

**New Jersey State Board of Education
Minutes of the Meeting of the New Jersey State Board of Education
In the Conference Room on the First Floor
100 River View Executive Plaza
Trenton, NJ**

May 1, 2019

Presiding: Kathy Goldenberg, Vice President

Secretary: Lamont O. Repollet, Ed. D., Commissioner

PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM

Mrs. Kathy Goldenberg
Dr. Joseph Ricca
Mrs. Elaine Bobrove
Mrs. Fatimah Burnam-Watkins
Mrs. Mary Beth Berry
Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Gazi
Mr. Jack Fornaro
Dr. Nedd J. Johnson (via teleconference)
Dr. Ernest Lepore
Mr. Andrew Mulvihill
Mrs. Sylvia

ABSENT

Mr. Arcelio Aponte
Dr. Ronald Butcher

CONVENING

State Board of Education Vice President Kathy Goldenberg convened the public meeting at 9:00 a.m. with the reading of the statement pertaining to the public session of the State Board meeting as it complies with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act.

The Open Public Meetings Act was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meeting of public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon.

In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the State Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted in the Department of Education, Secretary of State's Office and notice also having been given to the State House Press Corps, the Governor's Office and the State Board agenda subscribers.

And seeing there was a quorum, the meeting of May 1, 2019 was called to order.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Vice President Goldenberg then read the resolution pertaining to the executive session of the State Board meeting as it complies with the Open Public Meetings Act.

WHEREAS, in order to protect the personal privacy and to avoid situations wherein the public interest might be disserved, the Open Public Meetings Act permits public bodies to exclude the public from that portion of a meeting at which certain matters are discussed, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that consistent with the provision of N.J.S.A. 10:4-12.b, the State Board Education will now adjourn to executive session to discuss personnel and legal issues. The State Board immediately adjourned to executive session on May 1, 2019.

RECONVENING

State Board Vice President Kathy Goldenberg reconvened the open meeting at 10:15 a.m. with the reading of the resolution pertaining to the resumption of the public session of the State Board meeting as it complies with the Open Public Meetings Act.

WHEREAS, consistent with the provision of N.J.S.A. 10:4-12.b, the State Board will now adjourn from executive session to resume the open session of this meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board members approved the minutes of the public meeting conducted on April 17, 2019. State Board members Mrs. Fatimah Burnam-Watkins, Dr. Joe Ricca, and Mrs. Mary Beth Gazi abstained.

Resolution in Honor of Better Hearing and Speech Month

Vice President Goldenberg introduced and welcomed Mary Faella, President of the New Jersey Speech and Language Association, to receive the following resolution in honor of School Library month.

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board unanimously approved the following resolution read by State Board member Elaine Bobrove:

RESOLUTION FOR BETTER HEARING AND SPEECH MONTH

WHEREAS, the month of May 2019 is being celebrated nationally as Better Hearing and Speech Month; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey State Board of Education recognizes that many students have communications disorders and acknowledges the significance that the ability to communicate plays in building personal and societal relationships as students grow and mature; and

WHEREAS, Better Hearing and Speech Month is a time to raise awareness about communication disorders and to encourage children and families to receive appropriate screenings and evaluations; and

WHEREAS, Better Hearing and Speech Month is also a time to acknowledge the hard work of audiologists, speech-language pathologists, and speech, language, and hearing scientists and the contributions they make that remarkably affect the lives of students in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, these professionals are invested in serving the needs of students with speech, language, and hearing disorders to foster success in all aspects of their lives by prioritizing effective communication for the highest quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Speech-Language-Hearing Association supports students and professionals by its professional development offerings, advocacy efforts, and public awareness campaigns designed to ensure that high-quality care is provided; and

WHEREAS, it is both fitting and proper that special recognition be given to acknowledge May 2019 as Better Hearing and Speech Month along with commending the New Jersey Speech-Language-Hearing Association for its role in providing outstanding service to professionals throughout the State of New Jersey; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the New Jersey State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education recognize May 2019 as Better Hearing and Speech Month in New Jersey.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Announcements

Sign Language Interpreters

Vice President Goldenberg introduced and welcomed the two the Sign Language Interpreters, Monica Ayrer and Rita Jo Scarcella.

