

**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
October 4, 2023**

Presiding: Kathy Goldenberg, President

Secretary: Angelica Allen-McMillan, Acting Commissioner

Present Constituting a Quorum

Mr. Andrew Mulvihill

Mrs. Mary Beth Berry

Mrs. Mary Beth Gazi

Mr. Jack Fornaro

Dr. Nedd Johnson

Mrs. Sylvia Sylvia

Mrs. Fatimah Burnam-Watkins

Mr. Arcelio Aponte

Mrs. Elaine Bobrove

Dr. Joseph Ricca

Absent

Dr. Ronald Butcher

Convening

State Board of Education President Kathy Goldenberg convened the public meeting at 9:24 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 October 4, 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 October 4, 2023.

Reconvening

President Kathy Goldenberg reconvened the open meeting at 10:21 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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Arcelio Aponte.

President Goldenberg welcomed the public to the meeting and thanked those who are participating. She stated the State Board meetings are accessible to the public for viewing on YouTube Channel and would like to advise that YouTube provides readily accessible language translation options for closed captioning. She further stated if you are viewing this simulcast now, you can use the settings option in YouTube for information about sub-titles, auto translations and closed captioning in multiple languages.

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 September 6, 2023. State Board members Arcelio Aponte, Elaine Bobrove and Joseph Ricca abstained.

Recognition of Former President and New Jersey State Board of Education Member Maud Dahme

President Goldenberg stated that Mrs. Maud Dahme was a guest in today's audience. She stated that Mrs. Dahme is currently a member of the NJ Holocaust Commission and a former member of the State Board of Education serving from 1987-2007. She further stated Mrs. Dahme also served as President of the State Board for five years. President Goldenberg thanked Mrs. Dahme for her continued service.

President's Reports

Public Testimony

President Goldenberg stated that for the month of October, the State Board will not receive public testimony on Chapter 3, Controversies and Disputes as no one signed up to testify. For the month of November there are no topics scheduled for public testimony.

Welcome of the Permanent Student Representative

President Goldenberg introduced the State Board of Education's permanent student representative, Miss Nilanjana (Nillie) Ghosh. Miss Ghosh is a rising junior at West Windsor Plainsboro High School North. Ms. Nilanjana Ghosh spoke about her back to school experience. She stated the students were surveyed to measure their stress level and it showed that most students feel some amount of pressure. She further stated the new school year marks the beginning of clubs and extracurriculars as well as a reunion of her peers.

State Board Committee Reports

Policy Committee

Ms. Elaine Bobrove, chair of the Policy committee stated the committee met two times during the month of September with members of the Department to discuss materials to be reported to you during today's meeting. She stated the first meeting was on September 13, 2023 and they discussed revisions to the amendments proposed to Chapter 14, Special Education, pertaining to providing related services virtually. She further stated they also discussed possible revisions to the New Jersey Learning Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics, and the committee felt that an additional meeting before October 4 needed to be scheduled to continue the discussion. Ms. Bobrove stated the follow-up meeting with the Department occurred on September 28, 2023. She stated that prior to the group discussion, the Department made several changes to the Math and ELA Standards and sent the committee two versions of each of the standards to review prior to the September 28th meeting. She further stated the discussion was far reaching, but the final texts will be discussed by members of the Department of Education during today's meeting.

CTE Committee

Ms. Mary Beth Berry, chair of the CTE committee stated the committee met on September 13, 2023 to discuss the CTE Scholar Awards Program. She stated this program is based upon a new law signed by Governor Murphy in the spring of this year. She further stated the legislation requires collaboration between the Department of Education and the Department of Labor and Workforce Development to establish an annual award to identify excellence in CTE Scholarship for our students across New Jersey. Ms. Berry stated they also discussed enrollment data and continuing CTE opportunities across the state.

Petition for Rulemaking – Jamie Epstein

President Goldenberg stated the State Board of Education received a petition for rulemaking from Jamie Epstein, Esq. on July 26, 2023, requesting the State Board amend chapter 27 to add a requirement that bus contractors must provide district boards of education with a live video feed of the interior of their buses while transporting students. She stated the current rules require district boards of education to develop a policy to ensure that the school administration conducts ongoing random checks of school bus transportation operations, and random checks must include but are not limited to, the following: verifying those drivers possess a valid commercial driver's license (CDL) with proper endorsements to operate the type(s) and class(es) of vehicle(s) used to transport students, verifying that the vehicle(s) being used to transport students has a valid registration, insurance, and inspection sticker, and conducting a pre-trip inspection of buses, all as set forth in the rules. She stated the petitioner sought to amend this current rule to add a fourth provision and require bus contractors to provide a live video monitor feed to the district boards of education of the interior of their buses while transporting students. President Goldenberg stated the Commissioner and she reviewed the petitioners request and have

concluded additional time is needed for the Department to determine the possible fiscal and operational impacts on school bus contactors and school districts. She stated accordingly, this matter will be referred for further deliberation for a period not to exceed 90 days.

