

State Board of Examiners  
Minutes of Meeting

June 15, 2000

Attending: Assistant Commissioner Ellen Schechter, Chairperson  
Ms. Ida B. Graham, Secretary  
Ms. Arlene Lutz, Deputy Attorney General  
Dr. Vito Germinario, Chairperson, Legal Committee  
Dr. Elspeth Goodin, Chairperson, Credentials Review Committee  
Dr. Ronald Applbaum  
Ms. Ida Bilbow  
Dr. Donald Farish  
Ms. Joanne Gales  
Mr. James Gay  
Dr. Richard Malanowski  
Dr. Robert Petix  
Mr. Peter Tirri

Absent: Dr. Mary Jean Guidette  
Ms. Deidre Simon

The meeting was called to order by Assistant Commissioner Ellen Schechter, Chairperson.

The minutes of the May 11, 2000 meeting were adopted with one amendment to reflect that Ida Bilbow was present.

The legal matter of Nicholas Arminio was withdrawn from the agenda.

Individual Credentials Review - Presentation

The following individuals attended the meeting, made brief presentations and answered questions from the Board regarding their experiences:

Maureen Ambinder - School Social Worker

Cathleen Jenkins - Principal and School Administrator Certificates of Eligibility  
Ms. Jenkins was accompanied by Mr. Edward Taylor, retired director of Special Services for the Camden School District, who spoke on her behalf.

Neil Torino - Director of Student Personnel Services

### Credentials Review Committee Report

The Credentials Review Committee reviewed all credentials review cases and presented its recommendations to the Board. The Board took the following actions:

Theresa Kirkbride Zigich - School Social Worker - Unanimously denied  
Laura Schaeffer - Speech-Language Specialist - Granted  
Lucille Verina - School Psychologist – Unanimously denied

### Legal Committee Report

The Legal Committee reviewed all legal cases and presented its recommendations to the Board. The Board took the following actions:

#### Order to Show Cause

**Julius Anderson** – Permanent disqualification from public school employment by the Office of Criminal History Review. The disqualification was based on a 1975 conviction on charges of possession of heroin.

**Glen Davis** – Permanent disqualification from public school employment by the Office of Criminal History Review. The disqualification was based on a 1998 conviction on charges of 2<sup>nd</sup> degree official misconduct.

**Aquil Lawson** – Permanent disqualification from public school employment by the Office of Criminal History Review. The disqualification was based on a 1983 conviction on charges of possession of marijuana and narcotic equipment.

**Gabriel Nyenator** – Permanent disqualification from public school employment by the Office of Criminal History Review. The disqualification was based on a 1997 conviction on charges of possession of marijuana.

In the matter of **Michael Burke**, the Board unanimously voted to vacate the Order to Show Cause issued May 11, 2000 based on additional information received from the Office of Criminal History Review indicating that Mr. Burke is now eligible for public school employment.

In the matter of **Joy Northrop-Devincenzi**, the Board voted to deny the Motion for Stay. The Board found that Ms. Northrop-Devincenzi's case does not meet the criteria for obtaining such a stay.

In the matter of **Olivia Howard**, the Board unanimously voted to deny Ms. Howard's request for issuance of a County Substitute certificate based on her permanent disqualification from public school employment by the Office of Criminal History Review. The disqualification was based on a 1991 conviction on charges of death by auto.

In the matter of **Thomas Johnson**, the Board unanimously voted to deny his request for Substance Awareness Coordinator certification because his 1983 conviction on charges of possession of marijuana would permanently disqualify him from public school employment under the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1.

In the matter of **Warren Jones**, the Board unanimously voted to vacate their decision to grant Mr. Jones a hearing at the Office of Administrative Law since the issue concerning the "insufficient" performance rating he received for participation in the Provisional Teacher Program/Traditional Route during the 1997-98 school year is now moot. Mr. Jones has now been issued standard teacher certification by completing the Provisional Teacher Program in another school district.

In the matter of **Robert Joya**, the Board unanimously voted to take no action to alter their November 17, 1994 decision. The Board noted that an "insufficient" performance rating in the Provisional Teacher Program provides Mr. Joya with an opportunity to complete the program an additional year.

In the matter of **Anna Peppers**, the Board unanimously voted to table the matter for further investigation.

In the matter of **George Redmond**, the Board unanimously voted to deny Mr. Redmond's request for issuance of a County Substitute certificate based on his permanent disqualification from public school employment by the Office of Criminal History Review. The disqualification was based on a 1991 conviction on charges of possession of cocaine.

**In the matter of M.S., the Board unanimously voted to adopt the Administrative Law Judge's Initial Decision with clarification. The Board also voted to revoke her certificates.**

In the matter of **Rhonda Bramlett-Vitella**, the Board unanimously voted to change Ms. Bramlett-Vitella's performance rating from a "disapproved" to an "insufficient for her participation in the Provisional Teacher Program/Alternate Route. The Board noted that there were technical flaws in the administration of the program.

The Board voted to take no action to suspend, revoke or block certificates to the following individuals:

Ilene Baranik	Brian Simmons
Kenneth Hoff	Susan Stepien
Pamela Moat	Michael Troiano
Nancy Scully	

Chairperson Ellen Schechter made a motion for the Board to go into executive session at 11:33 AM to discuss a legal matter. The Board moved out of executive session at 11:45 AM.

Secretary Ida Graham apologized for the lateness in the mailing of the agenda and also disseminated the proposed Board calendar for 2000-2001.

Dr. Vito Germinario initiated a discussion regarding the Board's concern about candidates seeking certification who are permanently disqualified from public school employment because of criminal offenses committed many years ago. The Board asked Secretary Ida Graham to draft a letter to be transmitted to the Legislature concerning the Board's sentiments. It was further agreed that the Board will review the draft at the September 21, 2000 Board meeting.

Chairperson Ellen Schechter advised the Board that Deputy Attorney General Arlene Lutz, Credentials Review Chairperson, Dr. Elspeth Goodin and Ms. Deidre Simon were retiring from the Board. Resolutions were read. A Resolution from the Board was also being forwarded to Frank Hicks who resigned earlier in the school year. Chairperson Schechter appointed Ms. Joanne Gales to the Credential Review Committee.

The following cases should be retained by Board members for future reference:

Maureen Ambinder	Aquil Lawson	Neil Torino
Glen Davis	Gabriel Nyenator	
Cathleen Jenkins.	Anna Peppers	

The next meeting of the board is scheduled to be held on Thursday, September 21, 2000 at the first floor conference room at 100 Riverview Plaza, Trenton, New Jersey.