

**State Board of Examiners
Minutes of Meeting
200 River View Plaza
First Floor Conference Room
Trenton, New Jersey
November 1, 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 September 20, 2013, and Dr. McNally seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

Legal Committee Report

The Legal Committee reviewed the following legal case. The Board took the following action:

Danielle Picklo – Ms. Picklo and her 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.

Ms. Tunstall made a motion to recess the meeting, which was duly seconded by Dr. McNally and carried by unanimous vote. Following the recess, Ms. Gales made a motion to

reopen the meeting, which was duly seconded by Dr. Purnell and carried by a unanimous vote. The meeting was reopened by Mr. Jess, Acting Chair.

Individual Credentials Review

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

Ashley Fudrich
Jacqueline Gambino
Sudha Jyothiraj
Jacqueline Melendez
Wes Mingin
MarySue Murray

Lauren Falivene, Kelly Josberger, Matthew Mignanelli and Fran Sergi-Campolo were not present at the meeting.

Legal Committee Report

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

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

Francis DeStefano – This matter was withdrawn from the agenda.

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

Otto A. Ritter, Jr. – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to revoke his substitute credential based on the level and nature of the conduct.

Jose Arce – 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.

David B. 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 and crime and his disqualification from employment in the public schools.

Michael L. Burden – 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.

Paul C. Canally – 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 revocation of his certificates in another state.

Johnna J. Crawford – By a vote of 7 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.

Jose DaCosta – 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.

Tyrone M. Dinkins – 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.

Dennis H. Feltz – 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 certificates in another state.

Jason B. Fennes – 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 disposition of criminal charges.

Michelle Gibbs – 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.

Edward J. Hartman – 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.

Maria Malanga – By a vote of 7 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.

Jean Mary Ovide – 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 suspended pending disposition of criminal charges.

Maren Sugarman – By a vote of 7 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.

Jernee Kollock – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to vacate the order to show cause it had issued 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.

Robert W. Millner – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to accept the proposed settlement and consent order in this matter and to suspend his certificate for 5 years.

Stephen F. Omert – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to accept the proposed settlement and consent order and to suspend his certificates until such time as final agency action is taken in this matter.

Robert G. Schanne – 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.

P.S. – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to vacate its previous vote in this matter and to accept the factual findings made by the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) but to modify the penalty recommended by the ALJ and revoke P.S.'s certificates 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 a settlement proposal in the matter captioned *In the Matter of the Certificates of Stephen F. Omert*, which was duly seconded by Dr. Purnell and carried by a unanimous vote. The Board went into closed session at 11:34 a.m. The Board returned to the public session at 11:41 a.m.

Stephen F. Omert – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to reject the proposed alternative settlement and consent order in this matter.

James O. Mboya – 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.

Paul Vizzuso – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to take no action against his certificates.

Lawrence Parker – By a vote of 6 to 0, with Ms. Tunstall recusing herself, the Board voted to vacate its previous vote in this matter and to take no action against his certificates.

Brenda Torrence – By a vote of 6 to 0, with Ms. Tunstall recusing herself, the Board voted to vacate its previous vote in this matter and to take no action against her certificates.

Vincent Tirri (*Richard Doe for review purposes) – 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.

Kathleen M. Dorsett – 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.

Lesley Dorsett – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of her certificate with the force and effect of a revocation.

Mark Lemunyon – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of his substitute credential with the force and effect of a revocation.

Credentials Review Consent List

Ms. Gales made a motion to remove Avi Strulson from the credentials review consent list, which was duly seconded by Dr. McNally and carried by a unanimous vote. 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 September 20, 2013 meeting. The Board adopted the following actions by a unanimous vote.

Keith Andrews	Teacher of the Handicapped – The Board denied his application for certification.
Brian McAleer	Supervisor – The Board denied his application for certification.
James Thomas	Provisional Teacher of Preschool through Grade 3 Certificate – 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 Dr. McNally seconded the motion. The candidates in the following cases were not present at the September 20, 2013 meeting. The Board adopted the following actions by a unanimous vote.

Kristin Curry	Supervisor – The Board denied her application for certification.
Heather Harrington	Teacher of Dance Certificate of Eligibility – The Board granted her application for certification.
Lisa Hemmerlin	Substitute Credential – The Board denied her application for certification.
Elena Moran	Supervisor – The Board denied her application for certification.

Dr. Purnell made a motion to add P.S. to the legal consent list, which was duly seconded by Dr. McGeehan and carried by a unanimous vote. 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 Ms. Gales seconded the motion. The Board adopted the following orders by a unanimous vote.

Orders to Show Cause

Nicholas C. Brown
Lori Cooper
Sondra J. Franklin
Timothy P. Hanlon
Peter B. Holmgren
Joan Johnson
Kevin M. Kane
Stephanie M. Klecan
John A. Radzik
Charles J. Reilly
Scott M. Rubinetti
Sharon Strack

Revocations/Suspensions

James C. Bonner
Jason Dorrell
Obawtaye Folayan
Thomas Hull
Jill Kubicki
P.S.
Bernard Shero
Scott Van Hoven

Other - Block Issuance of Certificates

John E. Eckstine
Tina Y. Hamilton
Ron D. Roda

Old Business

Dr. McGeehan made a motion to go into closed session in order to receive legal advice, which was duly seconded by Dr. Purnell and carried by a unanimous vote. The Board went into closed session at 11:54 a.m. The Board returned to the public session at 11:59 a.m.

New Business

The Board reviewed a report issued by the Office of Fiscal Accountability and Compliance regarding alleged violations of NJ ASK test security in the Rahway School District and directed staff to schedule the certificate-holders named in the report for review at a future meeting for consideration of whether to initiate proceedings against their certificates.

Secretary's Report

There was no secretary's report.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, which was duly seconded and carried by a unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

The next scheduled public meeting of the State Board of Examiners will be held on Friday, December 6, 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-11/1/13