

New Jersey State Board of Education
Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of the New Jersey State Board of Education
July 1, 2020

Presiding: Kathy Goldenberg, President

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

Present Constituting a Quorum

Mr. Arcelio Aponte
Mrs. Mary Beth Berry
Mrs. Elaine Bobrove
Mrs. Fatimah Burnam-Watkins
Dr. Ronald Butcher
Mr. Jack Fornaro
Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Gazi
Dr. Nedd J. Johnson
Mr. Andrew Mulvihill
Dr. Joseph Ricca
Mrs. Sylvia Sylvia-Cioffi

Absent

Dr. Ernest Lepore

Convening

State Board of Education President Kathy Goldenberg convened the public meeting at 9:05 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 July 1, 2020, was called to order.

Adjourn to Executive Session

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 July 1, 2020.

Reconvening

President Kathy Goldenberg reconvened the open meeting at 10:00 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

Election of State Board Officers

Commissioner Lamont O. Repollet, secretary to the State Board, conducted the annual election of State Board officers. On motions duly seconded and carried, the State Board members unanimously elected Kathy Goldenberg as State Board President and Andrew Mulvihill as State Board Vice President. Both were elected for a one-year term.

President Goldenberg and Vice President Mulvihill expressed their gratitude to the members of the State Board for electing them to their leadership positions.

Approval of Minutes of The Meeting

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board members approved the minutes of the public meeting conducted on June 3, 2020.

President's Reports

Announcements

President Goldenberg welcomed everyone to the State Board's virtual meeting and extended her best wishes on behalf of the State Board that all are safe and healthy.

Public Testimony

President Goldenberg stated that the State Board would not receive testimony today. She also stated that going forward the State Board would only accept written testimony on administrative code items currently pending before the State Board.

Introduction of the new Permanent Student Representative

President Goldenberg introduced and welcomed the new permanent student representative, Sabrina Capoli Board of Education. Sabrina is a rising senior from Seneca High School in Burlington County. Sabrina introduced herself to the State Board members. She also expressed her excitement about the opportunity to represent New Jersey's student body. She also stated that she looks forward to apprising the State Board of issues that concern students and, likewise, ensuring all students are more aware of the happenings of the State Board.

State Board Committee Reports

Policy Committee

Elaine Bobrove, chair, Policy Committee stated that the Committee met twice this month, once on June 17 to hear updates on the plans for NJQSAC, Educator Effectiveness, Student Transportation, Adult Education and Educational Facilities and also on June 25 to obtain a briefing on the state's reopening plan.

Commissioner's Reports

- There were no Commissioner's reports.

Due to intermittent technical difficulties with the Microsoft Teams platform, the meeting was paused at two intervals approximately 10:24 a.m. and 11:14 a.m. At 11:15 a.m., the meeting resumed until adjournment. Therefore, the State Board conducted a new election for the leadership for the 2020-2021 school year and voted again to approve the minutes of the June 3, meeting. The outcomes noted below were the same each time the votes were registered.

Items for Consideration:

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

***A. Appointments**

- There were no appointments.

***B. State Operation of the City of Newark Public Schools**

Report of the Comprehensive Accountability Office and the Highly Skilled Professional

Chris Huber, Special Assistant, Caitlin Pletcher, Regulatory Analyst, and Anzella Nelms, the Highly Skilled Professional, shared the findings of the Report of Comprehensive Accountability Office and the Report of the Highly Skilled Professional to demonstrate through the Scorecard and the reports that the Newark Public School District has met the objectives and benchmarks established in its Transition Plan and is poised to assume full local control .

Resolution to Return the City of Newark Public Schools to Local Control

- On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board unanimously adopted the following resolution pertaining to the status of state operation of the Newark Public Schools.

