

**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  
August 2, 2023**

**Presiding:** Kathy Goldenberg, President

**Secretary:** Angelica Allen-McMillan, Acting Commissioner

**Present Constituting A Quorum**

Mr. Andrew Mulvihill

Mr. Arcelio Aponte

Mrs. Mary Beth Berry

Mrs. Mary Beth Gazi

Mrs. Elaine Bobrove

Mr. Jack Fornaro

Dr. Nedd Johnson

Dr. Joseph Ricca

Mrs. Sylvia Sylvia

Mrs. Fatimah Burnam-Watkins

**Absent**

Dr. Ronald Butcher

**Convening**

State Board of Education President Kathy Goldenberg convened the public meeting at 9:07 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 August 2, 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 August 2, 2023.

### **Reconvening**

President Kathy Goldenberg reconvened the open meeting at 10:19 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 Mary Beth Berry.

President Goldenberg welcomed the public to the meeting and thanked those either in person or virtually 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.

### **Statement from President Kathy Goldenberg Regarding the Passing of Honorable Sheila Y. Oliver**

President Goldenberg stated that she felt fitting to take a few minutes to acknowledge the passing of Lieutenant Governor Sheila Oliver. She stated she was a true public servant who dedicated her career to improving lives of the people of New Jersey. She further stated she left her mark on State government during the past 20 years having served in the New Jersey General Assembly and being the first African American woman to serve as Speaker. President Goldenberg stated elected twice as Lieutenant Governor, she was the first woman of color to serve in a Statewide elected office and also serve in the dual role of the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs. She stated she was a proud graduate of the Newark Public Schools and a staunch supporter of public education and was also a member of the East Orange Board of Education for six years and a college instructor. She further stated a few years ago a new school in East Orange was opened as the Sheila Y. Oliver Academy which served students in preschool through grade seven. President Goldenberg stated on behalf of her colleagues on the State Board of Education, she extends her sincerest condolences to the Oliver Family, as well as to her friends and colleagues.

### **Statement from Acting Commissioner, Angelica Allen-McMillan Regarding the Passing of Honorable Sheila Y. Oliver**

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan stated the passing of Lieutenant Governor Oliver has left us deeply saddened, and we mourn the loss of a remarkable public servant and an exceptional leader. She stated the Lieutenant Governor Oliver's dedication to the people of New Jersey was unwavering, and her tireless efforts in serving our state will forever be remembered. She further stated she was a trailblazer, breaking barriers and paving the way for future generations. She stated as the first African American woman to hold a statewide elected office in New Jersey, her achievement stands as an inspiration to us all, showing that with perseverance and determination, one can overcome any obstacle. She further stated throughout her distinguished career, she championed numerous causes,

including education, equity, and social justice, leaving an indelible impact on the lives of countless New Jersey residents.

Acting Commissioner Allen-Millan stated she had the privilege of working alongside Lieutenant Governor Oliver on initiatives aimed at improving educational opportunities and outcomes for our students, and her relentless pursuit of excellence and her ability to bring diverse stakeholders together for the greater good were truly commendable. She stated in this moment of profound loss, she extends her deepest condolences to Lieutenant Governor Oliver's family, friends, and colleagues and our state mourns her passing let us celebrate her life and the legacy she leaves us.

### **Moment of Silence in Memory of Lt. Governor Sheila Y. Oliver**

President Goldenberg requested a moment of silence on behalf of the State Board of Education and the Department of Education in memory of Sheila Y. Oliver.

### **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 July 12, 2023. State Board members Andrew Mulvihill, Mary Beth Gazi and Fatimah Burnam-Watkins abstained.

### **President's Reports**

#### **Public Testimony**

For the month of August, there are no topics for public testimony. For the month of September, the State Board will receive Open Public testimony on any educational topic of choice from registered members of the public.

### **Report 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.

#### **Student Report**

Ms. Nilanjana Ghosh spoke about her experience attending the New Jersey Association of Student Councils (NJASC) annual Leadership Training Conference which was held July 6-13 at The College of New Jersey. She stated the theme was New Jersey will S.T.R.I.V.E. (Strength Through Resilience Inspires Valuable Experiences). She stated every minute of the day was spent immersed in one common goal and it was a real test of endurance and a transformative journey worth experiencing that she will carry with her for a long time.

### **State Board Committee Reports**

#### **Policy Committee**

Ms. Elaine Bobrove, chair of the Policy Committee, stated the committee met on July 19, 2023, to discuss the proposed revisions to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Mathematics and English language arts, as well as the comments received from educators and the public. She stated they also discussed the changes proposed by the Department in response to the comments received. She further stated additionally they had brief discussions about the proposed amendments to Chapter

14, Special Education, and Chapter 7, Managing for Equality and Equity in Education, and as the Chapter 7 rulemaking is on today's agenda, she will forgo any discussion of that topic.

