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State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

DR. LILY LAUX
Commissioner

**STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS
MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING
VIRTUALLY VIA MS TEAMS
January 22, 2026**

Present: Ms. Gargi Adhikari
Mr. Robert Ford
Mr. Derek Jess
Ms. Michelle McGreivey
Ms. Melissa Pearce
Mr. Kevin Pfister
Dr. Thelma Ramsey
Dr. Carmela Somershoe

Absent: Mr. Ambrose Duckett
Ms. Dayna Desiderio Orlak

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.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Dereck 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 roll call and determined there was a quorum for the meeting.

Ms. Melissa Pearce moved to adopt the minutes of the December 12, 2025, meeting (Regular and Executive Sessions) and Mr. Kevin Pfister seconded the motion. The Regular Session minutes were approved by a vote of 8-0. The Executive Session minutes were approved by a vote of 7-0, with Mr. Jess abstaining.

Individual Credentials Review Presentations

The following applicants attended the January 22, 2026, meeting to respond to any questions from the Board regarding their applications:

Nicole D. Amador
Hailey Drake
Curtis Leo Mackowiak
Kirsten Sciallo
Jacquelyn Ashley Sweet
Joel Vasquez

The following applicants did not attend the January 22, 2026, meeting:

Ana C. Castello Olaya
Irene Wang

Credentials Review Consent List

Mr. Robert Ford made a motion to adopt the decisions in items “a” through “e” on the credentials review consent list, for the candidates who was present at the December 12, 2025, meeting, and Ms. Michelle McGreivey seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a vote of 8-0.

Ms. Robert Ford made a motion to adopt the decisions on items “f” through “h” on the credentials review consent list, for the candidates who were not present at the December 12, 2025, meeting, and Ms. Melissa Pearce seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a vote of 8-0.

The candidates in the following cases were present at the December 12, 2025 meeting. The Board adopted the following decisions:

Joseph Catalfamo	Application for a Teacher of Mathematics Limited Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied the certificate.
Madhuri Khemka	Application for a Teacher of Preschool through Grade 3 Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied the certificate.
Deanna Loch	Application for a Standard Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant certificate – The Board denied the certificate.

Angelo Milicia Application for a Standard Supervisor certificate – The Board denied the certificate.

Nicole M. Morrow Application for a Standard Middle School Subject-Matter Specialization: Mathematics in Grades 5-8 certificate – The Board denied the certificate.

The candidates in the following cases were not present at the December 12,2025 meeting. The Board adopted the following decisions:

Lisa Ann Hayward Application for a Standard Reading Specialist certificate – The Board denied the certificate.

Dakashna Lang Application for a Standard Teacher of Social Studies certificate – The Board granted the certificate.

Nancy Okken Application for a Standard Supervisor certificate – The Board denied the certificate.

Legal Committee Report

Ms. Melissa 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 Ms. Gargi Adhikari and carried by a vote of 8-0. The Board went into closed session at 10:41 am. The Board returned to the public portion of the meeting at 10:57 pm.

Mr. Pearce made a motion to return to public session, and Ms. Gargi Adhikari seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a vote of 8-0.

On return to the public meeting, the Board heard two hearings: the Matter of the Certificates of Renata Alford Docket Number 2425-133 and the Matter of Brittany A. (Savage) Werner, Docket Number 2425-115. Ms. Alford and Ms. Werner (Savage) both appeared pro se and provided testimony to the Board.

Mr. Jess then 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:

Alexa D. Bolognese, Docket No. 2526-111 – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to accept the proposed consent order in this matter.

Emily P. Chang, Docket No. 2425-136 – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to accept the proposed consent order in this matter.

Godfrey De La Hoz, Docket No. 2425-180 – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to reject the proposed consent order in this matter.

Nataly V. Diaz, Docket No.2324-171 – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to reject the proposed consent order in this matter.

Richie Lopez, Docket No.2425-165 – 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 a teacher, the appropriate response and penalty is revocation.

Timothy J. Carey, Docket No.2021-109 – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to decline the immediate review.

Theresa Guerriere, Docket No.1920-110 – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to adopt the initial decision from the Office of Administrative Law, with a recusal from Ms. Melissa Pearce.

