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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
May 22, 2025**

Present: Dr. Jorden Schiff
Mr. Robert Ford
Ms. Michelle McGreivey
Ms. Melissa Pearce
Mr. Kevin Pfister
Dr. Thelma Ramsey
Dr. Carmela Somershoe

Absent: Ms. Gargi Adhikari
Mr. Derek Jess
Ms. Kristen Ludman
Ms. Dayna Desiderio Orlak

Others: Rani Singh, Secretary
Chris Weber, 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.

Ms Melissa Piece moved to adopt the minutes of the April 11, 2025, meeting (Regular and Executive Session), Mr. Kevin Pfister seconded the motion. The minutes were then approved by a vote of 7-0.

Individual Credentials Review Presentations

The following applicants attended the May 22, 2025, meeting to respond to any questions from the Board regarding their applications:

Derrick Delgado
Angelina Detres
Olivia Gargano
Trisha A. Peterson
Micaela Piell
Grace Roeder
John Schleicher
David Weiner

The following applicants did not attend the May 22, 2025, meeting; the board did not have any questions for them:

Lakiya Jimenez
Dorota Martinez

Credentials Review Consent List

Dr. Thelma Ramsey noted that items” k” and “m” was removed from the consent list.

Dr. Ramsey made a motion to adopt the decisions in items “a” through “j” on the credentials review consent list, for candidates who were present at the May 22, 2025, meeting, and Mr. Pfister seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a vote of 7-0,

Dr. Ramsey made a motion to adopt the decision in item “l” on the credentials review consent list, for candidates who were not present at the May 22, 2025, meeting, and Ms. Pearce seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a vote of 7-0.

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

Stephanie Andolino	Teacher of English standard certificate – The Board denied the certificate.
Zeneyda Cabral	School Counselor standard certificate – The Board granted the certificate.

Annmarie (Crum) Diorio	Supervisor endorsement – The Board denied the endorsement.
Mary Alice Landis	Principal Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied the certificate.
Prudence Phillips	Teacher of Students with Disabilities standard certificate – The Board denied the certificate.
Ryan Sellers	Teacher of Biological Science Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing – The Board denied the certificate.
Melody Soehngen	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:

Jazmin Evans	Supervisor endorsement – The Board denied the endorsement.
Delane James	Principal Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied the certificate.
Kristi Jansen	School Administrator Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied the certificate.
Asheley Paulino	School Counselor standard certificate – The Board denied the certificate.

Legal Committee Report

There was one hearing in the matter of the Certificates of Maria C. (Gomez) Herrera. Ms. Herrera and her counsel, James J. Uliano, Esq., presented testimony.

Ms. Pearce 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 Dr. Ramsey, and carried by a vote of 7-0. The Board went into closed session at 11:15 am.

The Board returned to the public session following a motion by Ms. Pearce, seconded by Mr. Robert Ford and carried by a vote of 7-0. The Board returned to the public portion of the meeting at 12:03 pm.

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

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

Jill (Albrecht) Cichanowsky – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to accept the proposed consent order in this matter.

Aubree (Gurkovich) Deminski – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to accept the proposed consent order in this matter.

Carly R. Fanslau – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to reject the proposed consent order in this matter.

Melissa Hilliard – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to accept the proposed consent order in this matter.

Andrew Temme – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to accept the proposed consent order in this matter.

Steven Brooks – By a vote of 7-0, 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.

Spencer Frohwirth – By a vote of 7-0, 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.

Vanessa Morrison – By a vote of 7-0, 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.

Kristie (Desiderio) Babiarz – 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.

Christopher DeCesare – 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 due to being disqualified for employment with any institution under the supervision of the Department of Education.

Michael Elson – 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 due to being disqualified for employment with any institution under the supervision of the Department of Education.

Kelley Pritchett – 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.

Kristen Severino – By a vote of 7-0, 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.

Alberto Deleon – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to block the application.

Greg Grabon – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to block the applications.

Andrew Duncan Jelliffe – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to block the application.

Nicholas Manzi – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to block the application.

Michael Patrick Nolan – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to block the application.

Vincent Paragano – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to block the application.

Maria C. Spinella – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to seal the record and to take no action on the application.

Brian Swift – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to block the applications.

Paul Tran – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to block the application.

Joshua R. Delacruz – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to accept the voluntary relinquishment of licenses with the same force and effect as a revocation.

Terrio Jenkins – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to accept the voluntary relinquishment of licenses with the same force and effect as a revocation.

Trevor Pinho – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to accept the voluntary relinquishment of licenses with the same force and effect as a revocation.

Tamica Ruffin – By a vote of 7-0, the board voted to deny the application for certification after revocation.

Eric Snead – By a vote of 7-0, the board voted to grant the ability to apply for certification after revocation.

Maria Acuria-Mack – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to adopt the initial decision from the Office of Administrative Law in this matter.

Legal Consent List

Ms. Pearce made a motion to adopt items “a” through “t” on the legal consent list below. Ms Michelle McGreivey seconded, and the motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

Orders to Show Cause

- a. Godfrey De La Hoz
- b. Kerry (Choplin) Draus
- c. Tammy Marie Hileman
- d. Richard S. Jacoby
- e. Tinasiah Mitchell
- f. Louis A. Neblett
- g. Jacob W. Paduano
- h. Laszlo Pokorny
- i. Sean M. Quinn
- j. Jancarlos Santos
- k. Pamela J. Thomas
- l. Khadeja A. Wiley
- m. Muhammed Wilkerson

Revocations/Suspensions

- n. Brian Holton - revocation
- o. Nicholas C. Jahn - revocation
- p. Edward C. Meier - dismissal
- q. Matthew T. O’Brien – revocation
- r. Erin (Confroy) Passaro - revocation

Other

- s. Adam Berch – deny certification after block
- t. Marcus Rhaney – deny certification after revocation

Old Business

None.

New Business

None

Secretary’s Report

None

Adjournment

Mr. Ford made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was duly seconded by Mr. Pfister and the motion carried by a unanimous vote of 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 pm.

The next regularly scheduled public meeting of the State Board of Examiners will be held on June 26, 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