



## State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

PHILIP D. MURPHY  
*Governor*

TAHESHA L. WAY  
*Lt. Governor*

KEVIN DEHMER  
*Acting Commissioner*

### STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING VIRTUALLY VIA MS TEAMS April 11, 2025

**Present:** Dr. Jorden Schiff  
Ms. Gargi Adhikari  
Mr. Robert Ford  
Mr. Derek Jess  
Ms. Kristen Ludman  
Ms. Michelle McGreivey  
Ms. Dayna Desiderio Orlak  
Ms. Melissa Pearce  
Mr. Kevin Pfister

**Absent:** Dr. Thelma Ramsey  
Dr. Carmela Somershoe

**Others:** Rani Singh, Secretary  
Ryan Silver, Deputy Attorney General  
Laurie Fichera, Coordinator, State Board of Examiners  
Debra Perez, Credentials Review Coordinator, State Board of Examiners

#### **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 a 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 Dr. Jorden Schiff, Chairperson, who read the appropriate notice that the meeting complied with the Open Public Meetings Act. He also read the notice provisions regarding access to the virtual meeting.

Ms. Rani Singh took the roll call and determined there was a quorum for the meeting.

Mr. Robert Ford moved to adopt the minutes of the February 28, 2025, meeting (Regular and Executive Session), Ms. Gargi Adhikari seconded the motion. The minutes were then approved by a vote of 9-0.

### **Individual Credentials Review Presentations**

Ms. Dayna Desiderio Orlak noted that item “e” on the Individual Credentials Review Presentation list had been removed from the agenda.

The following applicants attended the April 11, 2025 meeting to respond to any questions from the Board regarding their applications:

Stephanie Andolino  
Zeneyda Cabral  
Annmarie (Diorio) Crum  
Jazmin N. Evans  
Delane James  
Kristi Jansen  
Mary Alice Landis  
Ashley Paulino  
Melody Soehngen  
Michelle Zeron

The following applicants did not attend the April 11, 2025 meeting; the board did not have any questions for them:

Ryan Sellers  
Eric Van Dunk

### **Credentials Review Consent List**

Ms. Desiderio Orlak made a motion to adopt the decisions in items “a” through “c” on the credentials review consent list, for candidates who were present at the February 28, 2025, meeting, and Ms. McGreivey seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a vote of 8-0, with Ms. Desiderio Orlak absenting.

Ms. Desiderio Orlak made a motion to adopt the decisions in items “d” through “f” on the credentials review consent list, for candidates who were not present at the February 28, 2025, meeting, and Mr. Jess seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a vote of 8-0, with Desiderio Orlak absenting.

The candidates in the following cases were present at the February 28, 2025 meeting. The Board adopted the following decisions:

Charlsey Durran	Teacher of English Limited Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied the certificate.
Robert Santos Perez	Teacher of Spanish Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied the certificate.
Shakiera Smith	School Counselor standard certificate – The Board denied the certificate.

The candidates in the following cases were not present at the February 28, 2025 meeting. The Board adopted the following decisions:

Henry W. Pearson	Teacher of Mathematics Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied the certificate.
Faith Popowich	School Business Administrator certificate – The Board granted the certificate.
Alexander Quinn	Teacher of Physical Science Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied the certificate.

### **Legal Committee Report**

There were no hearings on the agenda.

Ms. Desiderio Orlak made a motion to go into the executive session to receive legal advice regarding matters on the Legal Consent Order portion of the agenda, which was duly seconded by Ms. Kristen Ludman and carried by a vote of 9-0. The Board went into closed session at 10:48 am.

The Board returned to the public session following a motion by Ms. Ludman, seconded by Ms. Gargi Adhikari and carried by a vote of 9-0. The Board returned to the public portion of the meeting at 11:50 am.

On return to the public meeting, Dr. Schiff turned the meeting over to Ms. Ludman to continue the Legal committee report.

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

Carly R. Fanslau – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to accept the proposed consent order in this matter.

Elizabeth Mansfield– By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to reject the proposed consent order in this matter.

Christopher E. Pond – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to table this matter.

Andrew Temme – By a vote of 8-0, with Ms. Desiderio Orlak’s recusal, the Board voted to reject the proposed consent order in this matter.

Tajinderpal S. Tung – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to accept the proposed consent order in this matter.

