

**Minutes of the Meeting of the New Jersey State Board of Education
In the Conference Room on the First Floor
100 River View Executive Plaza
Trenton, NJ
June 7, 2023**

Presiding: Kathy Goldenberg, President

Secretary: Angelica Allen-McMillan, Acting Commissioner

Present Constituting a Quorum

Mr. Andrew Mulvihill

Mrs. Mary Beth Berry

Mr. Jack Fornaro

Mr. Arcelio Aponte

Mrs. Sylvia Sylvia

Dr. Ronald Butcher

Dr. Joseph Ricca

Mrs. Fatimah Burnam-Watkins

Mrs. Elaine Bobrove

Dr. Nedd Johnson

Mrs. Mary Beth Gazi

Absent

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 June 7, 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 June 7, 2023.

Reconvening

President Kathy Goldenberg reconvened the open meeting at 10:51 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 to the meeting and thanked those either in person or virtually who are participating.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Fatimah Burnam-Watkins.

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 May 3, 2023. State Board member Fatimah Burnam-Watkins abstained.

President's Reports

Public Testimony

For the month of June, the State Board will receive public testimony on Chapter 14, Special Education. For the month of July, there are no topics for public testimony.

Report of the Permanent Student Representative

President Goldenberg introduced the State Board of Education's permanent student representative, Miss Lauren Knopp. Miss Knopp is a senior at Ocean High School in Cape May county. President Goldenberg stated the this is Lauren's last meeting and asked her to say a few final words.

Miss Knopp spoke about the skills she has gained this year due to her experiences as the permanent student representative. Lauren also thanked the State Board members and the State Board Office staff for the positive experience as the state board student representative.

President Goldenberg expressed her deepest appreciation to Miss Knopp for serving as the student representative for the State Board for the past year and wished her continued academic and personal success as she attends the University of Vermont Honors Program.

Resolution in Honor of Lauren Knopp, the 2022-2023 State Board Permanent Student Representative

President Goldenberg stated that the State Board and the Commissioner would like to consider a ceremonial resolution in honor of Lauren Knopp, the 2022-2023 Permanent Student Representative to the State Board.

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board unanimously approved the following resolution read by State Board member Mary Beth Berry:

Resolution in Honor of the 2022-2023 Permanent Student Representative, Lauren Knopp

Whereas, Lauren Knopp, a student at Ocean City High School in Cape May County, has served with dedication as the permanent student representative to the New Jersey State Board of Education from July 2022 to June 2023; and

Whereas, Lauren has executed her duties as the State Board's liaison to the student community with dedication and enthusiasm, and has been an exceptional representative of both the New Jersey Association of Student Councils and Ocean City High School; and

Whereas, Lauren adeptly presented a student perspective through well-timed monthly reports on innovative and wide-ranging topics that were beneficial to the State Board members; and

Whereas, Lauren's academic career demonstrates that she is an accomplished student who has made valuable contributions to her school and local communities, as well as a lasting impact on education in New Jersey; and

Whereas, Lauren is an intelligent, affable, and confident young woman who has a thorough understanding of the issues affecting her and her student peers and who has an obvious passion for public policy as demonstrated through her participation as an active member of the National Association of State Boards of Education Student Engagement Collaborative; now therefore be it

Resolved, that the members of the New Jersey State Board of Education and Acting Commissioner of Education extend their sincere congratulations and appreciation to Lauren Knopp for a job very well done; and be it further

Resolved, that the New Jersey State Board of Education and the Acting Commissioner of Education wish to acknowledge Lauren Knopp's academic excellence, and talents, and wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan thanked Miss Knopp on behalf of the Department of Education and the State Board for serving as the student representative to the State Board for the past year. She stated that during Lauren's time here, we returned to meeting at the Department and all of us have benefitted from being able to react with you in person. She further stated her commitment to the role and to ensuring the student voice is at the forefront and has been helpful to our work during the past year.

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan extended her gratitude to Lauren's advisor, Mr. Matthew Perdue, whose help and guidance this year have been invaluable and greatly appreciated by all at the Department.

