

**State Board of Examiners
Minutes of Meeting
200 River View Plaza
First Floor Conference Room
Trenton, New Jersey
December 13, 2019**

Present: Mr. Geoffrey Stark, Deputy Attorney General
Ms. Rani Singh, Secretary
Ms. Thelma Ramsey
Dr. Mary Jane McNally
Ms. Suzana Zeitz
Ms. Dayna Desiderio Orlak
Ms. Naomi Johnson-Lafleur
Assistant Commissioner AbdulSaleem Hasan
Ms. Kristen Ludman
Mr. Derek Jess

Absent: Dr. Jonathan Dauber
Dr. Eileen Johnson

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Derek 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 November 1, 2019. Ms. Ludman seconded the motion. The minutes were then 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:

Elizabeth Asamoah

The following applicants did not attend the meeting:

Judith Brauburger
Cara Harms
Partha Roy
Lisa Sayin

Credentials Review Consent List

Dr. McNally made a motion to adopt the decisions in the following matters on the credentials review consent list, and Ms. Desiderio Orlak seconded the motion. The Board adopted the following decisions by a unanimous vote with Assistant Commissioner Hasan recusing as to Mr. Robert Yaiser. The candidates in the following cases were present at the November 1, 2019 meeting. The Board adopted the following decisions:

Salvatore Frangipane	Teacher of Social Studies, Teacher of English, and Teacher of Students with Disabilities Certificate - The Board denied his application for standard certificates in these areas.
Claudia Guerschanik	Teacher of English as a Second Language (ESL) Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing – The Board denied her application for certification.
Constance Reader	School Counselor certificate – The Board denied her application for certification but granted her credit for certain coursework.
Stephen Spotts	Teacher of Marketing Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied his application for certification.
Robert Yaiser	School Administrator Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied his application for certification.

Dr. McNally made a motion to adopt the decisions in the following matters on the credentials review consent list, and Ms. Desiderio Orlak seconded the motion. The Board adopted the following decisions by a unanimous vote. The candidates in the following cases were not present at the November 1, 2019 meeting.

Sarah Maddred	Teacher of Preschool Through Third Grade Certificate of Eligibility - The Board denied her application for certification.
Suzanne Osborne	Teacher of Business: Economics, Finance and Law Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied her applications

for certification but granted credit three semester hours credits in Finance.

Legal Committee Report

Before the Board began the legal portion of the agenda, the Board heard Jason Eitner, a certificate holder who was on the agenda for consideration of a consent order relating to her educator certificate(s). Prior to the start of the meeting, Mr. Eitner requested to make a statement before the Board. Ms. Ludman recused herself from the meeting as she is recused from the matter concerning Mr. Eitner. Thereafter, the Board allowed Mr. Eitner the opportunity to speak. Mr. Eitner spoke for several minutes addressing his personal circumstance(s) as it relates to action against his certificate(s). Following Mr. Eitner's statement, the Board made a motion to accept the consent order in his matter. On motion by Ms. Johnson LaFleur, seconded by Dr. McNally, with Ms. Ludman recusing, the Board voted to accept the consent order in Mr. Eitner's matter.

There were three (3) hearings scheduled. Anisa Johnson did not appear for hearing, so the Board heard 2 of the 3 scheduled hearings.

The first hearing was *In the Matter of the Certificates of Kesnold Baptiste*. Mr. Baptiste appeared with his counsel and a hearing was held.

The second hearing was *In the Matter of the Certificates of Jennifer Pechko*. Ms. Pechko appeared with her counsel and both made statements to the Board.

Ms. Johnson LaFleur 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 11:45 am. Ms. Johnson LaFleur left the meeting during executive session at 11:50 am.

The Board returned to the public session following a motion by Ms. Desiderio Orlak, seconded by Ms. Ludman and by carried by a unanimous vote. The Board returned to the public portion of the meeting at 11:55 am.

On motion by Ms. Ludman, seconded by Dr. McNally, the Board moved to amend the agenda to add the matters of Nicholas Anagnostos and Rachel Sorotzkin. The Board then took the following action with regarding items on the agenda:

Nicholas Anagnostos – By a vote of 7-0, with Ms. Ludman recusing, the Board voted to accept the proposed consent order in this matter.

Rachel Sorotzkin - By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to vacate the previously issued Order to Show Cause in this matter.

