



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

PHILIP D. MURPHY  
*Governor*

TAHESHA L. WAY  
*Lt. Governor*

KEVIN DEHMER  
*Commissioner*

**STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS  
MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING  
VIRTUALLY VIA MS TEAMS  
December 12, 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

**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.

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

Ms. Dayna Desiderio Orlak moved to adopt the minutes of the October 30, 2025 meeting (Regular and Executive Session), Ms. Melissa Pearce seconded the motion. The minutes were then approved by a vote of 8-0.

Mr. Derek Jess moved to adopt the minutes of the November 10, 2025 Special meeting minutes (Regular and Executive Session), Ms. Pearce seconded the motion. The minutes were then approved by a vote of 7-0, with Mr. Duckett abstaining.

### **Individual Credentials Review Presentations**

The following applicants attended December 12, 2025, meeting to respond to any questions from the Board regarding their applications:

Joseph Catalfamo  
Madhuri Khemka  
Deanna Loch  
Curtis Leo Mackowiak  
Angelo Milicia  
Nicole M. Morrow  
Ana C. Castello Olaya  
Irene Wang

The following applicants did not attend the December 12, 2025, meeting:

Lisa Ann Hayward  
Dakashna Lang  
Nancy Okken

### **Credentials Review Consent List**

Ms. Desiderio Orlak made a motion to table items “f”, “j” and “k” on the Credentials Review Presentation list and Mr. Robert Ford seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a vote of 8-0.

Ms. Desiderio Orlak made a motion to table item “l” on the credentials review list and Mr. Jess seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a vote of 8-0.

Ms. Desiderio Orlak made a motion to adopt the decisions in items “a” through “h” on the credentials review consent list, for the candidates who was present at the October 30, 2025, meeting, and Mr. Jess seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a vote of 8-0.

Ms. Desiderio Orlak made a motion to adopt the decision on item “i” on the credentials review consent list, for the candidate who was present at the October 30, 2025, meeting, and Mr.

Jess seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a vote of 6-0, with recusals from Ms. Melissa Pearce and Ms. Michelle McGreivey.

Ms. Desiderio Orlak made a motion to adopt the decision in items “j” through “m” on the credentials review consent list, for candidates who were not present at the October 30, 2025 meeting, and Mr. Jess seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a vote of 8-0.

The candidates in the following cases were present at the October 30, 2025 meeting. The Board adopted the following decisions:

Raffaella Bartels	Application for a Standard School Counselor certificate – The Board denied the certificate.
Kenyatta Clayborn	Application for a Teacher of Preschool through Grade 3 Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied the certificate.
Crystal Joy Gibb	Application for a Teacher of Italian Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied the certificate.
Nicole Hernandez	Application for a Teacher of English Standard Certificate – The Board denied the certificate.
Gaspard Mingot	Application for a Teacher of French Certificate of Eligibility – The Board granted the certificate.
Christopher W. Ott	Application for a School Administrator Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied the certificate.
Maida Ive Poliandro	Application for a Teacher of Art Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied the certificate.
Alessandra Santimaria	Application for a Provisional Teacher of Italian Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied the certificate.
Mark Toback	Application for School Business Administrator Standard Certificate – The Board denied the certificate.

The candidates in the following cases were not present at the October 30, 2025 meeting. The Board adopted the following decisions:

Christine Arsenis	Application for a Standard Middle School Subject-Matter Specialization: English Language Arts in Grades 5-8 certificate – The Board denied the certificate.
Lindsay Buggey	Application for a Standard Teacher of Students with Disabilities certificate – The Board denied the certificate.



Louis G. Cambria, Docket No. 2425-137 – 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 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.

Deandra Brown-Palmer, Docket No. 2526-146 – By a vote of 7-0, 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.

Kiamarie (Stone) Lambert, Docket No. 2526-148 – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause for revocation, given the level and nature of conduct is unbecoming a teacher.

Tamara Lee, Docket No. 2526-149 – By a vote of 7-0, 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.

Gary Murray, Docket No. 2324-115– By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to seal the record.

Gary Murray, Docket No. 2526-115 – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause for revocation, given the level and nature of conduct is unbecoming a teacher.

Talia D. (Morgan) Stephens, Docket No. 2526-151 – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause for revocation given the level and nature of conduct is unbecoming a teacher.

Kyle Kacicz, Docket No. 2122-164 – 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 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.

