



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

KIMBERLEY HARRINGTON
Acting Commissioner

**State Board of Examiners
Minutes of Meeting
200 River View Plaza
First Floor Conference Room
Trenton, New Jersey
March 3, 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
Dr. Richard Stepura
Ms. Naomi Johnson-Lafleur
Ms. Eileen Johnson

Absent: Dr. Timothy Purnell
Ms. Dayna Desiderio Orlak
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.

Mr. Jess read a resolution honoring resigning Board Member Kristin Hennessy. The resolution was moved by Dr. Stepura, seconded by Dr. Dauber, and unanimously approved. The Board thanks Ms. Hennessy for her service.

Dr. McNally moved to adopt the minutes of the meeting of January 19, 2017, and Dr. Dauber 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:

Jin Young Lee
Carlos Navas
Melissa Pino
Katie Rocci
Olga Rogachevskaya-Chu
Helen Snowden

The Board had a question for Mr. Navas regarding his curriculum planning. The Board also had a question for Ms. Rogachevskaya-Chu regarding her background in sculpture.

Barbara Hargord, Jennifer Maioriello, and Amanda McGreggor 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 Dr. Stepura seconded the motion. The candidates in the following cases were present at the January 19, 2017 meeting. The Board adopted the following decisions by a unanimous vote.

John Costello	Teacher of Career and Technical Education: Law Enforcement Certificate of Eligibility - The Board granted his application for certifications.
Catherine Gardner	Teacher of Technology Education - The Board denied her application for certification. However, the Board granted partial credit for 12 semester-hour credits of which six of the credits are at the advanced level and include the following areas of study: Nature of Technology; Technology Design, Information and Communication and Construction Technology.
Laura Godlesky	School Administrator Certificate of Eligibility - The Board denied her application for certification.
Tracy Johnston	Teacher of English as a Second Language - The Board denied her application for certification.
Amy Nash	Supervisor - The Board denied her application for certification.
Jessica Villanella	Teacher of Elementary School - 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 Dr. Stepura seconded the motion. The candidates in the following cases were not present at the January 19, 2017 meeting. The Board adopted the following decisions by a unanimous vote.

Andrea Kohr Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing: Language Communication - The Board denied her application for certification.

Trisha Powell Teacher of students with Disabilities Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced - The Board denied her application for certification.

Legal Committee Report

There were no hearings scheduled for March 3, 2017.

Dr. Dauber made a motion to go into closed session in order to receive legal advice regarding the matters captioned *In the Matter of the Certificate(s) of Christopher S. Baldwin, In the Matter of the Certificate(s) of Gary Borges, In the Matter of the Certificate(s) of Rolando Laguna, In the Matter of the Certificate(s) of Michael J. Leibowitz, In the Matter of the Certificate(s) of Denise Taylor, In the Matter of the Certificate(s) of Gary Vitta, and In the Matter of the Certificate(s) of Joshua S. Williams*, which was duly seconded by Dr. McNally and carried by a unanimous vote. The Board went into closed session at 11:53 a.m.

The Board returned to the public session at 12:28 p.m. following a motion by Dr. Stepura, seconded by Dr. McNally, and carried by a unanimous vote.

The Board took the following action with regard to items on the Consent Order portion of the agenda:

Ms. Johnson-LaFleur made a motion to accept the proposed Consent Order in the matter of Christopher S. Baldwin, seconded by Dr. McNally, and approved by unanimous vote, with Dr. Dauber recusing.

Dr. Dauber made a motion to accept the proposed Consent Order in the matter of Gary Borges, seconded by Ms. Ludman, and approved by a unanimous vote.

Dr. Dauber made a motion to reject the proposed Consent Order in the matter of Rolando Laguna, seconded Ms. Johnson-LaFleur, and approved by a unanimous vote.

Dr. Dauber made a motion to reject the proposed Consent Order in the matter of Michael J. Leibowitz, seconded by Ms. Johnson-LaFleur, and approved by a unanimous vote.

Dr. Dauber made a motion to accept the proposed Consent Order in the matter of Denise Taylor, seconded by Ms. Johnson-LaFleur, and approved by a unanimous vote.

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

Dr. Dauber made a motion to accept the proposed Consent Order in the matter of Joshua S. Williams, 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 on those matters. The Board took the following actions:

Christopher Boss –By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to revoke Mr. Boss’ certificates based upon the level and nature of the conduct and crime and his disqualification from employment in public schools.

Frederick Ecke – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to revoke Mr. Ecke’s certificates based upon the level and nature of the conduct and crime.