Resolution Returning The Newark Public School District To Full Local Control

Whereas, by administrative order issued on July 5, 1995, the State Board of Education removed the Newark Public School District Board of Education and created a State-Operated School District in Newark, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-34; and

Whereas, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-10 et seq. and effective January 24, 2007, the New Jersey Legislature directed the Commissioner of Education to develop and implement, after review by the Joint Committee on the Public Schools, a system for monitoring and evaluating the thoroughness and efficiency of public school districts in the State of New Jersey to be called the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC); and

Whereas, NJQSAC involves an assessment of each school district's performance in the five key components of school district effectiveness: Instruction and Program, Personnel, Fiscal Management, Operations, and Governance; and

Whereas, the State Board of Education adopted resolutions on October 17, 2007, June 4, 2014, and August 3, 2016, to return to local control the areas of Operations, Fiscal Management, and Personnel, respectively, while the remaining key components of school district performance continued under partial State intervention; and

Whereas, the State Board of Education adopted a resolution on September 13, 2017, to initiate the return to local control of the key components of Governance and Instruction and Program; and

Whereas, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:30-7.1, the Commissioner determined that the Newark Public School District met the factors for initiating withdrawal from partial intervention and a return to full local control; and

Whereas, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:30-7.2, the Commissioner recommended to the State Board of Education that the process for withdrawal from partial intervention be initiated in Newark Public School District; and

Whereas, the State Board of Education adopted a resolution on September 13, 2017, directing the Department of Education, in collaboration with Newark Public School District, to develop a full transition plan, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:30-7.2 and 7.3, and to initiate the process of withdrawal of the Newark Public School District from partial State intervention; and

Whereas, in collaboration with the Newark Public School District and pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:30-7.2 and 7.3, the Department of Education developed a full transition plan, which established the framework for the return to local control of the school district and went into effect on February 1, 2018; and

Whereas, pursuant to the transition plan, the Commissioner appointed a Highly Skilled Professional, Ms. Anzella Nelms, to provide the Newark Public School District with technical assistance in implementing the transition plan, to serve as a liaison between the school district and the Department of Education, and to provide qualitative observations regarding the school district's progress under the transition plan; and

Whereas, pursuant to the transition plan, the Department of Education partnered with an independent entity, the Bloustein Local Government Research Center of Rutgers University, to form a Comprehensive Accountability Office (CAO); and

Whereas, pursuant to the transition plan, the CAO was tasked with collecting, analyzing and publishing data regarding the ongoing operations and performance of the school district and the school district's quantitative progress in implementing the transition plan, as measured by metrics on an Accountability Scorecard; and

Whereas, the CAO completed three reports regarding the school district's progress in implementing the transition plan -- the initial report, a progress report, and a final report; and

Whereas, the CAO's final report confirms that the school district successfully completed the quantitative metrics on the Accountability Scorecard and fulfilled the requirements of the transition plan; and

Whereas, Ms. Nelms, the Highly Skilled Professional, completed four reports regarding the school district's progress in implementing the transition plan and her final report confirms that the school district fulfilled the requirements of the transition plan and has developed systems and processes to sustain the school district's practices and progress; and

Whereas, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:30-7.6, the Commissioner has determined that the Newark Public School District has successfully implemented the full transition plan and, therefore, recommends to the State Board of Education the withdrawal from State intervention be completed and the Newark Public School District be returned fully to local control; and be it

Resolved, that the State Board of Education approves the withdrawal of the Newark Public School District from State intervention; and be it further

Resolved, that the State Board of Education, on the first day of July in the year 2020, hereby approves that the Newark Public School District is now returned fully to local control.

Certification of the District as High Performing

- Certified the Newark Public School District as High Performing for a period of three years, as recommended by the Commissioner, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-14.a and b.

Congratulatory remarks were offered by Senator Ronald Rice, Senator Teresa Ruiz, Assemblywoman Elaina Pintor-Marin, Newark School Board President, Josephine C. Garcia, and Newark Public Schools Superintendent, Roger Leon.

***C. Certification of School Districts**

- Approved for a period of three years, those school districts recommended by the Commissioner, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-14.a and b.

Table 1 School districts approved for certification for three years

Districts	County
Ocean City	Cape May
West Cape May	Cape May
Essex Fells	Essex
Orange	Essex
East Newark	Essex
Hoboken	Hudson
Morris County Vocational	Hudson
North Plainfield	Morris
Watchung Borough	Somerset
Hampton Township	Somerset
Hopatcong Township	Sussex

***D. Educator Effectiveness**

- Adopted the re adoption with amendments of N.J.A.C 6A:10, Educator Effectiveness, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-15, 18A:6-34 and 38, and 18A:26-2.7 and 10, and P.L. 2012, c. 11.

***E. Educational Facilities**

- Adopted the amendments pertaining to the testing for lead in drinking water proposed at N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12.4, pursuant to P.L. 2016, c. 10 and P.L. 2017, c. 86.

