

New Jersey State Board of Education

Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of the New Jersey State Board of Education

September 9, 2020

Presiding: Kathy Goldenberg, President

Secretary: Kevin Dehmer, Interim Commissioner

Present Constituting a Quorum

Mr. Arcelio Aponte

Mrs. Mary Beth Berry

Mrs. Elaine Bobrove

Mrs. Fatimah Burnam-Watkins

Mr. Jack Fornaro

Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Gazi

Dr. Nedd J. Johnson

Mr. Andrew Mulvihill

Dr. Joseph Ricca

Mrs. Sylvia Sylvia-Cioffi

Absent

Dr. Ronald Butcher

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 September 9, 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 September 9, 2020.

Reconvening

President Kathy Goldenberg reconvened the open meeting at 10:05 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 Meeting

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board members approved the minutes of the public meeting conducted on August 19, 2020.

President's Reports

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.

Report of the 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. She spoke to the State Board about the virtual Leadership Conference held by the New Jersey Council of Student Councils.

Resolution in Honor of the 100th Anniversary of The League of Women Voters

President Goldenberg introduced a ceremonial resolution in honor of the 100th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters. On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board unanimously approved the following resolution read by State Board member Elaine Bobrove:

Resolution in Recognition of The 100th Anniversary of The League of Women Voters

Whereas, the League of Women Voters or "the League" was founded in 1920 as a "mighty political experiment" by the foremothers of the suffragist movement at the National American Woman Suffrage Association; and

Whereas, its goal was to help the 20 million women who were granted the right to vote by the 19th Amendment understand and carry out their new responsibility as voters; and

Whereas, with the success of this effort and the tireless efforts over the last 100 years to strengthen and uphold its mission to empower voters and defend democracy, the League has become a trusted nonpartisan, grassroots organization; and

Whereas, the New Jersey State Board of Education recognizes that the League of Women Voters of New Jersey has over a half a century of history upholding the constitutional right to equal education, public education, and civics education; and

Whereas, the League has vigorously protected and strengthened voting rights and access, free and fair elections, civil rights for all including children and minorities, community health, public education for all people, and resource protection and conservation; and

Whereas, the League has consistently been noted for its nonpartisan election information, including sponsorship of candidate forums and information on state and local ballot issues, as well as its commitment to register, educate, and mobilize voters, in schools and in all New Jersey communities; and

Whereas, the League champions government systems that are open, transparent, inclusive, and equitable; and

Whereas, the League believes that active and engaged citizens, irrespective of gender, ethnicity, or political affiliation, are the hallmark of democracy; now therefore be it

Resolved, that the New Jersey State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education commemorate the 100th Anniversary of League of Women Voters.

State Board Committee Reports

Policy Committee

Elaine Bobrove, chair, Policy Committee stated that the Policy Committee met on August 26, 2020. She stated that the State Board members in attendance via teleconference including herself were Kathy Goldenberg, ex officio; Mary Beth Berry; Mary Beth Gazi; Andrew Mulvihill; and Joseph Ricca. She also stated that the Department staff in attendance via teleconference were Diana Pasculli, Rani Singh, Tanisha Davis, Tonya Breland, Peter Mazzagatti, Diane Shoener, Stephanie Russo and Beth Auerswald. She further stated that the Committee discussed the resolution to extend the edTPA cut scores and adopt the Special Education Handbook, the edTPA Emergency Temporary Waiver Modification and the Educator Evaluation Weights for the 2020-2021 school year.

Career and Technical Education Committee

Mary Beth Berry, chair, Career and Technical Education Committee state that the Committee met on September 1, 2020. She stated that the State Board members in attendance via Microsoft Teams including herself were Kathy Goldenberg, ex officio; Mary Beth Gazi, Jack Fornaro and Sylvia Sylvia. She also stated that the Department staff in attendance via teleconference were Diana Pasculli, Erskine Glover, Kathleen Paquette, Diane Shoener, Beth Auerswald and Stephanie Russo. She further stated that New Jersey was acknowledged by the advanced CTE report as having one of the strongest Perkins V plans across the country, as well as being acknowledged by the US Department of Education for our Civil Rights Agreement Plan.

Mrs. Berry stated that the Committee discussed some overall operational aspects of the various CTE programs this coming year that have traditionally been hands on and how districts are ensuring the safety of students; Internships; and remote and hybrid options in both comprehensive high schools and Vocational Technical School Districts. The committee also discussed some areas of the Perkins plan that may need to be changed in the future. Mrs. Berry asked for monthly updates from the Department staff.

Commissioner’s Reports

Reopening of Schools

Interim Commissioner Dehmer stated that the Department worked with stakeholders across the state to develop guidance for reopening schools that will continue to evolve and be informed by science and data and feedback from those stakeholders. He also stated that the Department published “[The Road Back: Restart and Recovery Plan for Education](#)” on June 26, 2020, which provides a road map for four key areas of focus for reopening: conditions for learning, leadership and planning, policy and funding, and continuity of learning. He further stated that the guidance sets the minimum standards, because New Jersey school districts are so diverse – we’re giving schools a great deal of flexibility beyond the minimum standards, so it won’t be a one-size-fits-all approach.

Interim Commissioner Dehmer stated that one example of this ongoing evolution and flexibility includes the option for parents to select all-remote learning for their child. The DOE issued [guidance](#) clarifying that parents have the ability to select all-remote instruction for their child, if they choose. He also stated that another example includes the all-remote state of the school year, which came about after school leaders said they were facing challenges meeting the health and safety standards in *The Road Back* school-reopening guidance. Interim Commissioner Dehmer further stated that Governor Murphy [announced](#) districts can have an all-remote start of the school year, provided they identify the health-and-safety obstacles that they face in opening for in-person instruction and that they set a return date for in-person instruction.

