



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

KIMBERLEY HARRINGTON
Commissioner

**State Board of Examiners
Minutes of Meeting
200 River View Plaza
First Floor Conference Room
Trenton, New Jersey
July 27, 2017**

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

Absent: Ms. Fidelia Sturdivant
Ms. Naomi Johnson-Lafleur
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.

Dr. Dauber moved to adopt the minutes of the meeting of June 15, 2017, and Dr. McNally seconded the motion. Ms. Ludman noted an error on the minutes that required correction. The minutes, with correction noted, were then approved by a unanimous vote, with Ms. Ludman and Dr. Stepura abstaining.

Individual Credentials Review

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

Lisa Bernardo
Kristin Cilento
Nicole Landacini
Richard Lil

Jason Nahum
Gwendolyn Ndubisi
Yakik Rumley
Anthony Sabia

The Board had a question for Ms. Ndubisi regarding her multimedia experience. Ms. Catherine Baier did not attend 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 June 15, 2017 meeting. The Board adopted the following decisions by a unanimous vote, with Ms. Ludman abstaining as to both and Dr. Stepura abstaining as to Ms. Gutierrez-Torres, and recusing as to Ms. Knutelsky.

Yackeline Gutierrez Torres

Teacher of English as a Second Language Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied her application for certification.

Robin Knutelsky

School Administrator Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied her application for certification.

Legal Committee Report

There was one (1) hearing scheduled.

Tahneisha Jones – Ms. Jones appeared with her counsel, Mr. Eugene Liss, for a hearing on the issue of sanction. Following the hearing, the Board advised Ms. Jones that it would take the matter under advisement and defer determination until a future meeting.

Dr. Dauber made a motion to go into closed session in order to receive legal advice regarding matters on the Consent Order portion of the agenda, which was duly seconded by Dr. McNally and carried by a unanimous vote. The Board went into closed session at 11:25 a.m.

The Board returned to the public session at 12:12 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 regarding to items on the Consent Order portion of the agenda:

Dr. Dauber made a motion to add the matter of Justin Soccol to the agenda, which was seconded Dr. McNally and approved by unanimous vote.

Tahneisha Jones – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to vacate the Order to Show Cause issued to Ms. Jones.

Joseph S. Giambri – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to accept the proposed consent order in this matter.

Kenyada A. Mitchell – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to reject the proposed consent order in this matter.

Navneet Sachar – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to accept the proposed consent order in this matter.

Justin Soccol - By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to reject the proposed consent order in this matter.

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

James P. Lang –By a vote of 5-0, with Ms. Ludman and Dr. Stepura abstaining, the Board voted to vacate the Order to Show Cause previously issued to Mr. Lang.

Jason Sanders – By a vote of 5-0, with Ms. Ludman and Dr. Stepura abstaining, the Board voted to vacate the Order to Show Cause previously issued to Mr. Sanders.

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

John Hackney – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to revoke Mr. Hackney’s certificates based upon the level and nature of the conduct and crime and action against his out of state license.

Geoffrey T. Hamilton – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to revoke Mr. Hamilton’s certificates based upon the level and nature of the conduct.

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

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

Sheila Kairu (Kabinge) – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to suspend Ms. Kairu’s certificates pending the outcome of the underlying criminal charges.

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

Emilio Perez – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to revoke Mr. Perez’s certificates based upon the level and nature of the conduct and crime and his forfeiture of public employment.

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

Frank P. Bennett – 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 public school employment.

Shann L. Blau (Weidl) – 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 and her disqualification from public school employment.

Glenn Ciripompa – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to vacate the previously issued Order to Show Cause and to issue a new Order to Show Cause for revocation based upon the level and nature of the conduct.

Jacquelyn Conroy – 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.

Guy P. Fowler – 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 public school employment.

Ashley L. Frabizzio – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to issue order to show cause as to why her certificates should not be revoked based upon the level and nature of the conduct.

Brigitte Geiger – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to vacate the previously issued Order to Show Cause and issue a new Order to Show Cause for suspension based upon the level and nature of the conduct.

Sharon Jones - By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to vacate the previously issued Order to Show Cause and issue a new Order to Show Cause for suspension based upon the level and nature of the conduct.

Nicholas J. Kita – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to vacate the previously issued Order to Show Cause for suspension pending the outcome of the underlying criminal charges and issue a new Order to Show Cause for revocation based upon the level and nature of the conduct.

Bradley E. Mea – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause as to why his certificates should not be suspended pending the outcome of the underlying criminal charges.

Belinda Mendez-Azzolini – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to issue order to show cause as to why her certificates should not be suspended based upon the level and nature of the conduct.

Virginia Vertetis – 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 disqualification from public school employment.

Richard F. Super – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to vacate the Order to Show Cause for suspension pending the outcome of the underlying criminal charges and to accept the relinquishment of his certificates in this matter.

Curtis D. Baker – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to take no action.

Valon Beasley - By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to block Ms. Beasley’s application for certification.

David S. Gorman – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to block Mr. Gorman’s application for certification.

Adam R. Kean – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to block Mr. Kean’s application for certification.

Mitchell S. Nock – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to taken no action to block.

Robert A. Savage – 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

Ms. Ludman 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 Ms. Johnson seconding the motion. The Board adopted the following orders by a unanimous vote with Ms. Ludman and Dr. Stepura abstaining.

Orders to Show Cause

- a. Patrick Algieri
- b. Jeffrey D. Deverin
- c. Freddie L. Henry
- d. Matthew Hoffman
- e. Robert E. Mays
- f. Anthony S. Quartarolo
- g. Dennis R. Thomas

Revocations/Suspensions

- h. Donald DeWitt-revoke
- i. Brian L. Hurff-revoke
- j. Christopher D. Kuhn-revoke
- k. Lisa A. Sivillo-revoke

Other

- l. Nicholas Spiniello-block
- m. Eloise Stewart-adopt Initial Decision
- n. Isaiah Young-block

Old Business

Dr. Higgins discussed responsive action to a security matter.

New Business

None.

Secretary's Report

None.

Adjournment

Dr. McNally made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was duly seconded by Ms. Ludman and carried by a unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 12:27 p.m.

The next scheduled public meeting of the State Board of Examiners will be held on Friday, September 15, 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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