Permanent Student Representative

Vice President Goldenberg welcomed Nora Faverzani, the 2018-2019 permanent student representative, to the State Board of Education. Nora Faverzani is a senior from Ocean City High School in Cape May County. Nora talked to the State Board members about the philosophy surrounding class rank and the percentile ranking system. State Board member Mary Beth Berry stated that she would like to further explore the topic of class rank.

Public Testimony

Vice President Goldenberg stated public testimony would be held today at 2:00 p.m. She also stated that today is an Open Topic public testimony session and there are no other scheduled topics for public testimony. State Board members Kathy Goldenberg, Sylvia Sylvia, Fatimah Burnam-Watkins, Ernest Lepore, and Jack Fornaro are scheduled to hear public testimony today.

Vice President Goldenberg further stated that public testimony will not be held on Wednesday, June 5, 2019 as there are no topics scheduled. The next public testimony session will be held on Wednesday, August 7, 2019. Registration for the August 7, 2019 public testimony session will open on Thursday, July 18, 2019, and will close at noon on Thursday, August 1, 2019.

Vice President Goldenberg stated that anyone interested in speaking at and/or also attending the public testimony session must register so the State Board staff can make proper arrangements for space. She further stated that members of the public should contact the State Board office at 609-376-9071 or check the following website <https://www.state.nj.us/education/sboe/meetings/pubtest.shtml> for updates.

Selection of State Board Nominating Committee

Vice President Goldenberg announced the members of the State Board Nominating Committee. Dr. Ernest Lepore will serve as Chair of the committee and State Board members Dr. Nedd Johnson and Mrs. Sylvia Sylvia will serve on the committee. Vice President Goldenberg stated the State Board nominating

committee will present the slate of officers for the 2019-2020 school year at the June 5, 2019 meeting. She also stated that in accordance with State Board bylaws, the elections for the State Board leadership will be held after June 30.

State Board Calendar of Meeting Dates

Vice President Goldenberg presented to the State Board members the proposed list of State Board meeting dates for 2019-2020. She asked the State Board members to review and share any concerns they may have about the dates. She also stated that the State Board will vote on the resolution to adopt the 2019-2020 Calendar at the June 5, 2019, public business meeting.

Vice President Goldenberg further stated that she would like to discuss the July 3rd State Board meeting date with the State Board members, today. After a brief discussion, Vice President Goldenberg and the State Board members agreed to keep the July 3rd meeting as planned.

Hunterdon County Vocational School Tour

Vice President Goldenberg stated that she had the pleasure of touring Hunterdon County Vocational School along with Kellie LeDet, Assistant Commissioner/Chief of Staff, Division of Executive Services, Kim Walker, Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Division of Executive Services and Jane Griesinger, Director, Office of Career Readiness on Monday, April 29, 2019 to learn more about the programs they offer.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

State Operated School District Annual Report – Paterson

Commissioner Repollet welcomed Dr. Eileen Shafer, Superintendent of Paterson School District and her team to the State Board meeting. Dr. Shafer introduced her colleagues Susana Peron, Deputy Superintendent: Cicely Warren, Assistant Superintendent for School Administration, Cheryl Coy, Chief Special Education Officer, David Cozart, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for School Administration, Eric Crespo, Assistant Superintendent for Academic Services and Special Programs, and Paul Brubaker, Public Information Officer.

Dr. Shafer presented a report to the State Board members outlining the improvements that are happening in Paterson School District. The presentation agenda included the Paterson mission and vision: the 2019 Board of Education and Superintendent's cabinet, district data, student demographics, college acceptances and post-graduation plans, and the 2018 district graduation rate. Dr. Shafer also presented the plans to restore local control: the 2017-2018 district priorities, improvements in instruction and programming, improvements in personnel, improvements in fiscal responsibility, improvements in operations, and improvements in governance.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

**Items scheduled for a vote are marked with an asterisk.*

***A. Appointment(s)**

- There were no appointments.

