

New Jersey State Board of Education
Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of the New Jersey State Board of Education
August 19, 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
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 9:12 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 August 19, 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 August 19, 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 Meetings

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board members approved the minutes of the public meeting conducted on July 1, 2020. State Board member Joe Ricca abstained.

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.

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. Sabrina stated that she looks forward to the new school year and offered her thoughts on the reopening of schools with the challenge of the pandemic. She offered some insights and advice to students, staff and administrators pertaining to student's mental health and well-being.

State Board Committee Announcements for 2020-2021

President Goldenberg announced the following committee appointments for the 2020-2021 school year. She stated that she would serve as an ex-officio member of each committee.

Assessment Committee

Arcelio Aponte, chair

Members: Andrew Mulvihill, Mary Beth Berry, Ronald Butcher, Nedd J. Johnson

Social and Emotional Committee

Fatimah Burnam-Watkins, chair

Members: Mary Beth Berry, Elaine Bobrove, Jack Fornaro, Nedd J. Johnson

Career and Technical Education/Coding Committee

Mary Beth Berry, chair

Members: Jack Fornaro, Mary Elizabeth Gazi, Ernest Lepore, Sylvia Sylvia

Strategic Plan Committee

Sylvia Sylvia, chair

Members: Arcelio Aponte, Fatimah Burnam-Watkins, Joseph Ricca

Policy Committee

Elaine Bobrove, chair

Members: Andrew Mulvihill, Mary Beth Berry, Mary Beth Gazi, Joseph Ricca

Ad Hoc Committee

Mary Elizabeth Gazi, chair

Members: Ernest Lepore, Sylvia Sylvia, Jack Fornaro, Joseph Ricca

State Board Committee Reports

Policy Committee

Elaine Bobrove, chair, Policy Committee stated that the Committee met on July 15, 2020 and discussed the following items that would be presented at today's State Board meeting: Student Transportation; Educational Facilities and the resolution regarding EdTPA. She stated that the department also provided an overview about COVID temporary emergency waiver modifications that have been approved and are effective as long as the Executive Order that authorized the state of emergency remains in effect.

National Association of State Boards of Education Whole Child Policy Study Group Update

Elaine Bobrove provided an overview of the work that the National Association of State Boards of Education is doing on the Whole Child Policy Study Group. She stated that she along with State Board member Nedd Johnson and State Board members from 15 other states are participating in this Study Group to deepen their content expertise so they can lead on whole child policymaking in the wake of COVID -19. She stated that a bi-newsletter would be developed by NASBE and disseminated to the State Board through the State Board Office.

Commissioner's Reports

- There were no Commissioner's reports.

Items for Consideration:

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

*A. Appointments

- There were no appointments.

Interim Commissioner Dehmer stated that the following current Department Deputy Assistant Commissioners would hold Acting Assistant Commissioner roles for the time being:

- Glenn Forney, Acting Assistant Commissioner, Division of Finance;
- Daryl Minus-Vincent, Acting Assistant Commissioner, Division of Field Services; and
- Diana Pasculli, Acting Assistant Commissioner, Division of Academics and Performance.

*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.

Table 1 School districts approved for certification for three years

Districts	County
Englewood Cliffs	Bergen
Midland Park	Bergen
North Arlington	Bergen
Secaucus	Hudson
Franklin Township	Hunterdon
Butler	Morris
Montville Township	Morris

*C. Educational Facilities

- Adopted the straight re adoption without amendments pertaining to the rules for educational facilities at N.J.A.C. 6A:26, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-15, 18A:7G-5.k, 18A:7G-13, and 18A:7G-26, and P. L. 2000 c. 72, P. L. 2007, c. 137, P. L. 2008, c. 39, P. L. 2016, c. 10 and P. L. 2017, c. 86.

*D. Student Transportation

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

***E. Adult Education**

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

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

- Discussed the 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.

New Business

State Board member Mary Beth Berry asked for an update on the Digital Divide. She also asked if school districts need to include technology plans in their school district reopening plans. She further asked if the Department gathers information on the successes and/or failures of Extended School Year programs.

State Board President Goldenberg asked how far along in the process the Executive County Superintendents are in approving school district reopening plans. She also asked if the majority of school districts are going to be implementing remote or hybrid options. She further asked as COVID 19 cases may arise in school districts will that information be made public.

State Board member Fatimah Burnam-Watkins asked if there is a timeframe whereby school districts have to make decisions or declare plans for the reopening of the school district?

State Board member Ronald Butcher stated that four topics were brought up at today's meeting that he recommended be discussed further in committees: Adult High Schools, Teacher Preparation and Certification, the Digital Divide and Communicating the Student Voice to the Public.

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 11:44 p.m.

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