

New Jersey State Board of Education
Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of the New Jersey State Board of Education
January 11, 2023

Presiding: Kathy Goldenberg, President

Secretary: Kathleen Ehling, Acting Commissioner

Present Constituting a Quorum

Mr. Andrew Mulvihill
Mrs. Elaine Bobrove
Mrs. Mary Beth Berry
Mr. Jack Fornaro
Dr. Joseph Ricca
Dr. Nedd Johnson
Mr. Arcelio Aponte
Mrs. Sylvia Sylvia
Mrs. Mary Beth Gazi

Absent

Mrs. Fatimah Burnam-Watkins
Dr. Ronald Butcher

Convening

State Board of Education President Kathy Goldenberg convened the public meeting at 9:10 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 January 11, 2023, 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 11, 2023.

Reconvening

President Kathy Goldenberg reconvened the open meeting at 10:32 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

President Goldenberg welcomed the public and thanked everyone for joining the State Board for another virtual meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by State Board Member, Jack Fornaro.

Statement Read by President Goldenberg

New Jersey State Board of Education Seeks to Increase Public Access in 2023

The New Jersey State Board of Education believes in the power of public access. The Board seeks more participation from the public, and more opportunities for our community members to share their thoughts and recommendations in an efficient and accessible manner. We further believe the public's access to the Board should not be limited.

As demonstrated throughout the pandemic, the State Board has worked to provide virtual access to its monthly meetings by using the Department of Education's Microsoft Teams platform. To be sure, there was a learning curve, and the process has been imperfect. When it came to the ease, use and access, we have consistently heard that the Microsoft Teams platform, when used in this fashion, has left a lot to be desired. Still, the all-volunteer State Board of Education continued to meet and deliberate on all matters of educational policy and programming throughout the pandemic. To that end, the staff at the Department of Education worked tirelessly to address technological issues and connectivity challenges and for those efforts, the State Board of Ed is very grateful.

We know that utilizing a modern, solid, secure hybrid and virtual platform, in addition to having the Board Members inside the Room and from remote locations to fully participate to conduct public meetings will greatly increase the access for our public and allow for important information to reach more eyes and ears faster, and more accurately than ever. As we consider reverting back to the traditional in-person meeting, we must also consider building available technology that has proven to reach a broader audience throughout the whole State of New Jersey.

Access and efficiency should be hallmarks of any transparent, forward facing public entity. The Board has repeatedly requested the New Jersey Department of Education ensure the use of an appropriate platform allowing members of the public to have the ability to continue to log into State Board meetings and offer

public testimony to our Board members. Likewise, the State Board of Education Members who may not be able to participate in person will have the ability to fully contribute to all of our discussions.

The New Jersey State Board of Education seeks to employ a secure and tested platform, through the Department of Ed, to enable access to the State Board, more easily, efficiently and simply for the benefit of all constituents throughout the state. We look to engage with the public in a manner that is accessible for all, and we will bring the information related to the Board's work directly to the people, no matter where they may be, in person or virtually.

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 7, 2022. State Board Member Sylvia Sylvia abstained.

President's Reports

Public Testimony

President Goldenberg stated that the State Board will receive written public testimony on any educational topic of choice as it is an Open Topic Public Testimony opportunity. She stated that they will also receive written public testimony on Chapter 9, Professional Standards, Chapter 9A, New Jersey Educator Preparation Programs, Chapter 9B, State Board of Examiners and Certification, Chapter 9C, Professional Development, and Chapter 7, Managing for Equality and Equity in Education. For the month of February, there will be no topics for discussion.

State Board Committee Reports

Assessment Committee

Mr. Arcelio Aponte, chair of the Assessment committee, stated that the committee met with Department staff on December 21, 2022, to discuss the results for the 2022 Start Strong data. He stated the Department staff and committee members discussed the assessment results that will be presented publicly by the Department later during this meeting.