***B. Certification of School Districts**

- The State Board certified for a period of three years the following school districts recommended by the Commissioner, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-14a and b. State Board member Elaine Bobrove abstained.

Certified School District	County
Maple Shade	Burlington
Northern Burlington County Regional	Burlington
Collingswood	Camden
Woodbine	Cape May
Kearny	Hudson
Island Heights	Ocean
Jackson Township	Ocean
Long Beach Island	Ocean
Ocean County Vocational	Ocean
Ocean Gate	Ocean
Point Pleasant Borough	Ocean
Stafford Township	Ocean
Tuckerton	Ocean
Ringwood	Passaic
Roselle Park	Union
Atlantic City	Atlantic
Brigantine	Atlantic
Buena Regional	Atlantic
Somers Point	Atlantic
Hainesport Township	Burlington
Mt. Ephraim	Camden
Trenton	Mercer
Central Regional	Ocean
Passaic County	Passaic

***C. Religious Holidays Calendar Resolution**

- Adopted the following resolution pertaining to the annual calendar of religious holidays for the 2019-2020 school year as established at N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.3(j), pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:36-14 through 16.

RESOLUTION

The List of Religious Holidays Permitting Student Absence from School

WHEREAS, according to N.J.S.A. 18A:36-14 through 16 and N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.3(j), regarding student absence from school because of religious holidays, the Commissioner of Education, with the approval of the State Board of Education, is charged with the responsibility of prescribing such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of the law; and

WHEREAS, the law provides that:

1. Any student absent from school because of a religious holiday may not be deprived of any award or of eligibility or opportunity to compete for any award because of such absence;
2. Students who miss a test or examination because of absence on a religious holiday must be given the right to take an alternate test or examination;
3. To be entitled to the privileges set forth above, the student must present a written excuse signed by a parent or person standing in place of a parent;
4. Any absence because of a religious holiday must be recorded in the school register or in any group or class attendance record as an excused absence;
5. Such absence must not be recorded on any transcript or application or employment form or on any similar form; and
6. The Commissioner, with the approval of the State Board of Education, is required to:
 - (a) prescribe such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this act; and
 - (b) prepare a list of religious holidays on which it shall be mandatory to excuse a student. The list, however, is to be a minimum list. Boards of education, at their discretion, may add other days to the list for the schools of their districts; and

WHEREAS, although the New Jersey Department of Education makes every attempt to ensure the accuracy of the dates using the lunar, Gregorian and Julian calendars; and

WHEREAS, dates within this resolution may not be fixed before the State Board adopts the annual calendar and may require additional revision; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, the State Board of Education permits the Commissioner of Education, after annual adoption by the State Board of Education, to revise the dates provided in list of religious holidays.

WHEREAS, the district board of education has the right to add any bona fide religious holiday to the list for its own schools; now therefore be it,

RESOLVED that the State Board of Education adopts the following list of religious holidays for the 2019 - 2020 school year:

2019-20 School Year Observances

July 2019

Date	Observance
July 9	Martyrdom of the Bab (Baha'i)

Date	Observance
July 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guru Purnima Asalha Puja Day (Buddhist)

August 2019

Date	Observance
August 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fast in Honor of the Holy Mother of Lord Jesus (Eastern Orthodox Christian) Lammas (Christian and Wicca)
August 5	Naga Panchami (Hindu)* ¹
August 6	Transfiguration of the Lord (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
August 9-14	Hajj Day (Islam)*
August 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tish'a B'Av (Jewish) Yawm al-Arafa (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
August 11	Eid al-Adha (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
August 12-15	Eid al-Adha (Islam)*
August 13-15	Obon (Buddhist)
August 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Catholic Christian) Dormition of the Theotokos (Orthodox Christian) Ulambana (Buddhist) Raksha Bandhan (Hindu)*
August 19	Eid-e-Ghadeer (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
August 24	Krishna Janmashtami (Hindu)*
August 27-September 3	Paryushana (Jain)
August 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Year – Hijra (Islam) 1st Muharram (Islam Dawoodi Bohra) Muharram (Islamic New Year)

