

**State Board of Examiners
Minutes of Meeting
200 River View Plaza
First Floor Conference Room
Trenton, New Jersey
September 16, 2016**

Present: Dr. Robert Higgins, Secretary
Ms. Caroline Jones, Deputy Attorney General
Assistant Commissioner Robert Bumpus
Dr. Jonathan Dauber
Mr. Derek Jess
Ms. Naomi Johnson-Lafleur
Dr. Mary Jane McNally
Dr. Laura Morana present via telephone beginning at 11:36 am
Ms. Dayna Desiderio Orlak

Absent: Ms. Kristin Hennessy
Dr. Timothy Purnell

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. McNally moved to adopt the minutes of the meeting of June 23, 2016, and Dr. Dauber seconded the motion. With Assistant Commissioner Bumpus abstaining, and Dr. Morana not present on the phone at this time, 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:

Gabrielle Burgo
Erin Gorski
David Greene
Lauren Spooner
Vicki Jenkins

Kashon Burden-Abdul Qadir, Romidel Conde, Christina Evans, Trisha Fagan, Alicia Lassiter Glikas, and Joseph Linhares 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. Dauber seconded the motion. The candidates in the following cases were present at the June 23, 2016 meeting. With Ms. Johnson-Lafleur and Assistant Commissioner Bumpus abstaining, and Dr. Morana not present on the phone at this time, the Board adopted the following decisions by a unanimous vote.

Jessica Ramsden	School Counselor – The Board denied her application for certification, but granted her partial credit for three graduate credits in study of Community Agencies Organizations and Resources
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Dr. McNally made a motion that the Board adopt the decisions in the following matters on the credentials review consent list, and Dr. Dauber seconded the motion. The candidates in the following cases were not present at the June 23, 2016 meeting. With Ms. Johnson-Lafleur and Assistant Commissioner Bumpus abstaining, and Dr. Morana not present on the phone at this time, the Board adopted the following decisions by a unanimous vote.

David Fauvell	Teacher of Technology Education - The Board denied his application for certification, but granted him partial credit for three credits in Construction Technology and three credits in Energy and Power Technology.
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Laura Kehoe	Teacher of English Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied her application for certification.
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Duane Miller	Supervisor – The Board denied his certification.
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Dana Orner	Teacher of Preschool through Grade Three - The Board denied her application for certification.
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Benjamin Suro	Supervisor – The Board denied his application for certification, but granted partial credit for three graduate credits in General Principles of Staff Supervision in Preschool through Grade 12 and three graduate elective credits in Instructional Staff Supervision and/or Curriculum Design and Development.
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Legal Committee Report

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

The hearing scheduled in the matters of Lat Sall, Gary Vitta, and Paula Weckesser were adjourned for another date.

Allison Anderson – By a vote of 6-0 (Dr. Morana not present on the phone at the time), the Board voted to suspend Ms. Anderson’s certificates until June 30, 2018 based upon the level and nature of the conduct.

Ashley M. Certo – By a vote of 6-0 (Dr. Morana not present on the phone at the time), the Board voted to revoke Ms. Certo’s certificates based upon the level and nature of the conduct and crime and her disqualification from employment in public schools.

Remarno O. Chambers – By a vote of 6-0 (Dr. Morana not present on the phone at the time), the Board voted to revoke Mr. Chambers’ certificates based upon the level and nature of the conduct and crime and his disqualification from employment in public schools.

Sonora A. Walters - By a vote of 6-0 (Dr. Morana not present on the phone at the time), the Board voted to suspend Ms. Walters for a period of three (3) years based upon the level and nature of the conduct.

Jennifer Filo - By a vote of 6-0 (Dr. Morana not present on the phone at the time), the Board voted to transmit the matter to the Office of Administrative Law for a factual hearing.

Phyllis D. Jackson - By a vote of 6-0 (Dr. Morana not present on the phone at the time), the Board voted to suspend Ms. Jackson for a period of six (6) months based upon the level and nature of the conduct.

Ronald Tuitt - By a vote of 6-0 (Dr. Morana not present on the phone at the time), the Board voted to table the matter until the November 1, 2016 meeting.

Shawn Sochaski - By a vote of 6-0 (Dr. Morana not present on the phone at the time), the Board voted to adopt the initial decision of the Office of Administrative Law.

John Q. Angeline – By a vote of 6 to 0 (Dr. Morana not present on the phone at the time), the Board voted to suspend Mr. Angeline’s certificates pending disposition of the underlying criminal charges.

Bruce Aristeo – By a vote of 6 to 0 (Dr. Morana not present on the phone at the time), 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 the public schools.

Luke Bakula - By a vote of 6 to 0 (Dr. Morana not present on the phone at the time), the Board voted to suspend Mr. Bakula’s certificates pending resolution of the underlying criminal charges.

Joseph Benevuto – By a vote of 6 to 0 (Dr. Morana not present on the phone at the time), 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 the public schools.

Lauren Coyle-Mitchell - By a vote of 6 to 0 (Dr. Morana not present on the phone at the time), the Board voted to suspend Ms. Coyle-Mitchell's certificates pending resolution of the underlying criminal charges.

Sharon Gonzalez - By a vote of 6 to 0 (Dr. Morana not present on the phone at the time), the Board voted to suspend Ms. Gonzalez' certificates pending resolution of the underlying criminal charges.

Richard Howell - By a vote of 6 to 0 (Dr. Morana not present on the phone at the time), 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 the public schools.

Michael Martino - By a vote of 6 to 0 (Dr. Morana not present on the phone at the time), the Board voted to seal the record to protect the identity of minors and to suspend Mr. Martino's certificates pending resolution of the underlying criminal charges.

