

New Jersey State Board of Education
Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of the New Jersey State Board of Education
April 6, 2022

Presiding: Kathy Goldenberg, President

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

Present Constituting a Quorum

Mrs. Mary Beth Gazi
Mrs. Elaine Bobrove
Mr. Jack Fornaro
Mr. Arcelio Aponte
Dr. Ronald Butcher
Mr. Andrew Mulvihill
Dr. Ernest Lepore
Mrs. Sylvia Sylvia
Dr. Nedd Johnson

Absent

Dr. Ernie Lepore
Mrs. Mary Beth Berry
Mrs. Fatimah Burnam-Watkins

Convening

State Board of Education President Kathy Goldenberg convened the public meeting at 10:07 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 ensure 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 April 6, 2022, 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 April 6, 2022.

Reconvening

President Kathy Goldenberg reconvened the open meeting at 11:18 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 March 2, 2022. State Board members Nedd Johnson and Joseph Ricca 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 will receive written testimony on the School Ethics Commission re-adoption with amendments, the Religious Holidays Calendar Resolution, and the State Board of Examiners and Certification - Limited Certificate of Eligibility (CE) and Limited Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing (CEAS) Pilot Program. She also stated that the State Board will be accepting written testimony for the month of May on any educational topic of choice.

Report of the Permanent Student Representative

President Goldenberg introduced and welcomed the State Board of Education’s permanent student representative, Miss Maura Baker, a junior at West Orange High School in Essex County. Ms. Baker provided remarks on giving her keynote at the NJPTA conference.

Resolution in Recognition of the Month of the Military Child

President Goldenberg requested that the State Board adopt a resolution recognizing April as the Month of the Military Child in New Jersey.

The State Board unanimously adopted the following ceremonial resolution read by President Kathy Goldenberg recognizing April as the Month of the Military Child.

Resolution in Recognition of the Month of the Military Child in New Jersey

Whereas, the month of April 2022 has been designated nationally as the Month of the Military Child by the Department of Defense to underscore the important role military children play in the armed forces community; and

Whereas, the New Jersey State Board of Education and the Department of Education aims to ensure, through the policies established, that all students are challenged to maximize their potential and to excel academically, socially, emotionally and physically for college, career and throughout life; and

Whereas, the Department of Education encourages school districts to provide support to children of service members as they transition between schools to address their distinct needs and prepare them to graduate as well-rounded citizens; and

Whereas, the physical, social and emotional well-being of children in military families is essential to their success and has a direct impact on the resiliency of military families serving our country; and

Whereas, these efforts and supports can improve the lives of military children and help pave the way for future generations; and

Whereas, it is both fitting and proper that special recognition be given to ensuring military children feel safe and supported in our schools and communities, so that their parents can focus on the challenges and missions they face in the line of duty; now, therefore be it

Resolved, that the New Jersey State Board of Education and the Acting Commissioner of Education recognize April 2022 as the Month of the Military Child in New Jersey.

President Goldenberg introduced Mr. Tony Trongone, Commissioner of the Military Institute Children's Compact Commission to accept the resolution on behalf of military children and their families

State Board Committee Reports

Policy Committee

Ms. Elaine Bobrove, chair, Policy committee, stated that the committee met with Department staff on March 16, 2022. She stated that the Department presented an overview of the certification process and Chapters 9, 9A, 9B, and 9C in anticipation of the chapters' readoption later this year. She stated they also discussed the School Performance Reports and graduation data, which will be presented by the Department during this meeting.

Assessment Committee

Mr. Arcelio Aponte, chair, Assessment committee, stated that the committee met with Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan and Department staff on March 16, 2022. He stated they discussed the timeline for the reporting of the results of the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment to the State Board, school districts, students and families, and the public.

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Committee

Ms. Fatimah Burnam-Watkins, chair, SEL committee was not in attendance. President Kathy Goldenberg, ex-officio, stated that the committee met with Department staff on March 23. She stated they received an update on the Department's social and emotional learning (SEL) initiatives, including the release of comprehensive SEL professional development modules. She stated they also received an update on the grants provided to school districts for the mental health services, as well as the DREAM Project and the pilot for the New Jersey School Climate Improvement Platform. President Kathy Goldenberg stated that the Department is providing the presentation to the full State Board later in the agenda, therefore, she will forgo providing additional details about all of this exciting work.