September 2019

Date	Observance
September 1-9	Ashara Mubaraka (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
September 1 – 15	Onam (Hindu)*
September 2	Ganesh Chaturthi (Hindu)*
September 7	His Holiness Sakya Trizin's Birthday (Buddhist)

¹ * Disclaimer: New Jersey Department of Education has made every attempt to ensure the accuracy of the dates. The information has been verified through the use of various sources and some dates may vary due to the lunar, Gregorian and Julian calendars.

Date	Observance
September 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nativity of Mary (Christian) Nativity of the Theotokos (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
September 10	Yawm Aashura (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
September 21-29	Mabon (Wicca/Pagan)
September 27	The Elevation of the Holy Cross (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
September 29-October 1	Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)
September 29 - October 8	Navaratri (Hindu)*
September 30	Feast of Trumpets (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)

October 2019

Date	Observance
October 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yom Kippur (Jewish) Day of Atonement (Christian, Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
October 13-20	Sukkot (Jewish)
October 14-20	Feast of Tabernacles (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
October 19	Chehlum Imam Hussain (lam Dawoodi Bohra)*
October 20	Installation of the Scriptures as Guru Granth (Sikh)
October 20-22	Sh'mini Atzeret (Jewish)
October 21	Last Great Day (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
October 22	Simchat Torah (Jewish)
October 24-29	Diwali (Puja, Deepavali)*
October 27	Diwali (Hindu, Jain and Sikh)*
October 28	Goverdhan Puja (Hindu)*
October 29	Birth of B'ab (Baha'i)
October 30	Birth of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)

November 2019

Date	Observance
November 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Saints' Day (Christian) Samhain-Beltane (Wicca)
November 2	All Souls' Day (Christian)
November 9	Maulid al-Nabi (Islam and Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
November 12	Guru Nanak Dev Sahib Birthday (Sikh)
November 13	Urus-Syedna Mohammed Burhanuddin (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
November 21	The Presentation of the Theotokos to the Temple (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
November 24	Guru Tegh Bahadur Martyrdom (Sikh)
November 26	Day of Covenant (Baha'i)

Date	Observance
November 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Saints' Day (Christian) Samhain-Beltane (Wicca)
November 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nativity Fast begins (Eastern Orthodox Christian) Ascension of 'Abdu'l Baha(Baha'i)

December 2019

Date	Observance
December 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Sunday of Advent (Christian) Milad Imam-uz-Zamaan (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)* Ecclesiastical Year begins (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
December 8	Immaculate Conception (Christian)
December 17	Milad Syedna Mohammed Burhanuddin (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
December 22	Yule (Wicca and Christian)
December 22-30	Hanukkah (Jewish)
December 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christmas (Christian) The Nativity of Christ (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
December 26	Zarathosht Diso (Zoroastrian)

January 2020

Date	Observance
January 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gantan-sai (Shinto) Mary, Mother of God - Catholic Christian
January 1 -7	Holy Convocation (Church of God and Saints of Christ)
January 2	Bodhi Day (Buddhist)
January 5	Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh Sahib (Sikh)
January 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feast of Epiphany (Christian) Feast of Theophany (Eastern Orthodox Christian) Nativity of Christ (Armenian Orthodox)
January 7	Feast of the Nativity (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
January 14	Maghi (Sikh)
January 15	Makar Sankranti and Pongal (Hindu)*
January 19	World Religion Day (Baha'i)
January 25	Chinese/Lunar New Year (Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist)
January 29	Vasant Panchami (Hindu)*

February 2020

Date	Observance
February 1	Imbolic-Candlemas (Wicca and Christian)