Jason D. Mazzatenta – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to revoke Mr. Mazzatenta’s certificates based upon the level and nature of the conduct and crime and his disqualification from employment in public schools.

Rachel Wall – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to revoke Ms. Wall’s certificates based upon the level and nature of the conduct and crime.

Angela Dunlap-Harris – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to vacate the Order to Show Cause previously issued to Ms. Dunlap-Harris.

Sonora A. Walters – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to vacate the Order to Show Cause previously issued to Ms. Walters.

Paula Weckesser – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to suspend Ms. Weckesser’s certificates for a period of two (2) years.

Bryan Caputo - By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause as to why his certificates should not be revoked based upon the level and nature of the conduct and crime.

Rochelle R. Caraway – By a vote of 7-0, 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.

Dennis DeMarino – By a vote of 7-0, with Mr. Jess recusing, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause as to why his certificate(s) should not be suspended based upon the level and nature of the conduct.

James Gardner –By a vote of 7-0, 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 and crime and his disqualification from employment in public schools.

Meg Geisser – By a vote of 7-0, 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 and crime.

Lucia Gomez-Jimenez – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to seal the record in this case. The Board then voted 7-0 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 and crime.

Sheila Kairu (Kabinge) – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause as to why Ms. Kairu’s certificate(s) should not be suspended pending the outcome of the underlying criminal charges.

Troy R. Leonard – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause as to why his certificates should not be revoked based upon the level and nature of the conduct and crime and the fact that Mr. Leonard is disqualified from employment in public schools.

Melissa McCray – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to take no action in this matter.

Andrew R. Pron – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause as to why his certificates should not be revoked based upon the level and nature of the conduct.

Alex Ramadanis – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to issue order to show cause as to why his certificates should not be revoked based upon the level and nature of the conduct, and the action taken against his out of state license.

Michael P. Ryan – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause as to why his certificates should not be revoked based upon the level and nature of the conduct and crime and his disqualification from employment in public schools.

Ricardo H. Walker – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to table this matter.

Nadine A. Wright – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause as to why her certificates should not be revoked based upon the level and nature of the conduct and crime, and her disqualification from employment in public schools.

Sharon H. Gonzalez – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to vacate the Order to Show Cause previously issued to Ms. Gonzalez for suspension pending the outcome of the underlying criminal charges.

Anette Guagliardo – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to table this matter in order to obtain additional information from Ms. Guagliardo.

Joseph Mahon – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to retain the matter following return of the case from the Office of Administrative Law as a result of Mr. Mahon’s failure to appear.

Gnanaseharan Selliah – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to block Mr. Selliah’s application and 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.

Amin K. Hussain-El – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to block Mr. Hussain-El’s application.

Charles J. Jeffrey – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to block Mr. Jeffrey’s application.

David C. Raffo - By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to block Mr. Raffo's application and 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.

Shaniqua Hutchinson – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to vacate the prior vote to take no action to block her application. The Board then voted by a vote of 7-0, to block her application for certification.

Akinola (Ayodele) Akiwowo – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of his certificate(s) with the force and effect of a revocation.

Randi R. Botwinick - By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of her certificate(s) with the force and effect of a revocation.

Linda Hardan - By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of her certificate(s) with the force and effect of a revocation.

Keith J. Messmer - By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of his certificate(s) with the force and effect of a revocation.

Jaime Rodriguez - By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of his 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 decisions from a previous meeting, with Ms. Ludman seconding the motion. The Board adopted the following orders by a unanimous vote, with Dr. Stepura abstaining as to Geoffrey Hamilton.

Orders to Show Cause

- a. David M. Browne
- b. Edward D. Clarke
- c. Kenneth Emmons, Jr.
- d. Jennifer C. Greco
- e. Tahneisha Jones
- f. Rita Seipp
- g. Richard F. Super

Revocations/Suspensions

- h. Theophilus Burroughs-revoke
- i. Joseph Devita-suspend
- j. Robert Kupcha-revoke
- k. Mahmoud I. Okal-suspend

Matters with Board Member Recusals

1. Geoffrey Hamilton-OSC-Richard Stepura recusal

Old Business

None.

New Business

Dr. Higgins advised the Board regarding code modifications and creation of the Board meeting calendar for the 2017-2018 year.

Secretary's Report

None.

Adjournment

Ms. Johnson-LaFleur 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 12:48 p.m.

The next scheduled public meeting of the State Board of Examiners will be held on Thursday, April 6, 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

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