CTE Committee

Ms. Mary Beth Berry, chair, CTE committee was not in attendance. President Goldenberg, ex-officio, stated that the committee met with Department Staff and superintendents of county vocational technical school districts and other representatives of the New Jersey Council of Vocational Technical Schools on March 23, 2022. She stated the superintendents highlighted some of the new programs and expansions taking place or planned as the result of funding from the Securing Our Children's Future Bond Act such as the aviation maintenance program at Atlantic County Institute of Technology. She stated they also discussed the challenges that the county vocational school districts face in recruiting and retaining teachers from industry for the various programs of study. Ms. Berry stated the council also reviewed recent changes to State law that will provide flexibility for CTE teachers seeking their standard certificate, and that the council further suggested that high school graduation requirements be reviewed for ways to allow CTE courses to count toward credit requirements so more students can take advantage of shared-time CTE programs or advanced course offerings. She further stated they discussed how required changes to classification of instructional programs (CIP) codes will result in changes to programs offered at county vocational schools or the phased-in elimination of programs. Ms. Berry stated the committee looks forward to additional conversations with the council and to visiting a county vocational school as soon as possible to see the wonderful things being accomplished by students in CTE programs of study.

Petition for Rulemaking-American Red Cross

President Goldenberg stated that on October 21, 2021, the State Board received a petition for rulemaking from Matthew Teter of the American Red Cross requesting amendments at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-9.3 and 11.10 to adjust the names of safety certificates and other language related to qualifications for teaching swimming, diving, and water safety in New Jersey public schools. She further stated the petitioner specifically requested amendments at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-9.3(a)2iv, which states that a holder of the swimming and water safety instructor endorsement to an instructional certificate authorizes the holder to teach swimming, diving, and water safety in all public schools.

President Goldenberg stated the petitioner also requested amendments at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.10(a). She stated the rule requires candidates for the swimming and water safety endorsement to hold a standard New Jersey instructional certificate and the following safety certificates: a valid CPR Certificate issued by the American Red Cross or the YMCA; a valid Lifeguard Certificate issued by the American Red Cross or the YMCA; and a valid Water Safety Instructor Certificate issued by the American Red Cross, the YMCA, or the FAST Swim Program™.

President Goldenberg stated the petitioner further requested an amendment at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.10(b)2, which requires the chief school administrator of the employing district board of education to annually forward to the executive county superintendent copies of each valid American Red Cross or YMCA certificate identified in the section for every person assigned to teach swimming and/or diving.

President Goldenberg stated after deliberating on the petition and consulting with the Department of Health, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:26-2.3, the Commissioner and she consulted and agreed to grant the petitioner's request, in part, and deny the petitioner's request, in part, as noted at the following link on the Department's [website](#).

President Goldenberg stated the Department will initiate a rulemaking before the State Board in the summer as part of the readoption of N.J.A.C. 6A:9B, which is scheduled to expire on November 11, 2022. She stated the granted amendments outlined above will not be effective until the State Board adopts the rulemaking and a notice of adoption appears in the New Jersey Register.

Commissioner's Report

Resolution in Recognition of School Library Month in New Jersey

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan requested that the State Board adopt a resolution recognizing April as School Library Month in New Jersey.

The State Board unanimously adopted the following ceremonial resolution read by Sylvia Sylvia recognizing April as School Library Month in New Jersey.

Resolution in Recognition of School Library Month in New Jersey

Whereas, the month of April 2022 has been designated nationally as School Library Month by the American Association of School Librarians; and

Whereas, the New Jersey State Board of Education recognizes the unique contributions of school libraries in providing materials that reflect equity, diversity, and inclusion to meet the individual needs, varied interests, abilities, socioeconomic backgrounds and maturity levels of the students they serve; and

Whereas, school libraries provide open access to both print and digital collections that educate students on the ideas and beliefs of religious, social, political, historical, and ethnic groups and their contributions to the American and world heritage and culture; and

Whereas, school libraries serves as a point of voluntary access to information and ideas and as a learning laboratory for students as they acquire critical thinking and problem-solving skills that will be needed for their future in a pluralistic society; and

Whereas, school libraries provide resources and a physical space that nurture the social and emotional needs of students, which helps them feel safe and included; and

