

New Jersey State Board of Education
Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of the New Jersey State Board of Education
November 3, 2021

Presiding: Kathy Goldenberg, President

Secretary: Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed.D., Acting Commissioner

Present Constituting a Quorum

Mr. Andrew Mulvihill

Mrs. Mary Beth Gazi

Mrs. Elaine Bobrove

Mr. Jack Fornaro

Dr. Joseph Ricca

Mrs. Mary Beth Berry

Dr. Nedd Johnson

Mrs. Fatimah Burnam-Watkins

Mrs. Sylvia Sylvia

Mr. Arcelio Aponte

Dr. Ronald Butcher

Absent

Dr. Ernest Lepore

Convening

State Board of Education President Kathy Goldenberg convened the public meeting at 9:02 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 (Department), 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 November 3, 2021, 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 November 3, 2021.

Reconvening

President Kathy Goldenberg reconvened the open meeting at 10:07 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 October 6, 2021. State Board member Ronald Butcher abstained.

President's Reports

President Goldenberg welcomed the viewing audience to the virtual State Board of Education meeting.

Public Testimony

President Goldenberg stated that the State Board is accepting written testimony this month on Bilingual Education amendments and the Education for Homeless Children and Students in State Education Facilities code. She also stated that the State Board will not be accepting written testimony in December because there are no Administrative Code topics on the schedule.

Report of the Permanent Student Representative

President Goldenberg introduced and welcomed the State Board of Education's new permanent student representative, Miss Maura Baker, a junior at West Orange High School in Essex County. Ms. Baker provided remarks on her experience as key note speaker at the NJSBA Workshop.

State Board Committee Reports

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Committee

Ms. Fatimah Burnam-Watkins, chair, SEL committee, stated that the committee met with Department staff on October 27, 2021. Ms. Burnam-Watkins stated that they received an update from the Department about a number of social and emotional (SEL) and mental health initiatives currently underway. She stated they discussed initiatives funded through the federal ESSER I, II,

and III. Ms. Burnam-Watkins further stated the Department has dedicated \$78 million in ESSER funds for school districts to help with mental health and SEL needs in schools, and that the initiatives will assist school districts as they strengthen school-based mental health services and supports for students and educators during the current school year and beyond.

Assessment Committee

Mr. Arcelio Aponte, chair, Assessment committee, stated that the committee met with Department staff on October 27, 2021. Mr. Aponte stated they discussed surrounding issues pertaining to the high school graduation assessment and the alternate assessments for graduation. Mr. Aponte stated that details need to be further fleshed out, so he will forgo providing additional information until the committee finalizes its discussion.

Resolution in Recognition of November 2021 as New Jersey Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Membership Month

President Goldenberg requested the State Board consider the following ceremonial resolution recognizing November as Parent Teacher Association Month in New Jersey.

President Goldenberg introduced and welcomed Ms. Candy Fredericks, President of the Parent Teacher Association (PTA), and also acknowledged Robert Acerra, Director of Member and Board Services for his contributions as well as welcomed and congratulated President-Elect, Sharon Roseboro.

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board unanimously approved the following resolution read by State Board member Sylvia Sylvia.

Resolution in Recognition of November 2021 as New Jersey Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Membership Month

Whereas, the New Jersey Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is an association advocating for the benefit of children's education and well-being by focusing attention on issues affecting youth and public education; and

Whereas, for more than 120 years, the New Jersey PTA has served the needs of children, teachers, parents, and schools through active volunteerism; and

Whereas, the New Jersey PTA promotes family engagement in schools and communities, advocates for public education, and provides a network of local, State, and national voices speaking together on behalf of all children; and

Whereas, among the millions of members of the National PTA, the New Jersey PTA has more than 100,000 members in 600 Local PTAs; and

Whereas, many PTA leaders across the State have found themselves in times of new challenges, adventures, and rewards as the result of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

Whereas, the strength of the PTA lies in its membership -- the volunteers who tirelessly devote themselves to making the world better for children and youth; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the New Jersey State Board of Education and the Acting Commissioner of Education encourage everyone to become advocates for children and show their support for their local PTA or the Garden State PTA, which is the Statewide local PTA; and be it further

Resolved, that the New Jersey State Board of Education and the Acting Commissioner of Education commend the hardworking individuals and members serving in their local, State, and national roles in PTA and recognize November 2021 as New Jersey PTA Membership Month.

Commissioner’s Reports

Honoring New Jersey Department of Education Retiring Employees

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan acknowledged three employees who made the momentous decision to retire.

- Masashi Numata, Marie Katzenbach School for the Deaf, Division of Educational Services, June 2010 – November 2021, 11 years of service.
- Bulisa “Ky” Sanders, Office of Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action and Equity Compliance, November 1996 – November 2021, 25 years of service.
- Kimberly Smith, Office of Human Resources, Division of Administrative Services, September 1984 – November 2021, 37 years of service.

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan thanked them for their dedication, commitment and contributions over the years and wished them the best of health and happiness in retirement.

Items for Consideration:

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

***A. Appointments**

- There were no appointments.

***B. Certification of School Districts**

- There were no districts for certification.

C. Bilingual Education

- Discussed the amendments to N.J.A.C. 6A:15, Bilingual Education, pertaining to Federal requirements under ESSA, pursuant to The Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (P.L. 115-141).

New Business

There was no new business.

Public Testimony

There were no topics for written testimony.

Adjournment

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education adjourned its November 3, 2021, public meeting at 10:44 a.m.

Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed.D., Acting Commissioner
Acting Secretary, N.J. State Board of Education