



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

ANGELICA ALLEN-McMILLAN, Ed.D.
Acting Commissioner

State Board of Examiners
Minutes of Meeting
VIRTUALLY VIA MS TEAMS
January 21, 2022
AMENDED

Present: Laurie Fichera, Deputy Attorney General
Ms. Thelma Ramsey
Dr. Mary Jane McNally
Ms. Suzana Zeitz
Ms. Melissa Pearce
Dr. Jonathan Dauber
Mr. Abdul Saleem Hasan
Ms. Dayna Desiderio Orlak
Mr. Derek Jess
Ms. Rani Singh, Secretary

Absent: Ms. Kristen Ludman

DUE TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS AT THE TIME, THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIRTUALLY VIA MS TEAMS.

This meeting was duly noticed pursuant to the requirements of law. In compliance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-10a, the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this meeting was given by way of notice filed with the Secretary of State, and publication in Trenton Times and Star Ledger in New Jersey. Notice of the virtual access information was provided online on the Department's website, via memorandum to the Secretary of State and several other individuals and entities and is available at the physical conference room where the meeting has been conducted prior to the public health crisis.

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. He also read notice provisions regarding access to the virtual meeting.

Dr. Dauber moved to adopt the minutes of the meeting of December 16, 2021. Dr. McNally 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:

Madison Decker
Ami Dobelle
Wayne Ernst
Daniel Hall
Alvin Herron
Stephen Palmer
Emily Rose
Dana Seaver
Melody Travisano
Ashleigh Whitmore

The Board had no questions for any present candidates. Amanda McCaffrey and Yakima Wallace were not present.

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 roll call vote. The candidates in the following cases were present at the December 16, 2021 meeting. The Board adopted the following decisions:

Isaiah Gomez	Principal Certificate of Eligibility (CE) - The Board denied his application.
Jason Hernould	Renewal of a provisional Teacher of English certificate – The Board granted his application for one (1) year.
Eric Llorente Alarcon	Teacher of Spanish Certificate of Eligibility (CE) – The Board denied his application.
Nicholas Lurie	Teacher of Biological Sciences Certificate of Eligibility (CE) – The Board granted the application.
Jessica Malone	Teacher of American Sign Language (ASL) Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing – The Board granted her application.
Kirk McCullough	Teacher of Elementary School: Kindergarten through Grade 6 Standard Certificate – the Board granted his application.
Lauren Odoksta	School Administrator Certificate of Eligibility (CE) – The Board granted her application.
Michael Paquette	Teacher of Elementary Grades K-6 Certificate of Eligibility (CE) – the Board denied his application.
Michael Redfearn	School Administrator Certificate of Eligibility (CE) – The Board granted his application.

Abdelhamid Salha	Standard Teacher of English as a Second Language (ESL) certificate – The Board denied his application.
Jayne L. Tanis	School Administrator Certificate of Eligibility (CE) – the Board denied her application.

Legal Committee Report

There were no hearings on the agenda. Dr. Dauber made a motion to go into closed session to receive legal advice regarding matters on the Consent Order portion of the agenda, which was duly seconded by Mr. Hasan and carried by a unanimous vote. The Board went into closed session at 10:46 am.

The Board returned to the public session following a motion by Dr. Dauber, seconded by Mr. Hasan and carried by a unanimous vote. The Board returned to the public portion of the meeting at 11:48 am upon motion by Dr. Dauber, seconded by Mr. Hasan and confirmed by unanimous vote.

The Board then took the following action regarding items on the agenda:

Shanna L. Blau (Weidl) – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to accept the proposed consent order in this matter.

Hannah Burton – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to reject the proposed consent order in this matter.

Timothy Carey – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to reject the proposed consent order in this matter.

Melissa McCooley – By a vote of 6-2, Ms. Desiderio Orlak and Ms. Ramsey opposing, the Board voted to vacate the Order to Show Cause previously issued in this matter.

Jean N. Allen – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to suspend Ms. Allen’s educator certificate(s) for a period of three (3) years based upon the level and nature of the underlying conduct and crime.

George J. Hopkins - By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to revoke Mr. Hopkins’ educator certificate(s) based upon the level and nature of the conduct and crime and action against out of state license(s).

Ian M. Kulis – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to revoke Mr. Kulis’ educator certificate(s) based upon the level and nature of the conduct and crime and disqualification from public school employment.

Andrew J. Lota - By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to revoke Mr. Lota’s educator certificate(s) based upon the level and nature of the conduct.

Elshaimaa M. Youssef - By a vote of 8-0, Board voted to revoke Ms. Youssef’s educator certificate(s) based upon the level and nature of the conduct.

Richard N. Leonard - By a vote of 8-0, Board voted to revoke Mr. Leonard’s educator certificate(s) based upon the level and nature of the conduct and crime and disqualification from public school employment.

Mojtabaa Kahn - By a vote of 8-0, 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.

Theodore W. Poecker – By a vote of 8-0, 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.

Elizabeth A. Sonk - By a vote of 8-0, 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.

Damon O. Colbert - By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to grant his application for certification after block.

Kathleen Valencia – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to adopt the Initial Decision from the Office of Administrative Law but modify the penalty to two (2) year suspension.

Joshua E. Melendez - By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment with the force and effect of revocation.

George E. Wilson - By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to block his application.

Legal Consent List

Dr. Dauber then made a motion to remove item l from the Legal Consent List below. Ms. Zeitz seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Dr. Dauber then made a motion to adopt items a-k and m-r on the consent list below. Ms. Zeitz seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Orders to Show Cause

- a. Jorge O. Colon
- b. Caesar A. Dommar
- c. Thomas W. Esser
- d. Myron L. Fairley
- e. Andrew J. Ferrie
- f. Joseph M. Gricco
- g. Richard F. O'Brien
- h. David C. Post

Revocations/Suspensions

- i. Shannon Lamaster – suspension
- j. Arthur Melton – revocation
- k. John Podesta – suspension
- l. Richard E. Robitaille – revocation (REMOVED FROM AGENDA)
- m. Thomas Rolston – suspension
- n. Jean Claude Santini – suspension
- o. Keith Sattely – suspension
- p. Jesmarie Soto – revocation
- q. Jennifer Tubens – suspension

Other

r. Luna Mishoe – reject initial decision

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Secretary's Report

None.

Adjournment

Dr. Dauber made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was duly seconded by Ms. Zeitz and carried by a unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 11:57 am.

The next scheduled regular public meeting of the State Board of Examiners will be held on March 4, 2022 either in the first-floor conference room, 200 River View Plaza, Trenton, New Jersey or virtually via Microsoft Teams.

Minutes prepared by Kimberly A. Gatti

Minutes certified by Rani Singh, Secretary