

**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**

**January 8, 2020**

**Presiding:** Kathy Goldenberg, President

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

**Present Constituting A Quorum**

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

**Absent**

Mr. Arcelio Aponte  
Dr. Ernest Lepore

**Convening**

State Board of Education President Kathy Goldenberg convened the public meeting at 9:20 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 January 8, 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 January 8, 2020.

### **Reconvening**

President Kathy Goldenberg reconvened the open meeting at 10:10 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 December 4, 2019. State Board members Mary Beth Berry, Mary Beth Gazi and Jack Fornaro abstained.

### **President's Reports**

### **Announcements**

### **Public Testimony**

President Goldenberg stated that public testimony would be held today at 2 pm. She stated that the topic for today's public testimony session is the Notice of Substantial Changes pertaining to Standards and Assessment, the readoption with amendments pertaining to Educator Effectiveness and the amendments to the Educational Facilities regulations pertaining to safe drinking water. She also stated that today's public testimony session was also an Open Topic Public Testimony session meaning that registered members of the public could speak on any educational topic of their choice. She further stated that she along with State Board Vice President Andrew Mulvihill and State Board members Ronald Butcher, Fatimah Burnam-Watkins, Mary Beth Gazi, Sylvia Sylvia and Jack Fornaro would hear public testimony today.

President Goldenberg stated that public testimony will be held on Wednesday, February 5, 2020. The topic for the February 5 public testimony session are the amendments to the State Board of Examiners and Certification rules pertaining to the swimming and water safety endorsement and the Resolution to Revise the Qualifying Scores for the Adult Education High School Equivalency Assessments . Registration for the February 5, 2020 public testimony session will open Thursday, January 16, 2020, and close at noon on Thursday, January 30, 2020.

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.

Members of the public should contact the State Board office at 609-376-9071 or check the [website](#) for updates.

### **Permanent Student Representative**

President Goldenberg stated that Sahil would not be in attendance today as he is attending the Student Summit at the New Jersey Association of Student Council's annual Winter Conference held at the College of New Jersey.

### **State Board Committee Reports**

#### *Policy Committee*

State Board member Elaine Bobrove stated that the committee met to prepare in advance for the Adult Education High School Equivalency Assessments; Educator Evaluation and Standards discussions at today's board meeting.

### **Petition for Rulemaking**

President Goldenberg stated that on October 13, 2019, the State Board Office received a petition for rulemaking from Deborah Esposito requesting the State Board of Education amend N.J.A.C. 6A:3, Controversies and Disputes, to require school districts to allow for due process before banning a parent from a school and to require that both sides of an incident must be heard prior to permanently banning a parent(s). She also stated that the petitioner requested that the State Board and the Commissioner of Education need to assign a committee to oversee and regulate school district decisions.

President Goldenberg stated that she and the Commissioner reviewed the petitioner's request to assign a committee to oversee and regulate school district decisions. Title 6A of New Jersey Administrative Code already contains the rules that implement State education laws and regulate school districts. Likewise, the 13-member State Board is charged with adopting the rules in Title 6A (with the exception of a few chapters that fall under the Commissioner of Education's authority). Furthermore, N.J.A.C. 6A:3 already establishes the process by which an interested party can challenge a school district's final decision in a matter under State education law. Therefore, the petitioner's request is denied.

### **Honoring School Board Recognition Month**

President Goldenberg introduced the following resolution in honor of School Board Recognition month. State Board member Mary Beth Gazi read the resolution. Michael McClure, President of the New Jersey School Boards Association and Dr. Lawrence Feinsod, Executive Director of the New Jersey School Boards Association accepted the resolution and thanked the State Board for the recognition.

#### **Resolution in Honor of School Board Recognition Month**

**Whereas**, the New Jersey State Board of Education, which adopts the administrative code to implement state education law, has established rigorous standards through its promulgation of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, which set the expectations of academic achievement for nearly 1.4 million public schoolchildren; and

**Whereas**, New Jersey's locally elected and appointed boards of education play a vital role in ensuring that their local school districts meet state standards and adhere to all code provisions,

with the goal of providing an outstanding education to prepare all students for college and the workplace and to enable them to compete in a global economy; and

**Whereas**, New Jersey's 5,000 non-partisan local board of education members and charter school trustees are public servants who dedicate their time, without pay or benefit, to the oversight of school district operations, sound financial practices, comprehensive policies, curriculum, staffing, and the well-being and academic achievement of all students in the district; and

**Whereas**, the efforts of local boards of education, in conjunction with state education officials and local educators, have built a foundation of success that has led to New Jersey's status as a leader in student achievement, as evidenced by the National Assessment of Educational Progress scores; and

**Whereas**, the National School Boards Association and the New Jersey School Boards Association have declared January 2020 to be School Board Recognition Month; now, therefore, be it

**Resolved**, that the New Jersey State Board of Education and the Department of Education recognize the contributions of our state's local boards of education to the academic success of its public school students and expresses its sincere appreciation to local board of education members for their continued focus on the achievement of children throughout New Jersey; and be it further

**Resolved**, that the New Jersey State Board of Education encourages qualified New Jersey citizens to consider serving as members of their local school boards.

## **Commissioner's Reports**

### **Comprehensive Accountability Office Report-Paterson**

Chris Huber, Special Assistant to the Commissioner and Caitlin Pletcher, along with Theodore Best, Stephen Cowan, and Alexis Colander, Highly Skilled Professionals from the Paterson Public School District provided an update on the Paterson Public School District's progress in the transition to local control. Chris Huber stated the District's Transition Plan for the Return of Local Control became effective on September 6, 2018. He also stated the projected end date of the Transition plan is September 6, 2020.

They reported that the Department partnered with the Bloustein Local Government Research Center of Rutgers University to form a Comprehensive Accountability Office or CAO responsible for collecting and publishing data that corresponds to the Scorecard and demonstrates whether the District is making substantial and sustainable progress on the accountability metrics. In the following areas: Fundamental Consideration, Governance, Fiscal Management and Personnel, the CAO found that the District's practices are substantially met and requires a continuing effort which means that it is premature to make a sustainability judgment. The partially met practices are in the category of Fiscal Management and although the District met the statutory deadlines for the budget process and has systems in place for the development and approval of the budget, the implementation of these systems in evolving and needs additional attention and consistency.

The information provided by the Highly Skilled Professionals (HSP's) complements the CAO's report by providing anecdotal information and/or addressing section of the Transition Plan that are not on the Scorecard. The information provided by the HSP's demonstrates that the District is developing and improving internal controls that support sustainability and successful implementation of the Transition Plan.

## Adult Education High School Equivalency Assessments Research

Linda Eno, Assistant Commissioner, and Diana Pasculli, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Academics and Performance along with representatives from Educational Testing Service and GED Testing Services provided information and recommendations for adjusting the passing scores on Adult Education High School Equivalency Assessments.

### Items for Consideration:

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

#### \*A. Appointments

- 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.

| Certified School District | County     |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Hainesport Twp            | Burlington |
| South Hunterdon Regional  | Hunterdon  |
| Henry Hudson Reg HS       | Monmouth   |
| Woodland Park             | Passaic    |

#### \*C. Educational Facilities

- Approved for publication in the *New Jersey Register* 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.

#### D. Educator Effectiveness

- Discussed 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.

#### E. Resolution to Adopt the New Jersey Student Learning Standards

- Discussed the readoption of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards as revised including the science and visual and performing arts, social studies and comprehensive health and physical education, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-2.1(a).

### Work Session

There was no work session.

### New Business

There was no new business.

## **Adjournment**

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education adjourned its November 6, 2019, public meeting at 1:15 p.m.

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