Whereas, school library media specialists provide opportunities for students to develop an appreciation of literature and recreational reading honoring students' right to read; and

Whereas, school library media specialists collaborate with teachers to integrate instructional activities designed to equip students to bridge the digital divide and to utilize the power of the Internet to locate, evaluate, and use a broad range of ideas effectively; and

Whereas, school library media specialists provide instruction in information literacy to help students to discern between misinformation, disinformation and malinformation, which prepares them to participate in a democratic society; and

Whereas, school libraries and certified school library media specialists are instrumental in helping school districts to not only meet New Jersey Student Learning Standards, but also to fully prepare New Jersey students for postsecondary success; and

Whereas, it is both fitting and proper that special recognition be given to school libraries and the role of certified school library media specialists in ensuring that all students in New Jersey have equitable access to a high-quality education and are able to achieve academic success; now, therefore be it

Resolved, that the New Jersey State Board of Education and the Acting Commissioner of Education recognize April 2022 as School Library Month in New Jersey.

President Goldenberg introduced Ms. Elizabeth Willoughby, Treasurer of the New Jersey Association of School Librarians, who accepted the resolution.

Resolution in Recognition of Better Speech and Hearing Month in New Jersey

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan requested that the State Board recognize May as Better Speech and Hearing Month in New Jersey.

The State Board unanimously adopted the following ceremonial resolution read by Elaine Bobrove recognizing May as Better Speech and Hearing Month in New Jersey.

Resolution in Recognition of Better Hearing and Speech Month in New Jersey

Whereas, the month of May 2022 is being celebrated nationally as Better Hearing and Speech Month; and

Whereas, the New Jersey State Board of Education recognizes that many students have communication disorders and acknowledges the significance that the ability to communicate plays in building personal and societal relationships as students grow and mature; and

Whereas, Better Hearing and Speech Month is a time to raise awareness about communication disorders and to encourage children and families to receive appropriate screenings and evaluations; and

Whereas, Better Hearing and Speech Month is also a time to acknowledge the hard work of audiologists, speech-language pathologists, and speech, language, and hearing scientists and the contributions they make that remarkably affect the lives of students in New Jersey; and

Whereas, these professionals are invested in serving the needs of students with speech, language, and hearing disorders to foster success in all aspects of their lives by prioritizing effective communication for the highest quality of life; and

Whereas, the New Jersey Speech-Language-Hearing Association supports students and professionals by its professional development offerings, advocacy efforts, and public awareness campaigns designed to ensure that high-quality care is provided; and

Whereas, it is both fitting and proper that special recognition be given to acknowledge May 2022 as Better Hearing and Speech Month along with commending the New Jersey Speech-Language-Hearing Association for its role in providing outstanding service to professionals throughout the State of New Jersey; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the New Jersey State Board of Education and the Acting Commissioner of Education recognize May 2022 as Better Hearing and Speech Month in New Jersey.

President Goldenberg introduced Ms. Kathleen Palatucci, President of the New Jersey Speech-Language - Hearing Association who accepted the resolution.

2020-2021 School Performance Reports and Graduation Data Release

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan announced the release of the 2020-2021 School Performance Reports/Graduation Data Release. Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan asked Ms. Ehling, Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Educational Services, to provide the report and respond to any questions.

Social Emotional Learning Initiatives Update and NJ Comprehensive School-Based Mental Health Guide

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan announced that Ms. Kathleen Ehling, Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Educational Services would share updates on the Department's efforts in supporting student social and emotional well-being and positive school climate, including the release of the New Jersey Comprehensive School-Based Mental Health Resource Guide.

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. Standards and Assessments**

- Approved for publication in the *New Jersey Register*, the amendments to N.J.A.C. 6A:8, Standards and Assessments, that set forth the requirements for the Bridge Year Pilot Program, pursuant to P.L. 2020, c. 41.

D. School Ethics Commission

- Discussed the readoption with amendments pertaining to N.J.A.C. 6A:28, School Ethics Commission, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-15 and 18A:12-21 et seq.

New Business

There was no new business.

Public Testimony

- School Ethics Commission (readoption with amendments)
- Religious Holidays Calendar Resolution
- State Board of Examiners and Certification -- Limited Certificate of Eligibility (CE) and Limited Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing (CEAS) Pilot Program

Adjournment

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education adjourned its April 6, 2022, public meeting at 1:18 p.m.

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