



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

October 30, 2025

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

Absent: None

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. Duckett, 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.

Ms. Melissa Pearce moved to adopt the minutes of the September 19, 2025 meeting (Regular and Executive Session), Mr. Derek Jess seconded the motion. The minutes were then approved by a vote of 8-0, with Ms. Carmela Somershoe and Ms. Dayna Desiderio Orlak abstaining.

Individual Credentials Review Presentations

The following applicants attended October 30, 2025, meeting to respond to any questions from the Board regarding their applications:

Raffaela Bartels
Kenyatta Clayborn
Crystal Joy Gibb
Nicole Hernandez
Curtis Leo Mackowiak
Gaspard Mingot
Christopher W. Ott
Maida Poliandro
Alessandra Santimaria
Mark Toback

The following applicants did not attend the October 30, 2025, meeting:

Christine Arsenis
Lindsay Buggey
Emre Guduk
Stephen Villari

Credentials Review Consent List

Ms. Desiderio Orlak made a motion to adopt the decisions in items “A” through “I” on the credentials review consent list, for the candidates who was present at the September 19, 2025, meeting, and Mr. Jess seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a vote of 9-0, with Ms. Desiderio Orlak abstaining.

Ms. Desiderio Orlak made a motion to adopt the decision in items “J” through “L” on the credentials review consent list, for candidates who were not present at the September 19, 2025 meeting, and Mr. Jess seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a vote of 10-0.

The candidates in the following cases were present at the September 19, 2025 meeting. The Board adopted the following decisions:

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| Ashley Carmelita Addison | Applications for Provisional Teacher of Elementary School in Grades K-6 Certificate of Eligibility and Provisional Teacher of Students with Disabilities Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied the certificates. |
| Kimberly Priscilla Arnold | Application for Teacher of Spanish Certificate of Eligibility with Advance Standing – The Board denied the certificate. |
| Christian Carrasco | Application for a Teacher of Physical Education Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied the certificate. |
| Patricia Conway | Application for a Principal Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied the certificate. |
| Lenica Gutierrez-Bujalil | Application for standard Teacher of Business: Comprehensive Business certificate – The Board granted the certificate. |
| Claire Murphy | Application for a Teacher of Preschool through Grade 3, Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied the certificate. |
| Mariana B. Remotti | Application for a standard Supervisor certificate – The Board denied the certificate. |
| Louis Sapirman | Application for a Teacher of Social Studies Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied the certificate. |

The candidates in the following cases were not present at the September 19,2025 meeting. The Board adopted the following decisions:

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| Joseph D. Porretta | Application for a Teacher of Mathematics Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied the certificate. |
| Auriela V. Selimi Laue | Application for a standard Learning Disabilities Teacher-Consultant certificate – The Board denied the certificate. |
| Betul Tarhan | Application for a Teacher of Bilingual/Bicultural Education Certificate of Eligibility with Advance Standing – The Board denied the certificate. |

Legal Committee Report

The board heard one hearing, In the Matter of the Certificates of Kyle Kacicz, Docket Number 2122-164.

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. Melissa Pearce and carried by a vote of 10-0. The Board went into closed session at 11:05 am. The Board returned to the public portion of the meeting at 11:35 am.

On return to the public meeting, Mr. Duckett 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:

Emily P. Chang, Docket No. 2425-136 – By a vote of 10-0, the Board voted to reject the proposed consent order in this matter.

Regis A. Foster, Docket No. 2223-181 – By a vote of 10-0, the Board voted to accept the proposed consent order in this matter.

Joshua Freimark, Docket No. 173-9/21 – By a vote of 10-0, the Board voted to reject the proposed consent order in this matter.

Kerry (Choplin) Draus, Docket No. 2425-183 – By a vote of 10-0, the Board voted given that no material facts are in dispute and the level and nature of conduct is unbecoming a teacher, the appropriate response and penalty is a suspension of thirty (30) days.

Aissa Abed, Docket No. 2526-126 – By a vote of 10-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause as to why her certificate(s) should not be revoked based on the level and nature of conduct is unbecoming a teacher.

Alison Nicole Avelino, Docket No. 2526-115 – By a vote of 10-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause as to why her certificate(s) should not be revoked based on the level and nature of conduct is unbecoming a teacher.

Deborah Lasher, Docket No. 2526-124 – By a vote of 10-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause as to why her certificate(s) should not be revoked based on the level and nature of conduct is unbecoming a teacher.

Cavan A. Londergan, Docket No. 2526-122 – By a vote of 10-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause as to why his certificate(s) should not be revoked based on the level and nature of conduct is unbecoming a teacher.

Kenneth Lutz, Docket No. 2324-155 – By a vote of 10-0, the Board voted to seal the record.

Kenneth Lutz, Docket No. 2324-155 – By a vote of 10-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause for suspension of his certificates pending the resolution of the underlying criminal charges against him.

