

**State Board of Examiners
Minutes of Meeting
200 River View Plaza
First Floor Conference Room
Trenton, New Jersey
January 19, 2017**

Present: Dr. Robert Higgins, Secretary
Ms. Caroline Jones, Deputy Attorney General
Dr. Jonathan Dauber
Mr. Derek Jess
Ms. Kristen Ludman
Dr. Mary Jane McNally
Ms. Dayna Desiderio Orlak
Dr. Timothy Purnell
Dr. Richard Stepura
Ms. Naomi Johnson-Lafleur
Ms. Eileen Johnson

Absent: Ms. Kristin Hennessy
Assistant Commissioner

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

Deputy Attorney General Caroline Jones administered the oath of office to new Board member Eileen Johnson. Mr. Jess welcomed Ms. Johnson to the Board.

Dr. Dauber moved to adopt the minutes of the meeting of December 9, 2016, 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:

- John Costello
- Catherine Gardner
- Laura Godlesky
- Tracy Johnston
- Amy Nass
- Jessica Villanella

Andrea Kohr and Tricia Powell were not present at the meeting.

Credentials Review Consent List

Dr. McNally made a motion that the Board adopt the decisions in the following matters on the credentials review consent list, and Ms. Desiderio Orlak seconded the motion. The candidates in the following cases were present at the December 9, 2016 meeting. The Board adopted the following decisions by a unanimous vote, with Ms. Johnson abstaining.

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Jacqueline Cestero Bailey | Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing: Aural Communications and Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing: American Sign Language - The Board granted her application for certifications. |
| Christina Briskin | Teacher of Career and Technical Education: Theater Arts - The Board denied her application for certification. |
| Morgan Rae Ciani | Teacher of English Certificate of Eligibility - The Board denied her application for certification. |
| Robert Pietrocola | School Business Administrator Certificate of Eligibility - The Board denied his application for certification. |

With Dr. Stepura recusing, Dr. McNally made a motion that the Board adopt the decision in the following matter on the credentials review consent list, and Ms. Desiderio Orlak seconded the motion. The Board adopted the following decision by unanimous vote.

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Michelle Gueli | Teacher of Elementary School Certificate of Eligibility - The Board denied her application for certification. |
|----------------|---|

Dr. McNally made a motion that the Board adopt the decisions in the following matters on the credentials review consent list, and Ms. Desiderio Orlak seconded the motion. The candidates in the

following cases were not present at the December 9, 2016 meeting. The Board adopted the following decisions by a unanimous vote.

Meron Addisu	Student Assistance Coordinator - The Board denied her application for certification.
Jaime Cohen	Reading Specialist - The Board denied her application for certification, but gave her partial credit for a course in Reading Foundations
Gabriela Panayoti	Teacher of Elementary School with Subject Matter Specialization in Language Arts/Literacy - The Board granted her application for certifications.
Denise Gugel Ruggeri	Teacher of Preschool through Grade Three Certificate of Eligibility - The Board denied her application for certifications.

Legal Committee Report

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

Upon motion by Dr. Purnell, seconded by Dr. Dauber, the Board voted to vacate the September 16, 2016 vote regarding Sonora Walters and permit her to appear before the Board for a hearing.

Three hearings were scheduled and all three matters were heard before the Board.

Angela Dunlap-Harris – Ms. Harris, along with her attorney Mr. Paul Tyshchenko, Esquire 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.

Sonora Walters – Ms. Walters appeared *pro se* 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.

Paula Weckesser – Ms. Weckesser, along with her attorney Mr. Edward Cridge, Esquire, 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.

Dr. Purnell made a motion to go into closed session in order to receive legal advice regarding Board procedures as well as the matters captioned *In the Matter of the Certificate(s) of Banmali Banerjee, In the Matter of the Certificate(s) of Dara Kurlander, In the Matter of the Certificate(s) of James Lytle, and In the Matter of the Certificate(s) of Gary Vitta*, which was duly seconded by Dr. Dauber and carried by a unanimous vote. The Board went into closed session at 11:58 a.m.

The Board returned to the public session at 12:41 p.m. following a motion by Dr. Purnell, seconded by Dr. Dauber, and carried by a unanimous vote.

Dr. Purnell made a motion to accept the proposed Consent Order in the matter of Banmali Banerjee, seconded by Dr. Stepura, and approved by unanimous vote.

Dr. Purnell made a motion to accept the proposed Consent Order in the matter of Dara Kurlander, seconded by Dr. Dauber, and approved by a unanimous vote.

Dr. Purnell made a motion to accept the proposed Consent Order in the matter of James Lytle, seconded by Dr. Dauber, and approved by a unanimous vote with Ms. Johnson-Lafleur recusing.

Dr. Purnell made a motion to reject the proposed Consent Order in the matter of Gary Vitta, seconded by Ms. Johnson-Lafleur, and approved by a unanimous vote.

