



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

TAHESHA L. WAY
Lt. Governor

KEVIN DEHMER
Acting Commissioner

STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS MINUTES OF MEETING VIRTUALLY VIA MS TEAMS September 19, 2025

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

Absent: Ms. Dayna Desiderio Orlak
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 the digital editions of Trenton Times and Star Ledger in New Jersey and posting at the Department of Education. 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. 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 roll call and determined there was a quorum for the meeting.

Ms. Melissa Pearce moved to adopt the minutes of the August 8, 2025 meeting (Regular and Executive Session), Mr. Derek Jess seconded the motion. The minutes were then approved by a vote of 8-0.

Individual Credentials Review Presentations

The following applicants attended September 19, 2025, meeting to respond to any questions from the Board regarding their applications:

Ashley Carmelita Addison
Christian Carrasco
Patricia Conway
Lenica Gutierrez-Bujalil
Claire Murphy
Mariana B. Remotti
Louis Sapirman

The following applicants did not attend the September 19, 2025, meeting.

Kimberly Priscilla Arnold
Auriela V. Selimi Laue
Joseph D. Porretta
Betul Tarhan

Credentials Review Consent List

Ms. Michelle McGreivey made a motion to remove item “h” on the credentials review consent list, for the candidate who was present at the August 8, 2025, meeting, for a separate vote. and Ms. Melissa Pearce seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a vote of 8-0,

Mr. Derek Jess made a motion to adopt the decisions in items “a” through “d” on the credentials review consent list, for the candidates who were present at the June 26, 2025, meeting, and Mr. Duckett seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a vote of 8-0,

Mr. Jess made a motion to adopt the decision in items “e” through “g” on the credentials review consent list, for candidates who were not present at the June 26, 2025 meeting, and Dr. Thelma Ramsey seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a vote of 8-0.

Mr. Jess made a motion to adopt the decisions in items “i” and “j” on the credentials review consent list, for the candidates who were present at the August 8, 2025, meeting, and Ms.

McGreivey seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a vote of 6-0, with Mr. Jess and Mr. Robert Ford absenting.

Mr. Jess made a motion to adopt the decisions in items “k” and “l” on the credentials review consent list, for the candidates who were not present at the August 8, 2025 meeting, and Dr. Thelma Ramsey seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a vote of 6-0, with Mr. Jess and Mr. Ford abstaining.

Mr. Jess made a motion to adopt the decision in item “h” on the credentials review consent list, for candidates who were present at the August 8, 2025, meeting, and Dr. Ramsey seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a vote of 5-0, with Mr. Jess, Ms. McGreivey and Mr. Ford abstaining.

The candidates in the following cases were present at the June 26, 2025 meeting. The Board adopted the following decisions:

Gisellmary Gonzalez-Rivera Provisional Teacher of Elementary School in Grades K-6 Certificate of Eligibility with Advance Standing – The Board denied the certificate.

Ria Alyse Johnson Provisional Teacher of Elementary School in Grades K-6 Certificate of Eligibility with Advance Standing and Provisional Teacher of Students with Disabilities Certificate of Eligibility with Advance Standing – The Board denied the certificate.

Julianne Reidel Provisional Teacher of Elementary School in Grades K-6 Certificate of Eligibility with Advance Standing – The Board denied the certificate.

Samantha Scott Provisional Teacher of Elementary School in Grades K-6 Certificate of Eligibility with Advance Standing – The Board denied the certificate.

The candidates in the following cases were not present at the June 26, 2025 meeting. The Board adopted the following decisions:

Lisa Bellotti Provisional Teacher of Students with Disabilities Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied the certificate.

Jessica Perez Provisional Elementary School Teacher in Grades K-6 Certificates of Eligibility – The Board denied the certificates.

Adriana Shaw Provisional Teacher of Elementary School in Grades K-6 Certificate of Eligibility with Advance Standing and

Provisional Teacher of Students with Disabilities Certificate of Eligibility with Advance Standing – The Board denied the certificates.

The candidates in the following cases were present at the August 8 ,2025 meeting. The Board adopted the following decisions:

Nahla Abdelwahab Provisional Teacher of Preschool through Grade 3 Certificate of Eligibility with Advance Standing – The Board denied the certificate.

Caecilia Altenburg Provisional Teacher of Elementary School in Grades K-6 Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied the certificate.

Sandy Philips Standard Supervisor Certificate – The Board denied the certificate.