Date	Observance
February 2	The Presentation of Our Lord to the Temple (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
February 8	Nirvana Day (Buddhist)
February 10	Tu B'shvat (Jewish)
February 13	Jonah's Passover (Eastern Orthodox Church)
February 15	Nirvana Day (Jain)
February 21	Maha Shivaratri (Hindu)*
February 25	Shrove Tuesday (Christian)
February 26	Ash Wednesday (Christian)
February 26-March 1	Intercalary Days (Baha'i)

March 2020

Date	Observance
March 2	Clean Monday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
March 9	Ayyam al Beez (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
March 9-10	Holi (Hindu)*
March 10	Purim (Jewish)
March 10-12	Hola Mohalla (Sikh)*
March 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> L. Ron Hubbard's Birthday (Church of Scientology) Milad Imam-uz-Zamaan (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
March 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ostara (Wicca) Mabon (Wicca/Pagan Northern and Southern Hemispheres) Nowruz (Zoroastrian)
March 21	Yawm al-Mab'ath (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
March 22	Lailat al Miraj (Islam)*
March 24	Souramana Yugadi (Hindu)*
March 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Annunciation of the Theotokos (Eastern Orthodox Christian) The Annunciation of the Virgin Mary (Christian) Chandramana Yugadi (Hindu)*
March 28	Khordad Sal (Zoroastrian)

April 2020

Date	Observance
April 2	Ramnavami (Hindu)*
April 5	Palm Sunday
April 6	Mahavir Jayanti (Jain)
April 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lord's Evening Meal (Christian, Jehovah's Witness) Theravadin New Year (Buddhist)

Date	Observance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Memorial of the Feast of the Lord's Passover (Church of God and Saints of Christ)
April 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hanuman Jayanti (Hindu)* Passover (United Church of God) Buddha's Birthday/Buddha Day-Buddha Day*
April 8-16	Passover (Jewish)
April 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holy Thursday (Christian) Lailat al Bara'ah (Islam)* First Day of Unleavened Bread (Church of God) Passover/Days of Unleavened Bread (Church of God and Saints of Christ)
April 9-15	Days of Unleavened Bread (Philadelphia Church of God)
April 10	Holy Friday (Christian)
April 11	Lazarus Saturday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easter (Christian) Palm Sunday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 13	Easter Monday (Christian)
April 15	Last Day of Unleavened Bread (Church of God)
April 16	Holy Thursday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 17	Holy Friday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 19	Easter (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Day of Ridvan (Baha'i) Bright Monday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 24 – May 23	Ramadan (Islam)
April 25	The 11 th Panchen Lama's Birthday (Buddhist)
April 26	The Last Friday of The Great Lent (Eastern Orthodox Church)
April 29	Yom Ha'Azmaut (Jewish)
April 28	Ninth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)

May 2020

Date	Observance
May 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beltane (Wicca) Twelfth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
May 7	Visakha Puja (Buddhist)
May 11	Shahadat – Amirul Mumineen (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
May 12	Lag B'Omer (Jewish)
May 14-15	Laylatul Qadr (Islam and Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
May 15	Milad Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
May 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laylatul Qadr (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)* Laylat as-Qadr (Islam)*

Date	Observance
May 21	Ascension of Our Lord (Christian)
May 22	Aakhir Jumo'a (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
May 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declaration of the Bab (Baha'i) • Eid al-Fitr (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
May 24	Eid al Fitr (Islam)*
May 28	Ascension of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)
May 29-30	Shavuot (Jewish)
May 31	Pentecost (Christian)

June 2020

Date	Observance
June 7	Pentecost (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
June 15	Fast of the Holy Apostles (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
June 16	Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Sahib (Sikh)
June 24	Litha (Wicca)

WORK SESSION

There was no work session.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business. State Board member Joseph Ricca commended the Department for their efforts to reach out and connect to school districts and the public.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

- Open Topic

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education adjourned its May 1, 2019, public meeting at 12:16 p.m.

Dr. Lamont O. Repollet, Commissioner
Secretary, N.J. State Board of Education