Commissioner's Reports

Presentation of the 2023-2024 New Jersey State Teacher of the Year

Dr. Jorden Schiff, Acting Assistant Commissioner, Division of Teaching and Learning Services, introduced Mr. Joseph Nappi, a social studies educator from Monmouth Regional High School District, as the 2023-2024 New Jersey State Teacher of the Year.

Representatives from the following organizations celebrated Mr. Nappi with a presentation of these items for a one year term: New Jersey Education Association - a car equipped with EZ Pass, complimentary access to all NJEA major workshops and training opportunities, \$1500 clothing allowance, and media training and communications support; and Educational Testing Service – finance a half-year sabbatical and a laptop or computer.

New Jersey Partnership for Student Success (NJPSS) Update

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan introduced Dr. Jorden Schiff, Assistant Commissioner, and Ms. Lisa Haberl, Executive Director, for the Division of Teaching and Learning Services, who provided an update on the New Jersey Partnership for Student Success (NJPSS).

In Case You Missed It

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan stated that during the month of September, she took time to work with our partners at the Department of Environmental Protection and Department of Health to promote Climate Week 2023 in a joint video session with their department commissioners. She stated as part of this initiative, they discussed the establishment of a Climate Change Education team within our own Office of Innovation to further climate literacy and environmental awareness among educators and students across our state. She further stated this Climate Change Education Team underscores our dedication to equipping the next generation with the knowledge and tools needed to address one of the most pressing challenges of our time, empowering everyone to become informed, engaged, and ready to contribute to a sustainable future.

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan stated as we continue to mourn the loss of Lieutenant Governor Sheila Oliver, she wishes to congratulate her successor, Tahesha Way, in taking over the reins as our third Lieutenant Governor. She stated she has demonstrated dedication to serving our communities in New Jersey long before she became Governor Murphy's Secretary of State, and now as his new "right hand," remains guided by the her belief in hard work and perseverance as a public servant.

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan stated on September 15 we began celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month. She stated it marks the commemoration of independence for Latin American countries including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. She further stated the celebration continues through October 15 to honor the histories, cultures, and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America. She stated other annual campaigns acknowledged by the Department in September included Suicide

Prevention, Chronic Absenteeism, and Pedestrian Safety month. She further stated we also promoted the New Jersey Farm to School Network during the New Jersey Agricultural Week at the end of September, highlighting the importance of agriculture in our state and for our future. She stated as always, please be sure to Like, Comment, Share, and Retweet as we spread awareness of the activities, events, spotlights, and advance campaigns that propel education to new heights in New Jersey and keeps us in the forefront in our nation.

Items for Consideration

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

***A. Appointments**

- There we no appointments.

***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. State Board member Nedd Johnson abstained.

| Districts | County |
|---|---------------|
| Bergen County Vocational Technical School | Bergen |
| Edgewater School District | Bergen |
| Englewood Public School District | Bergen |
| Garfield Public School District | Bergen |
| Hackensack School District | Bergen |
| Hasbrouck Heights School District | Bergen |
| Midland Park School District | Bergen |
| North Arlington School District | Bergen |
| Norwood Public School District | Bergen |
| Oakland Public School District | Bergen |
| Paramus Public School District | Bergen |
| Ramapo Indian Hills Regional High School District | Bergen |
| Ridgewood Public School District | Bergen |
| Tenafly Public School District | Bergen |
| Upper Saddle River School District | Bergen |
| Waldwick School District | Bergen |
| Westwood Regional School District | Bergen |
| Pemberton Township School District | Burlington |
| Camden County Technical School District | Camden |
| Ocean City School District | Cape May |
| Belleville Public School District | Essex |
| Bloomfield Township School District | Essex |
| Deptford Township Public School District | Gloucester |
| Glassboro School District | Gloucester |
| Harrison Public School District | Hudson |
| Hoboken Public School District | Hudson |

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|---|-----------|
| Hudson County Schools of Technology School District | Hudson |
| Secaucus School District | Hudson |
| Union City School District | Hudson |
| Bethlehem Township School District | Hunterdon |
| Hampton Borough School District | Hunterdon |
| Ewing Township School District | Mercer |
| Princeton Public School District | Mercer |
| South Amboy School District | Middlesex |
| Long Branch Public School District | Monmouth |
| Butler Public School District | Morris |
| Florham Park School District | Morris |
| Montville Township School District | Morris |
| Pequannock Township School District | Morris |
| School District of the Chathams | Morris |
| Beach Haven School District | Ocean |
| Lavallette Borough School District | Ocean |
| Toms River Regional School District | Ocean |
| Clifton Public School District | Passaic |
| Little Falls Township Public School District | Passaic |
| Pompton Lakes School District | Passaic |
| Pennsville School District | Salem |
| Pittsgrove Township School District | Salem |
| Woodstown-Pilesgrove Regional School District | Salem |
| Hampton Township School District | Sussex |
| Lenape Valley Regional High School District | Sussex |
| Springfield Public School District | Union |
| Westfield Public School District | Union |

***C. Resolution to Adopt the New Jersey Student Learning Standards**

- Approved the following resolution to adopt the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Mathematics and English Language Arts, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-2.1(a).

