



*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  
May 18, 2023**

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

**Absent:** None

**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 April 13, 2023 (Regular and Executive Session). Dr. McNally seconded the motion. The minutes were then approved by a unanimous vote.

## Individual Credentials Review Presentations

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

Brianna S. Balkin  
Jillian C. Beckerle  
Kristi Blundetto  
Janine M. Borsellino  
Jamie Byrd  
Stacey Clifford  
Brianna Connelly  
Gianna M. DiPisa (appeared later)  
Caryn E. Feder  
Susan Koreck-Maxwell  
Catia Nascimento  
Mariana Nunez Reyes  
Wyomia Scott  
Katie Vazquez

The Board had a question for Ms. Koreck-Maxwell regarding her experience providing staff development. Ms. Koreck-Maxwell provided a response.

## 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 April 13, 2023 meeting. The Board adopted the following decisions:

Yvette Baldeon Alvarado	Teacher of Spanish Certificate of Eligibility - The Board denied the application.
Laura Desai	Standard Teacher of English as a Second Language (ESL) certificate - The Board denied the application.
Melanie Foltz	Teacher of Elementary Grades K-6 Certificate of Eligibility - The Board denied the application.
Melanie Keenan	Standard Teacher of Television Broadcasting certificate - The Board denied the application.
Elena Kim	Teacher of Preschool through Grade Three (P-3) Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing - The Board denied the application.

Jiwon Lee	Standard Teacher of Elementary Grades K-6 certificate - The Board denied the application.
Robert F. Nutile	Supervisor certificate - The Board denied the application.
Anna Maria Osella	Renewal of a provisional Teacher of Students with Disabilities (TOSD) certificate – The Board denied the application.
Damian Rodriquez	Provisional Teacher of Spanish certificate – The Board granted the application for one year.
Spiros Zambas	Teacher of Physics Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied the application.

### **Legal Committee Report**

There were two hearings on the agenda, *IMO Certificates of Sarah Jane Melick (Freeman)* and *IMO Certificates of Margaret Chaplin Scrimali*.

Ms. Melick Freeman appeared first before the Board and made statements on her behalf.

Ms. Chaplin Scrimali then appeared as well and made statements on her behalf.

Upon conclusion of the hearings, 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 Dr. McNally and carried by a unanimous vote. The Board went into closed session at 11:17 am.

The Board returned to the public session following a motion by Dr. Dauber, seconded by Ms. Pearce and carried by a unanimous vote. The Board returned to the public portion of the meeting at 12:01 pm.

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

Caesar A. Dommar – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to reject the proposed consent order.

Jeffrey A. Genthe - By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to accept the proposed consent order in this matter.

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

Tamara E. Kaplan - By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to revoke Ms. Kaplan's educator certificate(s) based upon the level and nature of the underlying conduct and crime and disqualification from public school employment.

David Aufiero – 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 and crime.

Justin M. Brown - 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 underlying conduct.

Erika Caceres - 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 underlying conduct.

Kenneth E. Fellows, III – 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.

Donald E. Gabardi - 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 crime and conduct and disqualification from public school employment.

Michael C. Grant - 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 conduct.

Alim A. Hasan - By a vote of 6-0, the Board voted to seal the record in this matter and 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 underlying conduct. Ms. Ramsey voiced an abstention; Mr. Hasan did not express a vote.

Charles J. Jannetti – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to seal the record in this matter and to issue an order to show cause as to why his certificate(s) should not be revoked based upon the level and nature of conduct.

Douglas J. Petty – 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 conduct and crime.

Winston Troughton – 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 conduct.

Luisa Blanco – 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 conduct.

Oscar E. Oquendo – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to vacate the vote for an Order to Show Cause on April 13, 2023 and to remove the item from Section 6, item e of the agenda.

Scott Blanford - By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of certificate(s) with the force and effect of revocation.

Edward A. Sterbach - By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of certificate(s) with the force and effect of revocation.

Jerel H. Wolfe – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to adopt the Initial Decision of the Administrative Law Judge with a modification to the penalty. Mr. Wolfe’s certificates would be suspended for a period of three (3) years commencing with the Board’s adoption of the decision in this matter.

Christopher J. Hutton – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to granted Mr. Hutton the ability to apply for certification after his certificates were previously revoked.

### **Legal Consent List**

Ms. Ludman then made a motion to adopt items a-d on the consent list below. Dr. Dauber seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Ludman also made a motion to adopt items f-m on the consent list below. Dr. Dauber seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Dauber moved item n below, with Ms. Desiderio Orlak seconding. The motion passed unanimously, with Ms. Ludman recusing.

### **Orders to Show Cause**

- a. Michael P. Brown
- b. Thomas L. Fuller
- c. Paul L. Henshaw
- d. David J. Holmes
- e. Oscar E. Oquendo (removed per earlier action in agenda)
- f. Joseph A. Scalfaro
- g. Louis J. Severino

### **Revocations/Suspensions**

- h. Denis Jelcic – revocation
- i. Brandon E. Lighten – suspension
- j. Nancy A. Nikiperowicz – suspension
- k. Lenny Washington – revocation
- l. Howard Zlotkin - suspension

**Other**

m. Era Kovanxhi – Block

**Other – Board Member Recusals**

n. Melissa L. Hilliard – (Ludman recusing)

**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. Ramsey and carried by a unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm.

The next scheduled regular public meeting of the State Board of Examiners will be held on June 29, 2023 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