Report of the State Board Nominating Committee

Mrs. Mary Beth Gazi, chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the committee's nominations for the 2023-2024 school year: Mrs. Kathy Goldenberg for president and Mr. Andrew Mulvihill for vice president. The vote will occur next month. State Board members Mrs. Mary Beth Berry and Mrs. Sylvia Sylvia also served on the committee.

State Board Committee Reports

President Goldenberg stated there were no committee meetings this month, therefore no reports will be provided.

The Peyton Heart Project

President Goldenberg stated the State Board and Department recently recognized students and student groups that are going great things in their communities. She stated one student, Jordyn Ricciotti, from Mainland Regional High School was one such student who was deeply affected by the increasing number of deaths by suicide among students her age. She stated Jordyn became involved in the Peyton Heart Project in the spring of 2022 as a way to stand for mental health awareness, by crocheting hand-made hearts with each heart containing a positive message or quote and a tag that contains resource numbers for mental health assistance. President Goldenberg stated that since last Spring Jordyn has scattered more than 1,000 handmade hearts in places for people to find them as well as creating buckets that can be housed in schools, offices or stores for people to take. She stated Jordyn gave her one of these buckets to share with everyone present here today.

Commissioner's Reports

Resolution in Recognition of the 100th Anniversary of the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan stated she would like to present for the State Board of Education's consideration a ceremonial resolution in Honor of the 100th Anniversary of the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials.

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board unanimously approved the following resolution read by State Board member Joseph Ricca:

Resolution in Recognition of the 100th Anniversary of the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials

Whereas, the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials was founded in 1923 with a goal of serving the education community of the Garden State by promoting better business practices through the highest standards of ethics and efficiency, providing its membership with professional development and support, and collaborating with entities that effect public education; and

Whereas, the State Board of Education initiated the position of school business administrator when it named and established the positions for individual school districts employing 25 or more full-time teachers; and

Whereas, in 1959, the State Board established a limited certificated position for school business administrator in cases where the State Board granted permission to a district board of education to create that position; and

Whereas, the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials contributed to the professionalization of the position of school business administrator, gaining the State's recognition and certification in 1963 and the establishment of provisional and permanent certificates in 1965; and

Whereas, the certification requirements continued to evolve over the decades and now require a minimum of a master's degree or certified public accountant license, content-specific training, and mentorships, with the vast majority of certificate holders also attaining certification as qualified purchasing agents; and

Whereas, since 1923, members of the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials have contributed significantly to the improvement of education in New Jersey through their financial and operational management of school districts involving budgeting, payroll, health benefits, purchasing, accounting, insurance and risk management, cash management, transportation, food service, construction, maintenance, custodial, technology, and collective bargaining; and,

Whereas, school business administrators are committed to effectively managing direct business and finance responsibilities in school districts involving the expenditure of more than \$33 billion; and

Whereas, with the success of these continued and tireless efforts over the last 100 years to strengthen and uphold its mission, the Association has contributed to the improvement of education to the benefit of the students of this State; and

Whereas, New Jersey Association of School Business Officials has trained, certified, educated and supported the school business administrators of New Jersey's public school system; and now therefore be it

Resolved, that the New Jersey State Board of Education and the Acting Commissioner of Education commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials.

Ms. Sue Young, Executive Director, New Jersey Association of School Business Officials accepted the resolution on behalf of the Association.

New Jersey Partnership for Student Success

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan stated that Acting Commissioner Dr. Jorden Schiff, and Mrs. Lisa Haberl, Executive Director, for the Division of Teaching and Learning Services, are here to share progress on this exciting initiative the Department has met with early success, as well as preview what is on the horizon as we work together with community partners to help students thrive.

In Case You Missed It

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan stated as we move through the month of June, she would like to acknowledge Pride Month as a celebration of diversity and inclusion. She stated the recognition of June as Pride Month offers a concerted opportunity to embrace differences and promote initiatives

that continue to raise awareness; however, Pride Month is only one means to recognize the ongoing contributions to society by the LGBTQ community. She stated the Department will continue to work as advocates of informative, and equitable education for all students reflective of their unique educational experience while fostering an inclusive and nurturing environment. She further stated in addition to Pride Month, we also have National Child Safety Awareness Month, and Professional Wellness Month occurring in June, and will take time to recognize Fathers' Day, Juneteenth and the first day of summer.

