



MIKIE SHERRILL  
Governor

DR. DALE G. CALDWELL  
Lt. Governor

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

DR. LILY LAUX  
Commissioner

**STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS  
MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING  
VIRTUALLY VIA MS TEAMS  
May 21, 2026**

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

**Absent:** Mr. Derek Jess

**Others:** Kimberly A. Gatti, Acting 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 several digital editions of newspapers and posting at the Department of Education. Notice of virtual access information was provided online on the Department of Education's Public Notice webpage, on the State Board of Examiners' website and via a public notice weblink on the Secretary of State's Statewide Legal Notices Listings webpage.

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. Kimberly A. Gatti, Acting Secretary, State Board of Examiners, took roll call and determined there was a quorum for the meeting.

Mr. Duckett entertained a motion to adopt the minutes of the April 17, 2026 meeting (Regular and Executive Sessions), Mr. Robert Ford made the motion and Ms. Dayna Desiderio Orlak seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by a vote of 9-0.

### **Individual Credentials Review Presentations**

The following applicants attended the May 21, 2026, meeting to respond to any questions from the Board regarding their applications:

Julia Buccini  
Paul Karol Cherubini  
Lauren Henri Katz  
Terry M. Lucas  
Micaela Elizabeth Piell  
Laura Tierney Spreng

The following applicants did not attend the May 21, 2026, meeting:

Zenia Chatila  
Natalia Novoa  
Bryan Alexis Rivera  
Yadan Wang

### **Credentials Review Consent List**

Ms. Orlak made a motion to adopt the decisions in items “a” through “f” on the credentials review consent list, for the candidates who were present at the April 17, 2026, meeting, and Ms. Melissa Pearce seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a vote of 9-0.

Ms. Orlak made a motion to adopt the decisions in items “g” through “l” on the credentials review consent list, for the candidates who were not present at the April 17, 2026, meeting, and Ms. Pearce seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a vote of 9-0.

Ms. Orlak made a motion to adopt the decision in case “m”, a remand from the commissioner, and Ms. Pearce seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a vote of 9-0.

The candidates in the following cases were present at the April 17, 2026, meeting. The Board adopted the following decisions:

Kelly M. (Warren) Gibbs	Application for a Provisional Teacher of Preschool through Grade 3 Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing – The Board granted the certificate.
Paige Harrison	Application for a Provisional Teacher of Preschool through Grade 3 Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing – The Board granted the certificate.
Chris Hernandez	Application for a Renewal of a Provisional Elementary School Teacher in Grades K-6 Certificate of Eligibility – The Board granted the certificate with an expiration date of July 31, 2027.
Stacey Grace Salvia	Applications for a Provisional Teacher of Students with Disabilities Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing and a Provisional Elementary School Teacher in Grades K-6 Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing – The Board granted the certificates.
Terese Taylor	Application for a Teacher of Business: Comprehensive Business Certificate of Eligibility – The Board granted the certificate.

The candidates in the following cases were not present at the April 17, 2026, meeting.  
The Board adopted the following decisions:

Mohammed Farid	Application for a Provisional CTE Computer Science Technology Certificate of Eligibility with an employment start date of September 1, 2023 – The Board denied the certificate.
Liana Lichter	Application for a Provisional Elementary School Teacher in Grades K-6 Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing with an employment start date of January 22, 2024 – The Board denied the certificate.
Erick Loften-Harris	Applications for a Provisional Elementary School Teacher in Grades K-6 Limited Certificate of Eligibility and Provisional Teacher of Students with Disabilities Limited Certificate of Eligibility with an employment start date of January 27, 2023 – The Board denied the certificates.
Anthony McGuane	Application for a Standard Elementary School Teacher in Grades K-6 certificate – The Board granted the certificate.

Jeremy Watson	Application for a Provisional Teacher of Music Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied the certificate.
Latson Cockfield	Decision on Remand from the Commissioner – Application for a Teacher of Business: Finance, Economics and Law Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied the certificate.

## **Legal Committee Report**

The Board heard one hearing: the Matter of the Certificates of Debra Lasher, Docket Number 2526-124. Ms. Lasher appeared and provided testimony to the Board.

Mr. Robert Ford 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. Carmela Somershoe and carried by a vote of 9-0. The Board went into closed session at 10:47 am. The Board returned to the public portion of the meeting at 11:57am

Mr. Ford made a motion to return to public session, and Mr. Kevin Pfister seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a vote of 9-0.

On return to the public meeting, Mr. Duckett 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:

Luke Bakula, Docket No. 1516-224 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to accept the terms and conditions of the proposed consent order in this matter.

Chelsea Combs, Docket No. 2324-142 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to accept the terms and conditions of the proposed consent order in this matter.