Resolution to Adopt New Jersey Student Learning Standards

Whereas, the New Jersey State Board of Education is empowered, pursuant to P. L. 1990, c. 52, P. L. 1991, c. 3 and P. L. 1991, c. 62, with the authority to establish the State's educational goals and standards, and

Whereas, the State Board of Education is responsible under N.J.A.C. 6A:8-2.1(a)5 for initiating every five years a review and reoption process for the New Jersey Student Learning Standards based on recommendations by the Commissioner of Education; and

Whereas, the New Jersey Student Learning Standards define the knowledge and skills students should acquire within their kindergarten through grade 12 education careers to

graduate high school with the ability to succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing academic college courses and in workforce training programs; and

Whereas, the State Board of Education reviewed two revised New Jersey Student Learning Standards, to ensure that the standards both set expectations for and meet the needs of New Jersey’s students, and

Whereas, kindergarten through grade 12 educators, representatives from higher education, business, industry, and stakeholders statewide have provided focused expertise in reviewing the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics; and

Whereas, the New Jersey Department of Education has fully considered the recommendations of the Standards Review Committees, revised the standards accordingly, and now presents them to the State Board of Education for review and adoption; and

Whereas, extensive public input was sought and thoughtfully considered through regional testimony sessions, written comments, and feedback submitted through the New Jersey Department of Education’s website; and

Whereas, revisions to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards – English Language Arts reflect the knowledge, practices, and skills necessary to build readers, writers, and communicators prepared to meet the demands of college and career and to engage as productive global citizens; and

Whereas, revisions to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards – Mathematics reflect the knowledge, practices, and skills necessary for students to engage in mathematical investigation, communication and problem solving to prepare for the next generation for the jobs their world will demand; and

Whereas, the New Jersey Student Learning Standards provide the foundation for high expectations and rigorous curriculum, instruction, and assessment for every student; and now be it

Resolved, the State Board of Education reaffirms its commitment to ensuring the Standards both set expectations for and meet the needs of New Jersey’s students and by adoption of this resolution hereby directs school districts to integrate the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics, in kindergarten through grade 12; and be it further

Resolved, the State Board of Education hereby directs that the revised New Jersey Student Learning Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics will serve as standards of quality for public school students in kindergarten through grade 12 programs in New Jersey; and be it further

Resolved, district boards of education shall fully comply with this resolution and shall implement the revised New Jersey Student Learning Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics by September 2024, align their curricula with the standards, and ensure students learn and are assessed as required by federal law; and be it further

Resolved, the State Board of Education commends and expresses their appreciation to the individuals and organizations, both within the State and beyond its borders, who have contributed to this revision of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

***D. Chapter 14, Special Education**

- Approved for publication in the *New Jersey Register* 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. 18A:20-36; 18A:26-10; 18A:28-8; 18A:29-4 and 14; 18A:33-2; 18A:38-1 and 13; 18A:39-28 et seq.; 18A:54-4; and 18A:60-1; P.L. 2007, c. 260; and P.L. 2012, c. 26.

E. Chapter 3, Controversies and Disputes

- Discussed the readoption with amendments to at N.J.A.C. 6A:3, Controversies and Disputes, pertaining to the rules of procedure for the filing of petitions with the Commissioner of Education to hear and decide controversies and disputes arising under school laws, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-9 and 10; 18A:7-4; 18A:7A-15 and 42.a(3); 18A:7F-9; 18A:11-3; 18A:12-29; 18A:20-36; 18A:26-10; 18A:28-8; 18A:29-4 and 14; 18A:33-2; 18A:38-1 and 13; 18A:39-28 et seq.; 18A:54-4; and 18A:60-1; P.L. 2007, c. 260; and P.L. 2012, c. 26.

New Business

Vice President Andrew Mulvihill stated he would like to know what the role and authority of the State Board is and asked Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan for her consideration in reopening Chapter 7, Managing for Equity in Education and would like to put a motion before the board on the agenda for the November 1, 2023 monthly public business meeting for the State Boards consideration and vote on the request. State Board member Joseph Ricca stated that he seconds the request and State Board member Arcelio Aponte stated that he would like to know what the role and authority of the State Board is but does not agree with the request to reopen those rules at this time.

Adjournment

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education adjourned its October 4, 2023, public meeting at 1:36 p.m.

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