



PHILIP D. MURPHY  
*Governor*

TAHESHA L. WAY  
*Lt. Governor*

*State of New Jersey*  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
PO Box 500  
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

KEVIN DEHMER  
*Acting Commissioner*

**STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
VIRTUALLY VIA MS TEAMS  
JUNE 26, 2025**

**Present:** 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 Mr. Derek Jess, 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, Secretary, took the roll call and determined there was a quorum for the meeting.

Mr. Robert Ford moved to adopt the minutes of the May22, 2025, meeting (Regular and Executive Session), Ms. Melissa Pearce seconded the motion. The minutes were then approved by a vote of 5-0 with Mr. Jess, Ms. Dayna Desiderio Orlak and Ms. Adhikari abstaining.

### **Individual Credentials Review Presentations**

The following applicants attended the June 26, 2025, meeting to respond to any questions from the Board regarding their applications:

Megan Cotter  
Deidra Faurot  
Tim Franklin  
Kerry Hannam  
Ria Alyse Johnson  
Bahruz Mammadov  
Jamie Meeker  
Megan Rafferty  
Tanya R. Raible

The following applicants did not attend the June 26, 2025, meeting;

Kimberly Bartholomew  
Kelly Frazee  
Teddy Guzman  
Kristen Lange  
Shana LaRocca

The following credential review presentation matters were tabled by Board at the June 26, 2025, meeting.

Lisa Bellotti  
Gisellmary Gonzalez-Rivera  
Ria Alyse Johnson  
Jessica Perez  
Julianne Reidel  
Samantha Scott  
Adriana Shaw

### **Credentials Review Consent List**

Mr. Jess noted that items” a”, “b” ,”c” and “g” were removed from the consent list for further review.

Ms. Desiderio Orlak made a motion to adopt the decisions in items “d” through “f” and items “h” through “j” on the credentials review consent list, for candidates who were present at the May 22, 2025, meeting, and Ms. Kristen Ludman seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a vote of 8-0,

Ms. Desiderio Orlak made a motion to adopt the decision in items “k” through “l” on the credentials review consent list, for candidates who were not present at the May 22, 2025, meeting, and Ms. Kristen Ludman seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a vote of 8-0.

The candidates in the following cases were present at the May 22, 2025, meeting. The Board adopted the following decisions:

Angelina Detres	Principal Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied the certificate.
Olivia Gargano	Teacher of Elementary School in Grades K-6 Standard certificate – The Board denied the certificate.
Trisha A. Peterson	Teacher of Health and Physical Education Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied the certificate.
Grace Roeder	Teacher of Chemistry Standard certificate – The Board denied the certificate.
John Schleicher	Renewal of a Provisional Teacher of Plumbing and Pipefitting Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied the certificate.
David Weiner	Teacher of English as a Second Language Standard certificate. – The Board denied the certificate.

The candidates in the following cases were not present at the May 22, 2025, meeting. The Board adopted the following decisions:

Lakiya Jimenez	Teacher of Elementary School in Grades K-6 Standard certificate and Teacher of Students with Disabilities standard certificate – The Board denied the certificates.
Dorota Martinez	School Administrator Certificate of Eligibility and Principal Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied the certificates.

### **Legal Committee Report**

There were no hearings at the June 26, 2025 meeting.

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. Ludman, and carried by a vote of 8-0. The Board went into closed session at 11:10 am.

The Board returned to the public session following a motion by Ms. Desiderio Orlak, seconded by Ms. Ludman and carried a vote of 8-0. The Board returned to the public portion of the meeting at 12:10 pm.

On return to the public meeting, Mr. Jess 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:

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

Carly R. Fanslau – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to accept the proposed consent order in this matter.

Christopher E. Pond – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to table the matter.

Vincent Root – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to accept the proposed consent order in this matter.

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

Rebecca Coughlin – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted given that no material facts are in dispute and the level and nature of conduct is unbecoming of a teacher, the appropriate response and penalty is revocation.

Carlos Menendez – By a vote of 8-0, 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 action against out of state licenses, the appropriate response and penalty is revocation.

Ablity Mouwon – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted given that no material facts are in dispute and the level and nature of the conduct is unbecoming of a teacher, the appropriate response and penalty is revocation.

