiman Abdullah – By a vote of 7 to 1, with Mr. Tirri opposing, the Board voted to block his application for certification based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime.

Jennalin Garcia-Calle – 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.

Sharon Strack – 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.

Anthony L. Williams – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of his certificate with the force and effect of a revocation.

Edward Esposito – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to accept the proposed settlement and consent order in this matter and to revoke his certificate.

Dr. McGeehan made a motion to go into closed session in order to receive legal advice regarding a settlement proposal in the matter captioned *In the Matter of the Certificates of Lourdes Leon*, which was duly seconded by Dr. Purnell and carried by a unanimous vote. The Board went into closed session at 1:00 p.m. The Board returned to the public session at 1:08 p.m.

Lourdes Leon – By a vote of 8 to 0, the Board voted to reject the proposed settlement and consent order in this matter.

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

Orders to Show Cause

Paige Donaldson
Robert Egles
Alan Hurd
Keisha Morsindi
Laura Murray
Yvette Nichols
Emilio Perez
David Scheck
Maritza Wagensommer

Revocations/Suspensions

Danielle Picklo
John Zawadzki

Other

Michael Bonsu
Nelson Evans, Jr.
Alan Hurd

Donald Salaam

Dr. Purnell 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 Mr. Tirri recusing himself, the Board adopted the following order by a unanimous vote.

Order to Show Cause

Robert Carter

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Mr. Jess reported that the credentials review committee has been receiving a number of appeals based on applicants not receiving verification of program completion forms from colleges and universities. The committee believes that it is unjust to deny certification appeals in circumstances in which colleges and universities are not providing verification of program completion services for students. Consequently, Mr. Jess made a motion that any appeals to the Board involving verification of program completion be remanded to the Division of Higher Education in the Department for review and resolution of such issues prior to those applicants coming before the Board. The motion was duly seconded. After discussion, the Board approved the motion by a unanimous vote.

Secretary's Report

There was no secretary's report.

Adjournment

Mr. Jess 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 1:15 p.m.

The next scheduled public meeting of the State Board of Examiners will be held on Thursday, February 27, 2014 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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