Donald F. Cesaretti –By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to suspend Mr. Cesaretti's certificate(s) for one year based upon the level and nature of the conduct.

Lisa Davenport – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to suspend Ms. Davenport’s certificate(s) for a period of 2 years based upon the level and nature of the conduct and action against out of state licensing.

Darius Griffin - By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to revoke Mr. Griffin’s certificate(s) based upon the level and nature of the conduct and crime and disqualification from public school employment.

Georgiana Jackson - By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to vacate the Order to Show Cause issued to Ms. Jackson in this matter.

Edward L. Black - By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment with the force and effect of revocation.

Brantley N. Cesanek – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment with the force and effect of revocation.

Eugene J. Colbert – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment with the force and effect of revocation.

Darren R. Pieper – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment with the force and effect of revocation.

Casey J. Scheiner - By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment with the force and effect of revocation.

Stevan A. Austino – 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 upon the level and nature of the conduct and crime and disqualification from public school employment.

Catherine N. Bannister (Mitchko) – 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 suspended pending the outcome of the underlying criminal charges.

Kimberly A. Bargiel – 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 upon the level and nature of the conduct and crime and disqualification from public school employment.

Amy F. Garcia – 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 upon the level and nature of the conduct and action against out of state licenses.

Staci A. Laubauskas – 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 upon the level and nature of the conduct and crime and disqualification from public school employment.

Jayson V. Lavorne – 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 upon the level and nature of the conduct.

Richard N. Leonard - 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 upon the level and nature of the conduct and crime and disqualification from public school employment.

Sonia Nunez - 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 upon the level and nature of the conduct and action against out of state license(s).

Christopher Schraufnagel - 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 upon the level and nature of the conduct and crime and action against out of state license(s).

Velita Smith - 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 upon the level and nature of the conduct and action against out of state license(s).

Michael Carmiche, Jr. - By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to adopt the initial decision in this matter.

Lesley A. Etheridge – A final decision in this matter could not be made until the Board’s January 23, 2020 meeting. The OAL, however, notified the Board on December 13, 2019 that it was unable to grant an extension in this matter to extend the Board’s time to issue a final decision beyond December 16, 2019. Accordingly, the Board took no action on this matter.

James Smith - By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to adopt the initial decision in this matter with a penalty of four-month suspension on the principal certificate of eligibility and supervisor certificates.

Sheila Kairu (Kabinge) - By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to vacate the previously issued suspension pending order and to vacate the Order to Show Cause seeking revocation.

Shanna L. Blau – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to vacate the previously issued order to show cause for revocation and to issue a new order to show cause based upon conduct.

Alexander Spanja – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to close the order to show cause as moot in this matter as Mr. Spanja’s credential expired.

Michael O. Bonsu – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to grant his application for certification after revocation.

Grisel Perez – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to accept the voluntary surrender of Ms. Perez’ Bilingual certificate.

Thomas Hewitt – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to take no action to block.

Rebekah S. Kirsch – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to take no action to block.

Legal Consent List

Ms. Ludman then made a motion to adopt items a-x on the consent list below. Ms. Desiderio Orlak seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Orders to Show Cause

- a. David Achinstein
- b. Joseph D. Armstead
- c. Robert Christopher Asch
- d. Randi Drogin
- e. Harry Guerriere
- f. Theresa Guerriere
- g. Anthony V. Iorio
- h. April A. Lowery
- i. James McMullan
- j. Reynald Perry
- k. Eric J. Pieklo
- l. Richard E. Robitaille

Revocations/Suspensions

- m. James R. Conzelmann – revoke
- n. Jennifer C. Greco – suspend OAL Decision
- o. Larry L. Lewis – revoke
- p. Shea D. Lightfoot - suspend
- q. Megan Orlando - revoke
- r. Brandon L. Pantano - revoke
- s. Frank M. Scirocco – revoke
- t. Vincent Serpico - suspend
- u. Rosanne M. Simeone - revoke
- v. Michael T. Williams, Jr. - revoke

Matters with Board Member Recusals

- w. Michael Knox – Naomi Johnson LaFleur recusal

Other

- x. James Dunckley - correction

Old Business

None.

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 12:06 p.m.

The next scheduled regular public meeting of the State Board of Examiners will be held on January 23, 2020 in the first-floor conference room, 200 River View Plaza, Trenton, New Jersey.

Minutes prepared by Kimberly A. Gatti

Minutes certified by Rani Singh, Secretary