Bryan Holton – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted given that no material facts are in dispute and the level and nature of conduct and crime is unbecoming of a teacher, and due to being disqualified for employment with any institution under the supervision of the Department of Education, the appropriate response and penalty is revocation.

Nicholas C. Jahn – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted given that no material facts are in dispute and the level and nature of conduct and crime is unbecoming of a teacher, and due to being disqualified for employment with any institution under the supervision of the Department of Education, the appropriate response and penalty is revocation.

Erin (Confroy) Passaro – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted given that no material facts are in dispute and the level and nature of conduct and crime is unbecoming of a teacher, and due to being disqualified for employment with any institution under the supervision of the Department of Education, the appropriate response and penalty is revocation.

Godfrey De La Hoz –By a vote of 9-0, 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.

Kerry (Choplin) Draus – By a vote of 9-0, 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.

Tammy Marie Hileman – By a vote of 9-0, 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.

Richrd S. Jacoby – By a vote of 9-0, 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.

Tinasiah Mitchell – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to seal the record and 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.

Louis A. Neblett – By a vote of 9-0, 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.

Louis W. Paduano – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to seal the record 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 conduct.

Laszlo Pokorny – By a vote of 9-0, 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.

Sean M. Quinn – By a vote of 9-0, 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 due to being disqualified for employment with any institution under the supervision of the Department of Education.

Jancarlos Santos – By a vote of 9-0, 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.

Pamela J. Thomas – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to seal the record and 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.

Khadeja A. Wiley – By a vote of 9-0, 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.

Muhammed Wilkerson – By a vote of 9-0, 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.

Douglas J. Bollinger – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of licenses with the same force and effect as a revocation.

Stephanie Carafa – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of licenses with the same force and effect as a revocation.

Erland V. Chau – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of licenses with the same force and effect as a revocation.

Salvatore DiStefano – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of licenses with the same force and effect as a revocation.

Steven J. Gordon – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of licenses with the same force and effect as a revocation.

Matthew C. Marinelli – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of licenses with the same force and effect as a revocation.

Lydia Pinto – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of licenses with the same force and effect as a revocation.

Edward C. Meier – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to adopt the Initial Decision from the Office of Administrative Law in this matter.

Matthew O'Brien – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to adopt the factual findings in the Initial Decision from the Office of Administrative Law in this matter but reject the legal conclusion and find unbecoming conduct and modify the penalty to revocation.

Adam Berch – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to deny the application for certification after a block.

Marcus Rhaney – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to deny the application for certification after revocation.

Tamica Ruffin – By a vote of 9-0, the board voted to table this matter.

### **Legal Consent List**

Ms. Ludman made a motion to adopt items “a” through “f” on the legal consent list below. Ms. Pearce seconded, and the motion passed by a vote of 9-0.

Ms. Ludman then made a motion to adopt item “g” through “l” on the legal consent list below. Ms. Pearce seconded, and the motion passed by a vote of 9-0.

### **Orders to Show Cause**

- a. Christopher Bygott
- b. Christine D. D'Avanzo
- c. Trevor Pinho
- d. Lorenzo S. Puertas
- e. Vincent Root
- f. Brittany Werner

### **Revocations/Suspensions**

- g. Andrew Fantasia – Suspension Pending

**Other**

- h. Marsiste Adolphe -Block
- i. Thomas Brooks – Block
- j. Alicia Cuttita- Block
- k. Alan Freeman – Block
- l. Tinasiah Mitchell- Block

**Old Business**

None.

**New Business**

None

**Secretary's Report**

At the April 2, 2025 State Board of Education meeting, the Office of Recruitment, Preparation, and Certification submitted code amendments to Chapter 9. There is a power point presentation with all the information available at the State Board of Education website, look for the April 2, 2025 agenda.

**Adjournment**

Ms. Desiderio Orlak made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was duly seconded by Ms. Ludman and the motion carried by a unanimous vote of 9-0. The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 pm.

The next regularly scheduled public meeting of the State Board of Examiners will be held on May 22, 2025, either in the first-floor conference room, 100 River View Plaza, Trenton, New Jersey, or virtually via Microsoft Teams.

Minutes prepared by Laurie Fichera

Minutes certified by Rani Singh, Secretary