Christopher Bates, Docket Number 2526-168 – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause for revocation, given the level and nature of conduct and crime is unbecoming a teacher.

Jennifer C. Greco, Docket No.1617-173 – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause for revocation, given the level and nature of conduct and crime is unbecoming a teacher.

Gail Grube, Docket No. 1819-205 – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause for revocation, given the level and nature of conduct and crime is unbecoming a teacher and they are disqualified from employment with any institution under the supervision of the Department of Education.

Keith M. Gunther, Docket No. 2526-163 – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause for revocation, given the level and nature of conduct and crime is unbecoming a teacher and they are disqualified from employment with any institution under the supervision of the Department of Education.

Dimitrios Harritopulos, Docket No.2526-147 – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause for revocation, given the level and nature of conduct is unbecoming a teacher.

Toshira N. Maldonado, Docket No. 2526-128 – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause for revocation, given the level and nature of conduct is unbecoming a teacher.

Michele McGinn, Docket No.2425-171 – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause for revocation, given the level and nature of conduct is unbecoming a teacher.

Aiza Nawaz, Docket No. 2526-170 – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to table the matter.

Ryan T. Ramsay, Docket No. 2526-165 – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to seal the record in the matter.

Ryan T. Ramsay, Docket No. 2526-165 – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause for revocation, given the level and nature of conduct and crime is unbecoming a teacher and they are disqualified from employment with any institution under the supervision of the Department of Education.

Delma (Pozo) Rose, Docket No. 2526-169 – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause for revocation, given the level and nature of conduct is unbecoming a teacher.

Elora Sarkar, Docket No. 2526-166 – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause for revocation, given the level and nature of conduct is unbecoming a teacher.

Kirk Toland, Docket No. 2526-167 – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause for revocation, given the level and nature of conduct is unbecoming a teacher.

Ryan Vandermay, Docket No. 2526-164 – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to seal the record in the matter.

Ryan Vandermay, Docket No. 2526-164 – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause for revocation, given the level and nature of conduct is unbecoming a teacher.

Keith Allen, Docket No. 2425-138 – 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 and crime, 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.

Rosa B. (DaSilva) Teixeira, Docket No. 2324-180 – 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 a teacher, the appropriate response and penalty is suspension of one year.

Clayton Gonzalez, Docket No. 2425-201 – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to block the application.

Luke Samuel Zottoli, Docket No. 2526-174 – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to table the matter.

Donovan M. McCleese, Docket No. 2324-126 – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of licenses with the same force and conditions as a revocation.

Lorri A. Willis, Docket No. 2526-139 – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of licenses with the same force and conditions as a revocation.

Marie G. Moran, Docket No. 2526-158 – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to accept the voluntary surrender of licenses. with the same force and conditions as a revocation.

Andrea (Pinkos) Ruiz, Docket No. 2526-175 – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to table the matter.

Legal Consent List

Ms. Pearce made a motion to adopt items “a” through “i” on the legal consent list below. Dr. Somershoe seconded, and the motion passed by a vote of 8-0.

Orders to Show Cause

- a. Agency Dkt. No. 2526-146 Deandra Brown-Palmer
- b. Agency Dkt. No. 2526-148 Kiamarie (Stone) Lambert
- c. Agency Dkt. No. 2526-149 Tamara Lee
- d. Agency Dkt. No. 2324-115 Gary Murray
- e. Agency Dkt. No. 2526-151 Talia D. (Morgan) Stephens

Revocations/Suspensions

- f. Agency Dkt. No. 2425-137 Louis G. Cambria – revocation
- g. Agency Dkt. No. 2122-164 Kyle Kaciczyk – revocation

Other

- h. Agency Dkt. No. 2526-155 Ashante Harold – block
- i. Agency Dkt. No. 2425-220 Travis W. Brown – deny application for certification after block.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Secretary's Report

None.

Adjournment

Mr. Robert Ford made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was duly seconded by Ms. Melissa Pearce and the motion carried by a unanimous vote of 8-0. The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 am.

The next regularly scheduled public meeting of the State Board of Examiners will be held on March 6, 2026.

Minutes prepared by Laurie Fichera

Minutes certified by Rani Singh, Secretary