Policy Committee

Ms. Elaine Bobrove, chair of the Policy committee, stated that the committee met with Department staff on December 20, 2022, to present on the changes to the rulemaking being presented at proposal level to Chapter 15, Bilingual Education; the non-substantive amendments being presented at adoption for clarity to Chapter 28, School Ethics Commission; and the changes to the rulemaking being presented at second discussion to Chapter 7, Managing for Equality and Equity in Education. She further stated they discussed some of these amendments being presented today, therefore she will forgo any further details.

Ms. Elaine Bobrove, chair of the Policy committee, stated that the committee met again with Department staff on January 6, 2023, to discuss to changes the Department is making to the proposed re adoption of Chapter 7, Managing for Equality and Equity in Education, at second discussion. She stated as the item is on today's agenda, she will forgo the rest of her report.

CTE Committee

Ms. Mary Beth Berry, chair of the CTE/Coding committee, stated that the committee met with Department staff on December 13, 2022, to continue the discussion regarding student enrollment in CTE programs, as well as the changes in classification of instructional programs (CIP) codes and how the changes have affected programs offered in school districts.

Ms. Mary Beth Berry, chair of the CTE/Coding committee, stated that the committee met again with Department staff on January 4, 2023, to continue the discussion regarding student enrollment in CTE programs, as well as the effects of changes to classification of instructional programs (CIP) codes. She further stated they discussed CTE programs offered through non-Perkins funding and received an overview of CTE program offerings in various counties throughout the State.

Resolution in Honor of New Jersey School Board Recognition Month

President Goldenberg requested that the State Board adopt a ceremonial Resolution in Honor of New Jersey School Board Recognition Month. She stated that the resolution is intended to acknowledge the important business carried out by school boards and demonstrate the State Board's appreciation for individuals who serve on district boards of education in New Jersey. She stated district boards of education play a vital role in the State's system of public education and in providing a high-quality education to all New Jersey students. She further stated she, Dr. Johnson, and Sylvia Sylvia all previously served on district boards of education, and they certainly value and appreciate the experience and perspective that comes with service at the district level.

The State Board unanimously adopted the following resolution read by State Board member Sylvia Sylvia recognizing January as School Board Recognition Month.

Resolution in Honor of New Jersey 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 school children; 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 state and federal education statute and regulations, with the goal of preparing all students for college and the workplace, thereby enabling 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 2023 to be School Board Recognition Month; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the New Jersey State Board of Education and the Acting Commissioner of Education recognizes 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 and the Acting Commissioner of Education encourages qualified New Jersey citizens to consider serving as members on their local school boards.

Commissioner’s Reports

In Case You Missed It

On behalf of Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan, Assistant Commissioner Kathy Ehling stated she would like to begin with an update on the New Jersey Partnership for Student Success (NJ PSS), which launched at the beginning of December 2022. She stated as of this week, they have received 326 volunteer applications from a variety of individuals and organizations to serve as tutors, mentors, student success coaches, wraparound service coordinators, and post-secondary transition coaches. She further stated these volunteers will work in close coordination with parents, educators, and others in roles that research shows result in academic gains, increased high school graduation rates, reductions in chronic absenteeism, and improved student well-being and mental health, and she will continue to provide updates to you on the status of NJ PSS volunteer submissions as the Department receives them.

Assistant Commissioner Kathy Ehling stated on December 12, Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan visited Monmouth County Career Center and Biotechnology High School with Senator Vin Gopal in Freehold Borough which educates students in grades 9-12. She further stated in addition to Senator Gopal, she was joined by the Monmouth County Commissioner, Thomas Arnone, Dr. Charles Ford, Jr., Superintendent of Monmouth County Vocational Schools and Biotechnology High School Principal Sharon Bryant. She further stated the tour included visits to the thematic classrooms at Biotechnology High School, as well as various Career and Technical Education shops, such as those for automotive, culinary, supermarket, and florals skills at the Monmouth County Career Center building.