Interim Commissioner Dehmer stated that a program to close the Digital Divide was recently announced through a \$54 million Digital Divide initiative. He also stated that the funding will help schools provide both devices *and* connectivity to students who need it most.

Interim Commissioner Dehmer stated that the Department launched the Virtual Learning Toolkit on our website to provide a comprehensive set of resources for families and teachers to address the following areas:

- 1. Devices and Hardware – Help with computers and tablets;
- 2. Connectivity and Broadband – Information about internet service and wi-fi connectivity;
- 3. Software and Learning Platforms – Help with videoconferencing and popular learning platforms;
- 4. Training and Professional Learning – Resources for engaging students through hybrid and remote instruction;
- 5. Tech Support and Digital Literacy – Help and supports for using technology and troubleshooting information; and 6. Funds and Financial Support – Possible funding resources for districts

Interim Commissioner Dehmer stated that as of earlier this week, the Department had reviewed over 810 plans school reopening plans submitted. He stated that 421 of those plans were for hybrid instruction, 282 remote-only instruction and 75 were for fulltime in-person instruction.

Items for Consideration:

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

***A. Appointments**

- There were no appointments.

***B. 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.

Districts	County
Berlin Twp	Camden
Gloucester Twp	Camden
Haddon Hts.	Camden
Orange	Essex
Woodbury Hts.	Gloucester
Bethlehem Twp	Hunterdon
Union Twp	Hunterdon
Princeton Reg.	Mercer
West Windsor Plainsboro	Mercer
South Amboy	Middlesex
Brielle	Monmouth
Florham Park	Morris
School District of the Chathams	Morris
Eagleswood Twp	Ocean
Lakewood	Ocean

***C.**

Resolution to Extend the EdTPA Qualifying Scores for Novice Teachers to Receive Certification and Handbook Alignment

- Adopted the following resolution for handbook alignment and to extend cut scores for the novice teachers to receive certification by an additional academic year, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.2(a)6, N.J.A.C. 6A:9A-5.5(a)2, N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.8 and N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.7(a)4.

A Resolution to Extend The edTPA Qualifying Scores and Adopt The Special Education Handbook for The edTPA Performance Assessment for Novice Teachers to Receive Certification

Whereas, the State Board of Education adopted resolutions on August 3, 2016 and April 11, 2018, that established and extended the initial cut scores and handbook alignment for the Commissioner-approved performance assessment edTPA in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.7(a)4i; and

Whereas, the August 3, 2016, State Board of Education resolution also permitted the Department to study flexibility options for candidates completing the Commissioner-approved performance assessment; and

Whereas, the Department’s plan to convene a panel of New Jersey stakeholders in spring 2020 to participate in a standard setting study to review and analyze New Jersey-specific data and to recommend a cut score to the State Board for the 2020-2021 school year and beyond has been impeded by the COVID-19 state of emergency; and

Whereas, the Department has studied flexibility for the alignment of allowable edTPA handbooks for New Jersey certification areas and has determined that the Special Education edTPA handbook should also be deemed allowable for the Teacher of Students with Disabilities Endorsement; now therefore, be it

Resolved, that a cut score of 44 on the combined elementary assessment, a cut score of 32 on the world and classical languages assessment, and a cut score of 37 on all other assessments remain acceptable from September 1, 2020, through August 31, 2021, to satisfy all relevant regulatory requirements; and be it further

Resolved, that the State Board of Education hereby supports allowing New Jersey-specific standard setting to be conducted on or before June 1, 2021, to determine an appropriate cut score for September 1, 2021, and beyond to recommend to the State Board; and be it further

Resolved, that the State Board of Education hereby supports that the edTPA handbooks described in the table below be allowable for the endorsement area listed effective immediately.

Code	Endorsement Area	Allowable edTPA Handbook(s)
2475	Teacher of Students with Disabilities	1. Candidate completes assessment in initial content area or 2. Special Education

***D. Resolution to Accept Donated Supplies and Equipment**

- Adopted the following resolution approving the acceptance of in-kind donations of supplies and equipment.

Resolution to Accept Donated Supplies and Equipment

Whereas, the Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf, administered by the New Jersey Department of Education, is the recipient of donations to meet the needs of students resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic; and

Whereas, N.J.S.A. 18A:4-26 requires the approval of the New Jersey State Board of Education in order for the Commissioner of Education to accept donated funds; and

Whereas, donations of the following supplies and equipment were made during the school year from the Katzenbach Parent Staff Organization, the Katzenbach Parents Staff Educational Foundation, and Senior Citizens Alumni:

- Face Masks \$2,398.00 (864);
- Shields-kids \$86.17 (36); Shields-adults \$493.47 (300);
- Desk Shields ELMS \$1,980 (60); Desk. Shields ECP & HS \$1,343 (50); now therefore be it

Resolved, that the New Jersey State Board of Education approves the acceptance of the donated supplies and equipment listed for the aforementioned specified purposes for the 2020-2021 school year.

***E. Special Education**

- Adopted the readoption with amendments pertaining to the rules concerning the services, programs, and instruction, including educational and related services, provided to students with disabilities pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-15, 18A:7B-1 et seq., 18A:7C-1 et seq., 18A:7F-1 et seq., 18A:39-1.1, 18A:40-4, 18A:46-1 et seq., and 18A:46A-1 et seq.; and U.S. P.L. 93-112, § 504; 94-142; 99-457; 101-476; 105-17; and 108-446.

New Business

There was no new business.

Public Testimony—Accepting Written Testimony only.

Adjournment

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education adjourned its August 19, 2020, public meeting at 11:18 a.m.

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