Beverly Berry, Docket Number 2526-152 – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to seal the record.

Beverly Berry, Docket Number 2526-152 – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to take no action on the application.

Ana DeOrio, Docket No.2425-318 – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to take no action on the application.

Diane Guarantano, Docket No. 2526-153 – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to block the application.

Thomas Hanna, Docket No. 2526-154 – By a vote of 6-0 with Mr. Duckett’s recusal, the Board voted to take no action on this application

Ashante Harold, Docket No.2526-155 – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to block the application.

Curtis Olando Minnis, Docket No. 2526-156 – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to take no action on this application

Christopher Bygott, Docket No.2324-124 – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of licenses with the same force and effect as a revocation.

Philip J. Carlton, Docket No. 2526-140 – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of licenses with the same force and effect as a revocation.

Albert J. Cerulo, Docket No. 2526-104– By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of licenses with the same force and effect as a revocation.

Joseph C. Dalessandro, Docket No. 2324-123– By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of licenses with the same force and effect as a revocation.

Christopher DeCesare, Docket No. 2526-190– By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of licenses with the same force and effect as a revocation.

Suzette R. Hart (Febre), Docket No. 2526-136– By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of licenses with the same force and effect as a revocation.

Justin M. McGhee, Docket No. 2425-168– By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of licenses with the same force and effect as a revocation.

Jessica L. (Zipko) Sawicki, Docket No. 2425-305– By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of licenses with the same force and effect as a revocation.

John C. Stewart, Docket No. 2526-119– By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of licenses with the same force and effect as a revocation.

Kyle L. Strowbridge, Docket No. 2425-220– By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of licenses with the same force and effect as a revocation.

Narcissa (Mross) Zuber, Docket No. 1415-145– By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of licenses with the same force and effect as a revocation.

Mary Kate (Buffet) Jennings, Docket No. 2526-105 – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to reject the voluntary surrender of licenses.

Marie G. Moran, Docket No. 2526-158 – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to table the matter.

Travis W. Brown, Docket No. 2425-220 – By a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to deny the application for certification after block.

### **Legal Consent List**

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

Mr. Kevin Pfister made a motion to adopt item “h” on the legal consent list. Ms. Gargi Adhikari seconded, and the motion passed by a vote of 6-0, with a recusal from Ms. Pearce.

Ms. Pearce made a motion to adopt items “i” through “r” on the legal consent list. Mr. Ford seconded, and the motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

### **Orders to Show Cause**

- |                             |                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Agency Dkt. No. 2526-126 | Aissa Abed               |
| b. Agency Dkt. No. 2526-115 | Alison Nicole Avelino    |
| c. Agency Dkt. No. 2526-124 | Deborah Lasher           |
| d. Agency Dkt. No. 2526-122 | Cavan A. Londergan       |
| e. Agency Dkt. No. 2324-155 | Kenneth Lutz             |
| f. Agency Dkt. No. 2526-123 | Marisa Massarone         |
| g. Agency Dkt. No. 2425-192 | Kris Myers               |
| h. Agency Dkt. No. 2425-125 | Regina Robinson          |
| i. Agency Dkt. No. 2526-133 | Theodore Santaguida, Jr. |
| j. Agency Dkt. No. 2526-134 | Jenna Sciabica           |
| k. Agency Dkt. No. 2425-222 | James Wiegand            |

### **Revocations/Suspensions**

- |                             |                                    |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| l. Agency Dkt. No. 2425-183 | Kerry (Choplin) Draus – suspension |
| m. Agency Dkt. No. 2425-109 | Maria D. Gomez – revocation        |

### **Other**

- |                             |                              |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| n. Agency Dkt. No. 2526-131 | Michael Jared Albano - block |
| o. Agency Dkt. No. 2526-132 | Paul G. Bussey - block       |
| p. Agency Dkt. No. 2526-128 | Toshira N. Maldonado - block |
| q. Agency Dkt. No. 2425-127 | Luther Paul Mills - block    |

r. Agency Dkt. No. 1718-221      Darrin Taylor – deny cert. after revocation

**Old Business**

None.

**New Business**

None

**Secretary’s Report**

Ms. Singh reported that at the December State Board of Education meeting this past month, Chapter 9 amendments were adopted for laws that were previously passed.

**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 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 pm.

The next regularly scheduled public meeting of the State Board of Examiners will be held on January 22, 2026.

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