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

Theophilus Burroughs –By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to revoke Mr. Burroughs’ certificates based upon the level and nature of the conduct and crime.

Joseph Devita – By a vote of 9-0, with Ms. Johnson-LaFleur abstaining, the Board voted to suspend Mr. Devita’s certificates for three (3) years based upon the level and nature of the conduct.

Isaiah T. Friday – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to vacate the Order to Show Cause.

Robert Kupcha – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to revoke Mr. Kupcha’s certificates based upon the level and nature of the conduct.

Mahmoud I. Okal – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to suspend Mr. Okal’s certificate(s) for one (1) year based upon the level and nature of the conduct and crime.

David M. Browne – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause as to why his certificate(s) should not be revoked based upon the level and nature of the conduct.

Edward D. Clarke – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to seal the record in this matter. By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause to suspend Mr. Clarke’s certificate(s) pending adjudication of the underlying criminal charges.

Kenneth Emmons, Jr. – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause as to why his certificate(s) should not be revoked based on the level and nature of the conduct.

Jennifer C. Greco – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause as to why her certificate(s) should not be suspended based upon the level and nature of the conduct.

Geoffrey Hamilton –By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause as to why his certificate(s) should not be revoked based on the level and nature of the conduct.

Tahneisha Jones – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause as to why her certificate(s) should not be suspended based on the level and nature of the conduct.

Rita Seipp – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause as to why her certificate(s) should not be revoked based on the level and nature of the conduct.

Richard F. Super – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause to suspend Mr. Super’s certificate(s) pending the outcome of the underlying criminal charges.

Isaias Flowers – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to vacate the block of Mr. Flowers’ application for Teacher of Hospitality and Tourism Management and move the application forward for review.

Lauren Coyle-Mitchell – By a vote of 9-0, as a result of a clerical error on the November 1, 2016 Order to Show Cause issued in this matter, the Board voted to vacate the prior Order to Show Cause and issue a new Order to Show Cause for suspension pending the outcome of the underlying criminal charges.

Samantha Kalafor – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to take no action to block Ms. Kalafor’s application.

Katharine Lindacher – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to take no action to block Ms. Lindacher’s application.

Jehan Barmore – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to take no action to block Ms. Barmore’s application.

Daniel D. Bento - By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to take no action to block Mr. Bento’s application.

Joseph DeFelice - By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of his certificate(s) with the force and effect of a revocation.

Donna Pierce-Faley - By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of her certificate(s) with the force and effect of a revocation.

Legal Consent List

Dr. Dauber made a motion that the Board adopt the following matters that were on the legal consent list memorializing the Board's legal decision from a previous meeting, with Dr. McNally seconding the motion. The Board adopted the following orders by a unanimous vote, with Ms. Johnson and Ms. Johnson-Lafleur abstaining.

Orders to Show Cause

- a. Vincent Ajayi
- b. Antonio J. Cardinale
- c. Chong H. Chang
- d. Deborah Coulson
- e. James Dunckley
- f. Michael D. Fleming
- g. Karen L. Gitelman
- h. Brian L. Hurff
- i. Christopher D. Kuhn
- j. Barbara Moazamian
- k. Barbara Pyne
- l. Luz Ravines
- m. Jason L. Sanders
- n. Stephen R. Schweizer
- o. Jeffrey Tagliareni

Revocations/Suspensions

- p. Abelardo Romero-revoke
- q. Lat Sall-suspend

Matters with Board Member Recusals

- r. Guy Dippolito-suspend-Jonathan Dauber recusal

Dr. Purnell then made a motion to go into executive session to obtain legal advice regarding the Motion to Stay filed in *IMO Certificates of Guy Dippolito*. Ms. Desiderio Orlak seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously and the Board went into executive session at 12:52 pm. Dr. Dauber recused himself from the discussion.

Ms. Desiderio Orlak made a motion to go into open session, which was seconded by Dr. Dauber and unanimously approved by the Board at 12:56 pm.

Dr. Purnell made a motion to deny Mr. Dippolito's Motion for a Stay, Ms. Desiderio Orlak seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously with Ms. Johnson abstaining and Dr. Dauber recusing.

The Board was then provided copies of a draft decision on the Motion to Stay based upon the Board's action upon the Motion. The Board reviewed the draft decision for approximately 5 minutes.

Dr. Purnell then made a motion to adopt the written decision that had been reviewed by the Board and Dr. Stepura seconded the motion. With Ms. Johnson abstaining and Dr. Dauber recusing, the Board adopted the written decision denying Mr. Dippolito's Motion for a Stay unanimously.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Secretary's Report

None.

Adjournment

Ms. Desiderio Orlak made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was duly seconded by Dr. Dauber 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 Friday, March 3, 2017 in the first floor conference room, 200 River View Plaza, Trenton, New Jersey.

Minutes prepared by Kimberly A. Gatti

Minutes certified by Robert R. Higgins, Secretary