

**State Board of Examiners  
Minutes of Meeting  
200 River View Plaza  
First Floor Conference Room  
Trenton, New Jersey  
September 20, 2013**

**Present:** Dr. Robert Higgins, Secretary  
Ms. Jennifer McGruther, Deputy Attorney General  
Ms. Caroline Jones, Deputy Attorney General  
Ms. JoAnn Gales  
Ms. Kristin Hennessy  
Mr. Derek Jess  
Dr. Patricia McGeehan  
Dr. Mary Jane McNally  
Dr. Timothy Purnell  
Ms. Gloria Tunstall

**Absent:** Mr. Peter Tirri

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

Ms. Tunstall moved to adopt the minutes of the meeting of July 25, 2013, and Dr. Purnell seconded the motion. With Ms. Hennessy abstaining, 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:

Keith Andrews  
Brian McAleer  
Avi Strulson  
James Thomas

Kristin Curry, Heather Harrington, Lisa Hemmerlin and Elena Moran 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 Dr. McNally seconded the motion. The candidates in the following cases were present at the July 25, 2013 meeting. With Ms. Hennessy and Mr. Jess abstaining, the Board adopted the following actions by a unanimous vote.

Jamie Allen	School Counselor – The Board granted her application for certification.
Kerri Amoriello	Teacher of Preschool Through Grade 3 – The Board denied her application for certification.
Matthew Bass	Teacher of Social Studies Certificate of Eligibility – The Board granted his application for certification.
Lisa Della Vecchia	Supervisor – The Board denied her application for certification.
Julie Schwarzwald	Teacher of Social Studies – The Board denied her application for certification.
Lisa Roland Smolenyak	School Counselor and School Social Worker – The Board granted her application for a School Counselor certificate but denied her application for a School Social Worker certificate.
Alexius Southerland	Teacher of Elementary School Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing – The Board denied her application for certification.
Sean Thom	Principal Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied his application for certification.
Thomas Tufaro	Principal Certificate of Eligibility – 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 Dr. McNally seconded the motion. The candidates in the following cases were not present at the July 25, 2013 meeting. With Ms. Hennessy and Mr. Jess abstaining, the Board adopted the following actions by a unanimous vote.

Renee Bannister	Supervisor – The Board denied her application for certification.
Oswaldo Matos	Principal Certificate of Eligibility – The Board

denied his application for certification.

Tamara Ruben

Teacher of Hebrew Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing – The Board granted her application for certification contingent upon her presenting evidence of linguistic proficiency through a passing score on the Oral Proficiency Inventory.

John Schneider

Teacher of Theater Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied his application for certification but granted him credit for six of the 12 advanced semester-hour credits in theater.

### **Legal Committee Report**

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

Danielle Picklo – This matter was withdrawn from the agenda.

John Zawadzki – Mr. Zawadzki 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.

James C. Bonner – 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.

Jason E. Dorrell – 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.

Obawtaye Folayan – 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.

Thomas Hull – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to revoke his substitute credential based on the level and nature of the conduct.

Bernard Shero – 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.

Scott Van Hoven – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to suspend his certificates pending disposition of criminal charges.

Jill Kubicki – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to vacate its previous vote to suspend her certificate for three years and to revoke her certificate based on the level and nature of the conduct.

Nicholas C. Brown – 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.

Sondra J. Franklin – By a vote of 7 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 a court order requiring her to forfeit her certificate as a condition of her acceptance into a pretrial intervention program.

Timothy P. Hanlon – 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, his disqualification from employment in the public schools and the surrender of his certificates in another state.

Peter B. Holmgren – 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 M. Kane – 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, his disqualification from employment in the public schools and a court order requiring him to forfeit his certificates.

Scott M. Rubineti – 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.

Charles J. Reilly – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to vacate the order to show cause it had issued to him and to issue a new order to show cause as to why his certificates should not be suspended pending disposition of criminal charges.

Nelson Evans, Jr. – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to deny his request to address the Board and to adopt the decision of the Administrative Law Judge suspending his certificate for one year based on the level and nature of the conduct.

P.S. – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to modify the decision of the Administrative Law Judge and to revoke her certificates based on the level and nature of the conduct.

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

John E. Eckstine, Jr. – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to block his application for certification based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime.

Tina Y. Hamilton – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to block her application for certification based on the level and nature of the conduct and the suspension of her certificates in another state.

Moses Lewis – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block his application for certification.

Ron D. Roda – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to block his application for certification based on the level and nature of the conduct and crime.

Sean E. Stivers – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of his certificate with the force and effect of a revocation.

Dr. Purnell 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 Certificate of Lori Cooper*, which was duly seconded by Dr. McNally and carried by a unanimous vote. The Board went into closed session at 12:43 p.m. The Board returned to the public session at 12:54 p.m.

Joan Johnson – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to vacate its previous vote to issue an order to show cause to her and 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.

Stephanie M. Klecan – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to vacate its previous vote to issue an order to show cause to her and 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.

Dara Kurlander – This matter was withdrawn from the agenda.

John A. Radzik – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to vacate its previous vote to issue an order to show cause to him and 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 as demonstrated in a tenure decision.

Lisa A. Sivillo – This matter was withdrawn from the agenda.

Sharon Strack – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to vacate the order to show cause that had been issued to her and to issue a new order to show cause as to why her certificates should not be revoked based on the level and nature of the conduct.

Dr. McGeehan made a motion to go into closed session in order to receive legal advice regarding the Robert Treat Academy Charter School OFAC matters captioned *In the Matter of the Certificates of Theresa Adubato*, *In the Matter of the Certificates of Sarah Buttino* and *In the Matter of the Certificates of Michael Pallante*, which was duly seconded by Dr. Purnell and carried by a unanimous vote. The Board went into closed session at 12:58 p.m. The Board returned to the public session at 1:18 p.m.

Theresa Adubato, Sarah Buttino and Michael Pallante – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to take no action at this time.

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 Dr. McGeehan seconded the motion. The Board adopted the following orders by a unanimous vote.

**Orders to Show Cause**

Gerard Carroll, Jr.  
Walter V. Davis  
Judith Elie  
Neville Hector, Jr.  
Ronald Klimik  
Philip B. Stern  
Nicholas G. Syssock  
John Tracey  
Kurt Zimmermann

**Revocations/Suspensions**

Frank D’Alonzo  
Edward Fiszer  
Joseph Miller  
Michael Ritacco  
David Shaw  
Gregory Stauffer  
Richard Wygant

**Other**

William Beltran  
Benjamin Norton  
Andre Williams

Dr. Purnell made a motion that the Board amend its previous vote in order to reflect the recusal of Ms. Hennessy from the Michael Ritacco matter, and Dr. McNally seconded the motion. With Ms. Hennessy recusing herself, the Board adopted the following order by a unanimous vote.

**Revocation**

Michael Ritacco

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 Dr. McNally

seconded the motion. With Ms. Tunstall recusing herself, the Board adopted the following order by a unanimous vote.

**Order to Show Cause**

Lolamarie O'Rourke

**Old Business**

There was no old business.

**New Business**

There was no new business.

**Secretary's Report**

There was no secretary's report.

**Adjournment**

Dr. Purnell made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was duly seconded by Dr. McNally and carried by a unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 1:23 p.m.

The next scheduled public meeting of the State Board of Examiners will be held on Friday, November 1, 2013 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-9/20/13