Marisa Massarone, Docket No. 2526-123 – By a vote of 10-0, the Board voted to seal the record.

Marisa Massarone, Docket No. 2526-123 – By a vote of 10-0, 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 is unbecoming a teacher.

Justin McGee, Docket No. 2425-168 – By a vote of 10-0, the Board voted to seal the record.

Justin McGee, Docket No. 2425-168 – By a vote of 10-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause for suspension of his certificates pending the resolution of the underlying criminal charges against him.

Kris Myers, Docket No. 2425-192 – By a vote of 10-0, 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 is unbecoming a teacher.

Regina Robinson, Docket No. 2425-125 – By a vote of 9-0, with Ms. Pearce recusing, 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 is unbecoming a teacher.

Theodore Santaguida, Jr., Docket No. 2526-133 – By a vote of 10-0, 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.

Jenna Sciabica, Docket No. 2526-134 – By a vote of 10-0, the Board voted to seal the record.

Jenna Sciabica, Docket No. 2526-134 – By a vote of 10-0, 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 is unbecoming a teacher.

James Wiegand, Docket No. 2425-222 – By a vote of 10-0, the Board voted to seal the record.

James Wiegand, Docket No. 2425-222 – By a vote of 10-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause for suspension of his certificates pending the resolution of the underlying criminal charges against him.

Michael Jared Albano, Docket No. 2526-131 – By a vote of 10-0, the Board voted to block the application.

Paul G. Bussey, Docket No. 2526-132 – By a vote of 10-0, the Board voted to block the application.

Toshira N. Maldonado, Docket No. 2526-128 – By a vote of 10-0, the Board voted to block the application.

Luther Paul Mills, Docket No. 2425-127 – By a vote of 10-0, the Board voted to block the application.

Jack Morreale, Docket No. 2526-129 – By a vote of 10-0, the Board voted to take no action on this application.

Stephen T. Kappre, Docket No. 2223-148 – By a vote of 10-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of licenses with the same force and effect as a revocation.

Alyssa G. Perry, Docket No. 2425-225 – By a vote of 10-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of licenses with the same force and effect as a revocation.

William A. Shaw, Docket No. 2425-218 – By a vote of 10-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of licenses with the same force and effect as a revocation.

Maria D. Gomez, Docket No. 2425-109 – By a vote of 10-0, the Board voted to adopt the initial decision from the Office of Administrative Law.

Fatima Nessa Docket No. 2526-121 – By a vote of 10-0, the Board voted to reject the voluntary surrender of licenses.

Nicole Maffucci, Docket No. 2021-163 – By a vote of 10-0, the Board voted to grant the request to apply for certification after a block.

Darrin Taylor, Docket No. 1718-221 – By a vote of 10-0, the Board voted to deny the request to apply for certification after a revocation.

Boaz M. Derisse Docket No. 2223-117 – By a vote of 10-0, the Board voted to grant an interlocutory review.

Legal Consent List

Ms Pearce made a motion to adopt items “A” through “P” on the legal consent list below. Mr. Kevin Pfister seconded, and the motion passed by a vote of 10-0.

Orders to Show Cause

- a. Agency Dkt. No. 2526-110 Damien Askew
- b. Agency Dkt. No. 2526-111 Alexa Bolognese

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| c. Agency Dkt. No. 2526-114 | Steven Gavrielatos |
| d. Agency Dkt. No. 2526-113 | Gregory Hans |
| e. Agency Dkt. No. 2425-131 | Evan W. Hopkins |
| f. Agency Dkt. No. 2425-315 | Mishawn Jack |
| g. Agency Dkt. No. 2425-177 | Jeffrey Munguia |
| h. Agency Dkt. No. 2526-112 | Gina Riggs |
| i. Agency Dkt. No. 2425-159 | Vincent Vespe |
| j. Agency Dkt. No. 2526-108 | Elisa Washington |

Revocations/Suspensions

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| k. Agency Dkt. No. 2425-139 | Justin P. Arlington – revocation |
| l. Agency Dkt. No. 2324-173 | Brett Baker – suspension |
| m. Agency Dkt. No. 2324-130 | Danny McEaddy – revocation |

Other

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| n. Agency Dkt. No. 2526-115 | Alison Nicole Avelino – block |
| o. Agency Dkt. No. 2425-312 | Melissa Monestime-Frazier – block |
| p. Agency Dkt. No. 2425-192 | Kris Myers – block |

Old Business

None.

New Business

None

Secretary’s Report

None

Adjournment

Mr. Jess made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was duly seconded by Dr. Somershoe and the motion carried by a unanimous vote of 10-0.

The next regularly scheduled public meeting of the State Board of Examiners will be held on December 12, 2025.

Minutes prepared by Laurie Fichera
 Minutes certified by Rani Singh, Secretary