Assistant Commissioner Kathy Ehling stated on December 15, Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan gave the keynote address for NJ Spotlight News Roundtable entitled “Is Teaching in Trouble?” She stated the virtual roundtable convened government officials, academic leaders, and educators to explore policies and practices to address the growing teacher shortage and what these approaches might mean for education in New Jersey. She further stated the panel included James Earle, Superintendent, Trenton Public School District, Olivia Haas, Mathematics Teacher at East Brunswick High School, and Suzanne McCotter, Dean of the School of Education at The College of New Jersey. She stated her remarks highlighted the indispensable part that educators play in shaping children’s lives to prepare them for success along with the ways that New Jersey has looked to protect, strengthen, and advance the teaching profession. She further stated she shared information on the Task Force on Public School Staff Shortages in New Jersey, the comprehensive landscape analysis of the educator workforce, as called for by Senate Bill 2835, the launch of the New Jersey Educator Certification System (NJEdCert), the implementation of limited teaching certificates, and the work they have done through the Diversifying the Teacher Pipeline grant program to encourage greater diversity in the teaching profession.

Assistant Commissioner Kathy Ehling stated on December 16, Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan and Robert Gregory, Acting Director of the Office of Charter Schools, toured Hoboken Dual Language Charter School (HoLa), alongside HoLa Director Jen Sargent, Hoboken mayor Ravi Bhalla, Assemblywoman Annette Chaparro, and New Jersey Public Charter Schools Association president Harry Lee. She stated HoLa provides public education in Spanish and English to develop engaged, bilingual citizens with a global and multicultural perspective. She stated the school is committed to diversity, equity and inclusivity regardless of religion, gender identity, physical or mental ability, sexual orientation or socioeconomic status. She further stated she was excited to visit seven classrooms at the school, including Social Studies, English Language Arts, Spanish Language Arts, Math, Reading Intervention and Science, and engage in conversation with school administrators, elected officials, and student representatives about the school's bilingual programs.

Assistant Commissioner Kathy Ehling stated February is Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month, which we will be highlighting across our Department social media pages. She stated New Jersey currently has almost 76,000 New Jersey students enrolled in over 1,100 CTE programs across 16 distinct career clusters, and in addition there are over 10,000 NJ CTE students engaged in college coursework who earned college credits last year, advancing them in their postsecondary academic plans, and over 6,500 CTE students earned industry valued credentials last year, giving them an advantage in the workforce. She further stated at next month's State Board meeting, Acting Commissioner Allen-M will welcome Department staff—Jordan Schiff, Acting Assistant Commissioner of the Division of Teaching and Learning Services and Lisa Haberl Acting Executive Director of the Division of Teaching and Learning Services – who will be presenting in depth details on the exemplary advancements that are happening in our state regarding CTE. She stated she wishes everyone a healthy and prosperous 2023.

2022-2023 Start Strong Assessment Presentation

Acting Commissioner Kathy Ehling introduced Dr. Jordan Schiff, Acting Assistant Commissioner of the Division of Teaching and Learning Services and Mr. John Boczany, Acting Director of the Office of Assessments, to provide the assessment presentation.

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. Chapter 15, Bilingual Education**

- Approved for publication in the *New Jersey Register*, the proposed readoption with amendments pertaining to bilingual education at N.J.A.C. 6A:15, Bilingual Education, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-15 and 18A:35-15 to 26 and Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (P.L. 114-95).

D. Chapter 7, Managing for Equality and Equity in Education

- Discussed the readoption with amendments pertaining to equality and equity in education at N.J.A.C. 6A:7, Managing for Equality and Equity in Education, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-15 and 18A:36-20.

Re-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 re-adjourn to executive session to discuss legal issues. The State Board immediately re-adjourned to executive session on January 11, 2023. State Board member Nedd Johnson opposed.

Reconvening

President Kathy Goldenberg reconvened the open meeting at 1:30 p.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.

New Business

Public Testimony

For the month of January, the State Board accepted written public testimony on any educational topic of choice as it was an Open Topic Public Testimony opportunity. Additionally, the Board will receive written public testimony on Chapter 9, Professional Standards, Chapter 9A, New Jersey Educator Preparation Program, Chapter 9B, State Board of Examiners and Certification, Chapter 9C, Professional Development, and Chapter 7, Managing for Equality and Equity in Education.

Adjournment

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education adjourned its January 11, 2023, public meeting at 1:36 p.m.

Kathleen Ehling, Acting Commissioner
Acting Secretary, N.J. State Board of Education