Gustavo Barrientos – 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, and due to being disqualified for employment with any institution under the supervision of the Department of Education.

Maria C. (Gomez) Herrera – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted given that no material facts are in dispute and the level and nature of the conduct is unbecoming of a teacher, the appropriate response and penalty is a six month suspension.

Jason P. Barch – 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.

William A. Bolle – 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.

Joseph Campos – 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, and due to being disqualified for employment with any institution under the supervision of the Department of Education.

Thomas Carraher – 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, and due to being disqualified for employment with any institution under the supervision of the Department of Education.

Rebecca E. Coddington – 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, and due to being disqualified for employment with any institution under the supervision of the Department of Education.

Chelsey Combs – 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.

John Denuto – 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, and due to being disqualified for employment with any institution under the supervision of the Department of Education.

Thomas Finn – 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.

Anselmo Girimonte – 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, and due to being disqualified for employment with any institution under the supervision of the Department of Education.

Antonia Mavrianos – 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 and crime, and due to being disqualified from employment with any institution under the supervision of the Department of Education.

Anthony W. Salters – 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.

David C. Vitale – 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.

Eric William Beck – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to take no action.

Natasha R. Beck-King – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to take no action.

Alexis Nicole Meister – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to block the application.

Michele (Ayala) Menoscal – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to take no action.

Rebekah M. Makin – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of certificates with the same force and effect as a revocation.

Kurt E. Zimmermann – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of certificates with the same force and effect as a revocation.

Regina (Schloesser) Miller – By a vote of 8-0, the board voted to deny the application for certification after revocation.

## **Legal Consent List**

Ms. Ludman made a motion to adopt items “a” through “t” on the legal consent list below. Mr. Robert Ford seconded, and the motion passed by a vote of 8-0.

### **Orders to Show Cause**

- a. Kristie (Desiderio) Babiarz
- b. Chrisopher DeCesare
- c. Michael J. Elson
- d. Samuel L. Harrison
- e. Kelley R. Pritchett
- f. Kristen L. Severino

### **Revocations/Suspensions**

- g. Steven Brooks – revocation
- h. Spencer Frohwirth – revocation
- i. Vanessa Morrison – revocation

### **Other**

- j. Maria Acuria-Mack - dismissal
- k. Alberto Deleon – block
- l. Gregory Grabon – block
- m. Samuel L. Harrison - block
- n. Andrew Duncan Jelliffe – block
- o. Nicholas Manzi – block
- p. Michael Patrick Nolan– block
- q. Vincent Paragano– block
- r. Tamica Ruffin – deny certification after revocation
- s. Brian Swift – block
- t. Paul Tran– block

### **Old Business**

None.

### **New Business**

A Resolution honoring Dr. Jordan Schiff’s service on the Board after leaving the board this month.

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| <b>Whereas,</b>  | Dr. Jorden Schiff has been a dedicated member of the New Jersey State Board of Examiners, serving with distinction, including his tenure as Chair of the State Board of Examiners; and   |
| <b>Whereas,</b>  | the State Board of Examiners recognizes the invaluable knowledge and expertise Dr. Schiff brought to the Board, which consistently provided essential guidance across all facets of its work; and  |
| <b>Whereas,</b>  | Dr. Schiff’s extensive experience as an Assistant Commissioner, Superintendent, and educator within the New Jersey Department of Education enabled him to provide sound reasoning and effective solutions for complex matters before the Board, always reflecting his deep concern for the education and well-being of all children; and |
| <b>Resolved,</b> | that the members of the New Jersey State Board of Examiners commend Dr. Jorden Schiff for his exceptional leadership and contributions to the work of the State Board  |

of Examiners and for his unwavering commitment and dedication to the Board's mission; and

**Resolved,** that on this 26th day of June, 2025, the members of the State Board of Examiners extend their sincere appreciation to Dr. Jorden Schiff for his devoted service to the Board and wish him well in the future.

Ms. Desiderio Orlak made a motion to accept the resolution and Ms. Ludman seconded and the resolution was accepted by a unanimous vote of 8-0 .

### **Secretary's Report**

None

### **Adjournment**

Ms. Ludman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was duly seconded by Ms. Michelle McGreivey and the motion carried by a unanimous vote of 8-0.

The next regularly scheduled public meeting of the State Board of Examiners will be held on August 8, 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