F. Student Transportation

- Discussed the re adoption with amendments pertaining to the transportation of students pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:1-1, 18A:4-15, 18A:39-21, 18A:39-24, and 18A:39-33.

G. Adult Education

- Discussed the re adoption with amendments pertaining to adult education proposed at N.J.A.C. 6A:20, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:1-1, 18A:4-15, 18A:7C-1 et seq., 18A:27-2, 18A:48-1, 18A:49-1 through 8, 18A:50-12, 13, and 14, and the Adult Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1201 et seq.

New Business

Resolution in Honor of Dr. Lamont O. Repollet, Commissioner of Education

On behalf of the State Board, President Goldenberg presented Commissioner Lamont O. Repollet, Ed.D., with a resolution honoring him for his service to the Department of Education. Commissioner Repollet is resigning after serving as Commissioner of Education since January 2018 to become the 18th President of Kean University. The State Board also honored the Commissioner with a slide show highlighting many special moments during his tenure as Commissioner of Education.

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board unanimously approved the following resolution read by State Board President Kathy Goldenberg:

Resolution to Honor Commissioner Lamont O. Repollet, Ed.D.

Whereas, Dr. Lamont O. Repollet has served with distinction as the New Jersey Commissioner of Education from January 2018 to the present and is being honored for his distinguished tenure of service; and

Whereas, as Commissioner, Dr. Repollet demonstrated his heartfelt concern for the education and welfare of students by visiting more than 150 schools throughout all 21 counties to speak directly with students, parents and educators to receive their feedback on New Jersey’s public education system; and

Whereas, Dr. Repollet shifted the perception of the New Jersey Department of Education from being compliance driven by extending an olive branch with his “boots on the ground” approach to school district, school and educator supports; and

Whereas, Dr. Repollet played a leading role in the management of the expansion of high-quality preschool programs across New Jersey, the increase of career and technical education opportunities for thousands of students, including the introduction of the P-TECH model at four New Jersey high schools, the development of Computer Science for All programs in numerous school districts, as well as the equitable distribution of millions of dollars in new State aid from 2018-2020 to help school districts provide each and every student with high quality education regardless of their zip code; and

Whereas, Dr. Repollet’s steadfast commitment to providing educational equity led the Department to develop policies and initiatives to address inequities that create barriers to student success, to focus on a continued analysis of what all students need and the best methods to provide students with equitable access to the necessary supports for learning and social emotional well-being; and

Whereas, Dr. Repollet's unwavering belief in collaboration, consensus building and problem solving has led to the implementation of innovative initiatives, such as the Amistad Journey, Connected Action Roadmap (CAR) model implementation, and Unified Sports Program, and significant improvements to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards; and

Whereas, Dr. Repollet’s focus on the importance of diversifying New Jersey’s teacher workforce and his recognition of the benefits that a diverse teaching corps presents for students and for the profession has enabled school districts to have access to, and students to be taught by, well-trained, effective educators who meet the particular needs of local communities; and

Whereas, through innovative and system-driven initiatives, Dr. Repollet led the Department to hold the distinguished honor of being named by *Education Week* in September 2019 as the best education system in the nation; and

Whereas, throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Repollet helped New Jersey's educators and students navigate the challenges of transitioning to remote learning and diligently worked to ensure that our school communities continue to receive the supports necessary to move through this unprecedented time and safely move to reopen schools; and

Whereas, as Commissioner, Dr. Repollet provided critical guidance and leadership to the Newark Public School District during the two-year transition period that successfully enabled the school district to fulfill its plan to return to full local control after 25 years under State intervention; and

Whereas, Dr. Repollet is resigning his post as the New Jersey Commissioner of Education to become the 18th President of Kean University; now therefore be it

Resolved, that it is both fitting and proper that the New Jersey State Board of Education express its sincere gratitude to Dr. Lamont O. Repollet for his dedicated leadership as Commissioner, which was exemplified by the collegial manner in which he worked with the State Board and all stakeholders to provide a challenging, nurturing learning environment for all students; and be it further

Resolved, that the New Jersey State Board of Education hereby honors Dr. Lamont O. Repollet for his esteemed record of service to the State and extends best wishes for success and happiness in his new endeavor.

Public Testimony — Accepting Written Testimony only.

Adjournment

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education adjourned its July 1, 2020, public meeting at 1:24 p.m.

Kevin Dehmer, Interim Commissioner
Interim Secretary, N.J. State Board of Education