Adam Mayr - By a vote of 6 to 0 (Dr. Morana not present on the phone at the time), the Board voted to suspend Mr. Mayr's certificates pending resolution of the underlying criminal charges.

Navneet Sachar – By a vote of 6 to 0 (Dr. Morana not present on the phone at the time), 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.

Ryan Tirrell – By a vote of 6 to 0 (Dr. Morana not present on the phone at the time), 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.

Dr. Morana attends the meeting via telephone at 11:36 am.

Barbara C. Williams - By a vote of 7 to 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.

John J. March - By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to accept the voluntary surrender of his certificate.

Edward C. Meier - By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to suspend his certificate(s), with consent, pending disposition of criminal charges.

James H. Cottingham – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of his certificate(s) with the force and effect of a revocation.

Erin Gorski – with Dr. McNally recusing, the Board returned to Credential Reviews and had no questions for Ms. Gorski.

Mary Sue Fisco – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to table this matter for future review.

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

Tyler Van Pelt – By a vote of 6 to 0, with Dr. Dauber recusing, the Board voted to suspend Mr. Van Pelt for a period of five (5) years based upon the level and nature of the conduct.

Jeff Simon – By a vote of 6 to 0, with Dr. Dauber recusing, the Board voted to suspend Mr. Simon for a period of one (1) year based upon the level and nature of the conduct.

David M. Pekarek – By a vote of 6 to 0, with Ms. Johnson-Lafleur recusing, the Board voted to adopt the initial decision with modification of penalty from revocation to a suspension of two (2) years.

Anthony J. Veiga – By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block Mr. Veiga’s application.

Clyde J. Bell - By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block Mr. Veiga’s application.

Marc J. Epsieg - By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block Mr. Epsieg’s application.

Tina L. Fulmore - By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to block Ms. Fulmore’s application.

Jordann Lamont Smith - By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to block Mr. Smith’s application.

LeCounte Teele - By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to take no action to block Mr. Teele’s application.

Conrad R. Williams - By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to block Mr. Williams’ application.

Kristofer Zajkowski - By a vote of 7 to 0, the Board voted to block Mr. Zajkowski’s application.

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, and Dr. Morana seconded the motion. With Assistant Commissioner Bumpus abstaining, the Board adopted the following orders by a unanimous vote.

Orders to Show Cause

Eliud Amaya
Frederick Ecke

Christina Fasanella
Robert Kupcha

Jason D. Mazzatenta
Rachel A. Wall

Revocations/Suspensions

Michael Dougherty-revoke
Jolan Tadros-revoke

Other

Randall Hunt-modify Initial Decision from OAL-revoke

Ms. Desiderio Orlak made a motion to go into closed session in order to receive legal advice regarding settlement proposals in the matters captioned *In the Matter of the Certificate(s) of Gerard Carroll, Jr., In the Matter of the Certificate(s) of Felicia Kenny, In the Matter of the Certificate(s) of Pamela Lack, In the Matter of the Certificate(s) of Daniel Laws, In the Matter of the Certificate(s) of Joseph Mahon, In the Matter of the Certificate(s) of Lois Rotella, In the Matter of the Certificate(s) of Denise Taylor and In the Matter of the Certificate(s) of Fern Zinkoski*, which was duly seconded by Dr. McNally and carried by a unanimous vote. The Board went into closed session at 11:48 a.m.

The Board returned to the public session at 12:17 p.m.

Kristofer Zajkowski – Dr. Dauber moved that the Board vacate its action to block Mr. Zajkowski’s certificate(s), which was seconded by Ms. Johnson-Lafleur and approved unanimously by the Board. Dr. Dauber then moved to have the matter discussed with the Board, which was seconded by Assistant Commissioner Bumpus and approved unanimously by the Board. Following discussion, Ms. Johnson-Lafleur moved that the Board take no action to block Ms. Zajkowski’s application for certification(s), which was seconded by Assistant Commissioner Bumpus and unanimously approved by the Board.

Lois Rotella – By a vote of 6 to 0, with Mr. Jess recusing, the Board voted to accept the proposed settlement and consent order in this matter and to revoke Ms. Rotella’s certificate(s).

Ms. Johnson-Lafleur left the meeting at 12:25 pm.

Gerard Carroll, Jr. – By a vote of 6 to 0, the Board voted to reject the proposed settlement and consent order in this matter.

Felicia Kenny – By a vote of 6 to 0, the Board voted to reject the proposed settlement and consent order in this matter.

Pamela Lack – By a vote of 6 to 0, the Board voted to accept the proposed settlement and consent order in this matter and to suspend Ms. Lack for a period of two (2) months per the terms of the agreement.

Daniel Laws – By a vote of 6 to 0, the Board voted to accept the proposed settlement and consent order in this matter and to revoke Mr. Laws’ certificates.

Joseph Mahon – By a vote of 6 to 0, the Board voted to reject the proposed settlement and consent order in this matter.

Denise Taylor – By a vote of 6 to 0, the Board voted to reject the proposed settlement and consent order in this matter.

Fern Zinkoski - By a vote of 6 to 0, the Board voted to accept the proposed settlement and consent order in this matter and to suspend her certificate(s) for 1 year.

Old Business

None.

New Business

On motion by Dr. McNally, seconded by Dr. Dauber, and carried by unanimous vote, Mr. Jess read a resolution thanking Dr. Patricia McGeehan for her service and contribution to the Board.

Secretary’s Report

None.

Adjournment

Assistant Commissioner Bumpus 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 12:30 p.m.

The next scheduled public meeting of the State Board of Examiners will be held on Tuesday, November 1, 2016 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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