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan stated we announced how Governor Murphy will continue to build on last year's investment to improve school security with an additional \$5.79 million federal funds to assist with digitized school blueprints for use by first responders in case of an emergency. She stated this is a statewide initiative to collect and digitize blueprints of all K through 12 school buildings throughout the state, which includes all public and non-public schools, to accurately help law enforcement to swiftly and effectively respond to emergencies. She further stated this continues last year's \$6.5 million investment and will serve public and non-public school systems with updated mapping data, and local emergency services will conduct annual walkthroughs of each building to ensure it is up to date. She stated this additional funding, announced by Governor Murphy on May 22nd, comes from remaining federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Emergency Assistance for Non-Public Schools (EANS) and the American Rescue Plan funds that must be expended prior to their designated expiration dates.

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan stated the Department is also in the review phase of grant applications for a share of \$350 million for high-priority capital projects for Regular Operating Districts (ROD) and that these grants were made possible through legislation signed in 2022 by Governor Murphy, with the goal of addressing critical operational building needs in more than 550 ROD school districts in the state. She further stated these funds may be used to address health and safety needs, such as improving air quality to help protect against the spread of infectious diseases, essential upgrades or repairs, and other similar projects. She stated the deadline for the grant applications from the RODs was May 1st and our review process is expected to take approximately 90 days. She further stated once eligibility has been determined, funding will be executed through the New Jersey Schools Development Authority to the districts.

The Acting Commissioner stated that along with these infrastructure improvements, we continue to move forward with the High Impact Tutoring initiative announced by the governor in February with over 40 vendors who have met the criteria in the request for qualifications. She stated upon the codification of the approved list of qualified vendors, local districts will be able to apply for reimbursement out of a portion of the \$17 million in federal funding from the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund.

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan stated two other programs announced earlier this year that are designed to bolster foundational literacy in the elementary grades through targeted professional development for educators. She stated RAPID is specific to early elementary literacy for kindergarten to third grade and will tap the expertise of approved vendors to provide no-cost training to participating school districts and to date, nine vendors have been identified to deliver foundational literacy professional learning for school leaders and teachers of kindergarten through grade three throughout the state. She further stated project development begins this month, with training dates to be determined mid- to late summer. She stated RAPID-Plus is a grant opportunity for institutions of

higher education to provide professional development for educators responsible for literacy instruction in grades 4 and 5, and finalization of agreements with five universities to deliver professional learning in upper elementary literacy development to school leaders and teachers of grades four through six is ongoing. She further stated as with the RAPID training dates, these will also be announced later this summer, and both programs will launch their professional learning experiences in early Fall and run throughout the upcoming school year where educators will have multiple opportunities to take advantage of these trainings.

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan stated The National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) issued its report on Early Childhood Education, with an emphasis on the Head Start/Early Head Start programs efficacy across the nation. She stated the Federal Head Start program, started in 1965, strives to enhance children’s development, improve school readiness, and provide a strong foundation for learning and success later in life – especially for those from low-income families. She further stated while New Jersey ranks second in state and other spending for public early childhood education, the NIEER report ranks us 5th for 3-year old enrollment at 24% eligible, and 20th for 4-year-olds, with 41.8% enrolled. She stated nationally, NIEER found fewer than half of eligible 3- and 4-year-olds were enrolled in Head Start programs prior to the pandemic, and since the 2018-2019 school year, this has declined to less than one-third. She further stated for New Jersey, pre-pandemic levels were only 37%, dropping to 33% in the 2020-2021 school year. She further stated another part of this picture comes from the state’s Abbott preschool program, and Governor Murphy has continued to improve funding for this initiative. She stated this coming year, \$68 million has been added for preschool aid, with \$40 million designated for expansion of preschool into more districts, and it is hoped that the Head Start and Abbott programs, partnering with public school systems, can improve the enrollment numbers of eligible children, making high-quality public preschool programs available to every child and family. She stated the NIEER report is completing the second phase of the strategic plan, having met with local superintendents, child care centers, and county resource and referral agencies as well as DOE staff in each of our 21 counties, and this report is expected to be completed and available late summer.