Nataly Diaz, Docket No. 2324-171 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to reject the terms and conditions of the proposed consent order in this matter.

Tinasiah Mitchell, Docket No. 2425-162 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to reject the terms and conditions of the proposed consent order in this matter.

Jessica (Brown) Murphy, Docket No. 2324-137 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to reject the terms and conditions of the proposed consent order in this matter.

Kimira Ramsey, Docket No. 2425-135 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to accept the terms and conditions of the proposed consent order in this matter.

Joseph Tramontana, Docket No. 1415-125 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to reject the terms and conditions of the proposed consent order in this matter.

Erin (Sullivan) Gawronski, Docket No. 2425-154 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted given that no material facts are in dispute and the level and nature of the conduct and crime is unbecoming a teacher, and they are disqualified from employment with any institutions under the supervision of the Department of Education, the appropriate response and penalty is revocation.

Andrei J. Simon(a), Docket No. 2425-313 – By a vote of 9-0, 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.

Stevie Williams, Docket No. 2425-310 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted given that no material facts are in dispute and the level and nature of the conduct is unbecoming a teacher, and they are disqualified from employment with any institutions under the supervision of the Department of Education, the appropriate response and penalty is revocation.

Samantha Krakower, Docket No. 2122-176 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to adopt the initial decision from the Office of Administrative Law.

Elbert Adams, Docket No. 2526-197 – By a vote of 9-0, 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.

Angela Bell, Docket No. 2526-198 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to seal the record in the matter.

Angela Bell, Docket No. 2526-198 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause for revocation, given the level and nature of conduct is unbecoming a teacher.

Joseph DeSanto, Docket No. 2526-209 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause for revocation, given the level and nature of conduct is unbecoming a teacher.

Arlene Diaz, Docket No. 2526-201 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause for revocation, given the level and nature of conduct is unbecoming a teacher.

Danielle M. Elliot, Docket No. 2526-212 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to seal the record in the matter.

Danielle M. Elliot, Docket No. 2526-212 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause for revocation, given the level and nature of conduct is unbecoming a teacher.

Brandon Stephens, Docket No. 2526-211 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause for revocation, given the level and nature of conduct is unbecoming a teacher.

Joseph Stocker, Docket No. 2526-207 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause for revocation, given the level and nature of conduct is unbecoming a teacher.

Timothy Vangelas, Docket No. 2526-210 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause for revocation, given the level and nature of conduct is unbecoming a teacher.

Emily Wescott, Docket No. 2526-185 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause for revocation, given the level and nature of conduct is unbecoming a teacher.

Kiamarie (Stone) Lambert, 2526-148 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to withdraw the order to show cause.

Henry Columna, Docket No. 2526-177 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of licenses with the same force and conditions as a revocation.

James Merritt, Docket No. 2526-219 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of licenses with the same force and conditions as a revocation.

Georgia Tretris, Docket No. 2526-120 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of licenses with the same force and conditions as a revocation.

Claire Elizabeth Stout, Docket No. 2425-222 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to take no action on the application.

Wilbett Anshelewitz, Docket No. 2526-218 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to accept the voluntary surrender of license.

David S. Gorman, Docket No. 1617-2017 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to deny the request for certification after block.

## **Legal Consent List**

Ms. Pearce made a motion to adopt items “a” through “s” on the legal consent list below. Ms. Adhikari seconded, and the motion passed by a vote of 9-0.

### **Orders to Show Cause**

- |                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| a. Agency Dkt. No. 2526-200 | Racquel A. Caramucci (Galietti)            |
| b. Agency Dkt. No. 2526-176 | Amir Doctry                                |
| c. Agency Dkt. No. 1819-150 | Isaias Garza                               |
| d. Agency Dkt. No. 2324-166 | James Curtis Geist                         |
| e. Agency Dkt. No. 2526-172 | Rachel J. (Prendeville) Lovering<br>(Gray) |
| f. Agency Dkt. No. 2324-155 | Kenneth Lutz                               |
| g. Agency Dkt. No. 2526-186 | Sharon Manupello                           |
| h. Agency Dkt. No. 2526-184 | Erin Meyers                                |
| i. Agency Dkt. No. 2526-187 | Jessica Nolan                              |

### **Revocations/Suspensions**

- |                             |                                 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| j. Agency Dkt. No. 2425-185 | Richard S. Jacoby – Revocation  |
| k. Agency Dkt. No. 2223-151 | David E. Staggers – Revocation  |
| l. Agency Dkt. No. 2223-112 | Andrew Wepner – Revocation      |
| m. Agency Dkt. No. 2425-121 | Muhammad Wilkerson – Revocation |

### **Other**

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| n. Agency Dkt. No. 2526-173 | William Callan – Block                          |
| o. Agency Dkt. No. 2425-134 | Christina Glen – Accept Return/Reject Dismissal |
| p. Agency Dkt. No. 2526-202 | Matthew Nagie – Block                           |
| q. Agency Dkt. No. 2425-187 | Kelley R. Pritchett – Dismissal                 |
| r. Agency Dkt. No. 2526-204 | James Stroebel – Block                          |
| s. Agency Dkt. No. 2526-174 | Luke Samuel Zottoli – Block                     |

### **Old Business**

None.