The candidates in the following cases were not present at the August 8, 2025, meeting. The Board adopted the following decisions:

Supattra Juangjan Carr Provisional Teacher of Preschool through Grade 3 Certificate of Eligibility and Provisional Teacher of Students with Disabilities Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied the certificates.

Bryan Kessler Standard Supervisor Certificate – The Board denied the certificate.

Legal Committee Report

There were no hearings on the September 19, 2025, agenda.

Mr. 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. Ramsey and carried by a vote of 8-0. The Board went into closed session at 10:48 am.

The Board returned to the public session following a motion by Dr. Ramsey, seconded by Mr. Kevin Pfister and carried a vote of 8-0. The Board returned to the public portion of the meeting at 11:40 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:

Nataly V. Diaz – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to reject the proposed consent order in this matter.

Cindy Jimenez – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to accept the proposed consent order in this matter.

Thomas Meier – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to accept the proposed consent order in this matter.

Jessica (Brown) Murphy – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to reject the proposed consent order in this matter.

Louis Severino – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to accept the proposed consent order in this matter.

Joel Vargas-Muniz – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to reject the proposed consent order in this matter.

Justin P Arlington – By a vote of 8-0, 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 revocation.

Brett Baker – By a vote of 8-0, 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 two (2) years.

Danny McEaddy – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted given that no material facts are in dispute and the level and nature of conduct, crime and being disqualified for employment with any institution under the supervision of the Department of Education, the appropriate response and penalty is revocation.

Damien Askew – By a vote of 8-0, 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.

Alexa Bolognese – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to seal the record.

Alexa Bolognese – By a vote of 8-0, 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.

Ms. Pearce turned the meeting over to Mr. Kevin Pfister, as she was recused from the next vote.

Steven Gavrielatos – By a vote of 7-0, with Ms. Pearce recusal, the Board voted to seal the record.

Steven Gavrielatos – By a vote of 7-0, with Ms. Pearce recusal, 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.

Mr. Pfister turned the meeting back to Ms. Pearce.

Gregory Hans – By a vote of 8-0, 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.

Evans W. Hopkins – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to seal the record.

Evans W. Hopkins – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause as to why his certificate(s) should not be suspended pending the resolution of his underlining criminal charge based upon the level and nature of the conduct.

Mishawn Jack – By a vote of 8-0, 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.

Jeffrey Munguia – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to seal the record.

Jeffrey Munguia – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause as to why his certificate(s) should not be suspended pending the resolution of his underlining criminal charge based upon the level and nature of the conduct.

Gina L. Riggs – By a vote of 8-0, 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.

Vincent T. Vespi – By a vote of 8-0, 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.

Eliza Washington – By a vote of 8-0, 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.

Alison Nicole Avelino – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to seal the record.

Alison Nicole Avelino – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to block the application.

Alexis DeMartino – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to take no action on this application.

Ana DeOrio – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to table the matter.

Kris Myers – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to seal the record.

Kris Myers – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to block the application.

Ian N. Alves – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of licenses with the same force and effect as a revocation.

Jonathan Howell – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of licenses with the same force and effect as a revocation.

Markus Maasikas – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of licenses with the same force and effect as a revocation.

Scott D. Nalick – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of licenses with the same force and effect as a revocation.

Lorenzo S. Puertas – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to accept the v relinquishment of licenses with the same force and effect as a revocation.

Julieann (While) Rizzitello – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of licenses with the same force and effect as a revocation.

Gnanaseharan Selliah – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to accept the v relinquishment of licenses with the same force and effect as a revocation.

Michael A Van Kline – By a vote of 7-0, with Mr. Duckett recusing, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of licenses with the same force and effect as a revocation.

Melissa Monestime-Frazier – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to block the application.

Legal Consent List

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

Orders to Show Cause

- a. Jeffrey T. Bauer
- b. Christopher S. Doyle
- c. Jason Manzella
- d. Alexis Nicole Meister

- e. Melissa Monestime-Frazier
- f. Andrei Simon(a)
- g. Stevie E. Williams

Other

- h. Jo Anne Dobis – block
- i. Mishawn Jack – block
- j. Suzette D. (Meoni) Lohr – block
- k. Ariel DShea Pierce – block
- l. Shelliah M. Williams - block

Old Business

None.

New Business

None

Secretary’s Report

None

Adjournment

Ms. Pearce made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was duly seconded by Ms. Gargi Adhikari and the motion carried by a unanimous vote of 8-0.

The next regularly scheduled public meeting of the State Board of Examiners will be held on October 30, 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