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan stated in support of the recent adoption of Chapter 9, the Department is working on additional incentives to alleviate the teacher shortage in our school systems with Chapter 9 resolution programs and initiatives in progress to provide educators alternative routes to obtain education certifications. She stated that this May, we issued our first monthly newsletter for our teachers as part of the new online “Teacher Toolkit.” She stated the NJDOE Monthly Teacher Newsletter provides information and resources to educators, along with messages from New Jersey’s Teacher of the Year, information on the services provided by Department offices, and helpful resources for everything from instruction aids to professional development. She further stated the toolkit can be found from the DOE’s homepage; just click on the word “Educators” in the blue bar at the top to go right to the latest information.

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan stated other notable social media efforts included Teacher Appreciation Week (May 8th to 14th), which included a video presentation compiled by the Communications team highlighting State and County Teacher of the Year honorees, and during this week an additional NJ School Nurses Day shared appreciation for these hard workers as well. She further stated to stay tuned on our social media channels for posts engaging current and prospective educators on obtaining unique and innovative certifications to educate in New Jersey.

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan stated on the evening of May 3rd, she attended the Essex County Academic Awards Banquet to honor the Essex County Teacher of the Year, as well as congratulate the Valedictorian and Salutatorian from each of the county high schools. She further stated the following day, Assistant Commissioner Dr. Jordan Schiff represented the Department at the Somerset County Governor’s Educator of the Year event held at Raritan Valley Community College, and gave the opening remarks for the ceremony, which celebrates the hard work and dedication of Somerset County’s educators.

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan stated three weeks ago, she had the honor of joining President Goldenberg, member Berry and Department staff at the Burlington County Institute of Technology, at a recognition ceremony for New Jersey students who have made significant contributions to their schools, families, and communities from ten of our select counties and in June, we will honor graduates across the state. She further stated she will be the Keynote Speaker at the 8th Grade Graduation at the Dr. William H. Horton School, as well as the East Orange High School graduation ceremony later in the month and looks forward to continuing to celebrate all of our student successes.

Items for Consideration

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

***A. Appointments**

- Approved the following appointment pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-32-35 and N.J.A.C. 6A:2-1.1 et seq.:
 - Dr. Jordan Schiff, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Teaching and Learning Services.

***B. Certification of School Districts**

- There were no districts for certification.

***C. Resolution to Adopt the Annual State Board Calendar of Meeting Dates**

- Adopted the resolution establishing the annual calendar of 2023-2024 meeting dates of the State Board of Education set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:1-22, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-7 and 10:4-6 et seq.

Annual Calendar of State Board Meeting/Public Testimony Dates

Whereas, N.J.S.A. 18A:4-7 states that, the State Board of Education shall hold public meetings at least once each month at such times as its rules may prescribe and at such other times and such places within the state as in its judgment may be necessary, but no meeting may commence later than 8:00 p.m.; and

Whereas, N.J.A.C. 6A:1-2.2 requires that such meetings be held at such time, place, and on such dates as established by the State Board, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., Open Public Meetings Act, and notice of such meetings shall be made in a manner consistent with the law; now therefore be it

Resolved, that the State Board establishes the following dates for its monthly business meetings and public testimony sessions for the 2023-2024 school year and directs that a copy of the dates be sent to the Governor, the Secretary of State, the news media, the executive county superintendents, and the State Board agenda subscribers.

Regular Public Business Meetings/Public Testimony Sessions 2023-2024

July 12	November 1	March 6
August 2	December 6	April 3
September 6	January 10	May 1
October 4	February 7	June 5

***Open Topic Testimony Sessions 2023-2024**

*September 6	*January 10	*May 1
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****Alternate Board Meeting Dates in the Event of Snow Cancellations**

**December 13	**January 17	**February 14	**March 13
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Notice of changes in the above will be made in compliance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act.

D. Chapter 14, Special Education

- Discussed the amendments to the rules at N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.9 and 5.1, pertaining to the provision of related services 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

Dr. Joseph Ricca stated he would like an update on the inclusion of ASVAB to the menu of alternate assessments as another pathway for graduation.

Public Testimony

For the month of June, the State Board received public testimony on Chapter 14, Special Education.

Adjournment

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education adjourned its June 7, 2023, public meeting at 12:30 p.m.

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