### **New Business**

Three resolutions were presented. First, a resolution honoring Ms. Rani Singh's service on the Board as the secretary of the Board was presented.

*Whereas,* Rani Singh served as Secretary of the State Board of Examiners since 2019 with great professionalism, expertise and leadership; and

*Whereas,* her responsibilities included acting as Secretary of the Board, as well as the Director of Recruitment, Preparation and Certification, overseeing all examiners, assisting in the development of policy, amendments to regulations, and overseeing credentials review appeal matters and legal matters before the Board; and

*Whereas,* her invaluable skill and work ethic enabled the Board to fulfill its functions in an efficient and organized manner; now be it

*Resolved* that the members of the New Jersey State Board of Examiners commend Rani Singh for her contribution to the work of the State Board of Examiners and for her commitment and dedication to the Board's mission; and be it further

*Resolved* that on this 21st day of May 2026, the members of the State Board of Examiners extend to Rani Singh their sincere appreciation for her devoted service to the Board and wish her well in the future.

Ms. Orlak made a motion to adopt the resolution. It was seconded by Ms. Pearce. The motion carried by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Second, a resolution honoring Dr. Carmela Somershoe's service on the Board was presented.

*Whereas,* Dr. Carmela Somershoe has been a valued member of the New Jersey State Board of Examiners since 2024, serving as a member of the Legal Committee since 2024; and

*Whereas,* the State Board of Examiners gratefully acknowledges the exceptional knowledge, expertise, and leadership Dr. Somershoe consistently brought to the Board, providing invaluable guidance in all facets of its work; and

*Whereas,* Dr. Somershoe's experience as a superintendent, principal and educator enabled her to offer sound reasoning and solutions for complex matters before the Board, which was reflective of her concern for the education and well-being of all children; and

*Whereas,* through her philosophy and example, Dr. Somershoe exerted a positive influence in assisting the State Board of Examiners in upholding the highest standards for all practicing educational professionals in New Jersey's public schools; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved* that on this 21st day of May 2026, the State Board of Examiners extends its sincere appreciation to Dr. Somershoe for the high regard she

exhibited for her responsibilities to the Board throughout her years of service, and commends her for the manner in which she discharged her duties.

Ms. Pearce made a motion to adopt the resolution. It was seconded by Ms. Adhikari. The motion carried by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Third, a resolution for the 2026-2027 State Board of Examiners' calendar was presented.

*Whereas*, the State Board of Examiners (Board) was created by N.J.S.A. 18A:6-34; and

*Whereas*, the Board has resolved to conduct its business at regular meetings to be held at such time, place, and on such dates as it shall establish pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 *et seq.*, the Open Public Meetings Act, with notice of such meetings to be made in a manner consistent with the law;

*Now Therefore Be It Resolved*, the State Board of Examiners establishes the following dates for its regular meetings for 2026-2027 academic year and in accordance with PL 2025 C. 72 directs a copy of these dates be posted on the New Jersey Public Notice Hyperlink Portal, as well as the State Board of Examiners' webpage:

September 18, 2026 (FR)	January 21, 2027 (TH)	May 21, 2027 (FR)
October 29, 2026 (TH)	March 5, 2027 (FR)	June 24, 2027 (TH)
December 11, 2026 (FR)	April 9, 2027 (FR)	August 5, 2027 (TH)

The Chair of the Board will convene these meetings at 10:30 a.m., adjourn to Executive Session, and then reconvene the Public Session. It is anticipated that the Board's meeting will be held virtually through the Microsoft Teams platform. Information on how to access the Board's meetings will be posted on the Board's website. Notice of changes to the above will be made in compliance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act.

Dr. Ramsey made a motion to adopt the resolution. It was seconded by Ms. Adhikari. The motion carried by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

### **Secretary's Report**

None.

### **Adjournment**

Ms. Orlak made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was duly seconded by Ms. Gargi Adhikari and the motion carried by a unanimous vote of 9-0. The meeting was adjourned at 12:24 pm.

The next regularly scheduled public meeting of the State Board of Examiners will be held on June 25, 2026.

Minutes prepared by Laurie Fichera