Ms. Bobrove stated the committee met again on July 26, 2023, to discuss some additional requested revisions to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Mathematics and English language arts, as proposed by the committee on July 19, 2023. She stated they also had a brief discussion about a potential amendment to Chapter 7, Managing for Equality and Equity in Education, and once again as the rulemaking is on today's agenda she will forgo the rest of her report. Ms. Bobrove stated that regarding the amendments to Chapter 14, Special Education, and the NJSLs Mathematics and English language arts (ELA), additional time is needed to examine revisions and therefore those items will be brought back to the State Board at a future meeting.

### **Commissioner's Reports**

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan stated that the month of July started with the announcement of the Educator Certification Fee Holiday and for fiscal year 2024, the initiative aims to alleviate the financial burden and streamline the certification process for aspiring educators across the state. She stated the Fee Holiday applies to certification applications, renewals, and related services, in order to foster a supportive environment for incoming and returning educator as well as encourage talented candidates to pursue teaching careers from a diverse pool of qualified, passionate and dedicated individuals. She further stated as of Monday, the Department has waived over a million dollars in certification fees from submitted applications. She stated additionally the Department is concluding the review of grant applications under the Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) and Regular Operating Districts (ROD) programs, and between these two opportunities the total funding represents around \$1.25 billion, with a total of 700 projects in the review process at this time; 40 for the UPK and the remainder being ROD programs. She further stated the Department plans to announce the UPK awardees first, followed by the ROD recipients, with the initial announcements being expected to come as early as September, dependent upon any responses to outstanding queries relating to the districts' submissions.

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan stated other notable events last month include a school safety seminar at Burlington Township High School hosted by the Office of School Preparedness and Emergency Planning, with guest speaker Michele Gay, executive director of Safe and Sound Schools. She stated Ms. Gay shared her personal story as a surviving parent of a child lost in the Sandy Hook tragedy, and how it inspired her to help communities to improve school safety. She further stated they celebrated the opening of the Charles and Anna Booker Elementary School in Plainfield, New Jersey, and Executive Director of the Division of Field Support and Services, Robert Gregory, gave remarks at the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony; the school is named for two civil rights leaders from our state who dedicated their lives to promoting equality in education and led the push for desegregation. She further stated our third monthly newsletter was issued in mid-July for our teachers in the online "Teacher Toolkit." She further 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 stated the toolkit can be found from the Department's homepage by clicking on the word "Educators" in the blue bar at the top to access the latest newsletter. She further stated next week, we will welcome and honor our exemplary state educators as the announcement of the next County Teachers of the Year will be presented. She stated these 21 educators have been selected to serve as the next ambassadors for New Jersey's public schools throughout the upcoming school year. She further stated they are the embodiment of dedication, effort, and service, and they were nominated by their schools to their respective county board of education and are now eligible to be selected as the 2024 New Jersey Teacher of the Year.

She further stated the selectee will represent New Jersey in the National Teacher of the Year selection.

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan stated she looks forward to the beginning of 2023-2024 school year, with some schools opening their doors this month, where we will empower students, educators, and parents to “Dream. Achieve. Serve. Inspire.” She stated each week we will emphasize each of these tenants through a lens of learning to create more meaningful interactions with our local educational agencies, parents, and students. She stated our social media will also be emphasizing “Don’t Be a Bully Month”, and of course, Back to School Safety Month as sponsored by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. She further stated please be sure to Like, Comment, Share, and Retweet as we spread awareness of the exceptional work being done at the Department which also now includes a new social media platform: Threads!, and be sure to follow along for engaging posts and discussion topics on our Threads, via your Instagram account.

**Gifted and Talented Program Presentation**

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan introduced Dr. Jorden Schiff, Assistant Commissioner, and Ms. Lisa Haberl, Executive Director, Division of Teaching and Learning Services, who provided a brief overview of the legislation and data collected by the Department since implementation.

**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.

<b>Districts</b>	<b>County</b>
Medford Twp.	Burlington
Cape May City	Cape May
Cape May County Special Services	Cape May
Greenwich Twp.	Cumberland
Califon Borough	Hunterdon
Franklin Twp.	Hunterdon
Hopewell Valley Regional	Mercer
Holmdel Twp.	Monmouth
East Hanover Twp.	Morris
Morris County Vocational	Morris
Mount Olive Twp.	Morris
Roxbury Twp.	Morris
Frelinghuysen Twp.	Warren
Knowlton Twp.	Warren

**\*C. Resolution to Establish Performance Level Cut Scores for Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM): Grades 3 through 8 and Grade 11 Mathematics and English Language Arts**

- Adopted the resolution approving the New Jersey Performance Level Cut Scores for Dynamic Learning Maps, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1(b)1.

**Resolution to Establish Performance Level Cut Score Standards for Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM): English Language Arts and Mathematics**

**Whereas**, the New Jersey State Board of Education (State Board) has required that all students in grades three through high school be assessed in English language arts and mathematics, and students enrolled in grades five, grade eight, and high school be assessed in science in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4; and

**Whereas**, according to Section 1111(b)(2) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) each state may provide for alternate assessments aligned with the challenging state academic standards and alternate academic achievement standards for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities; and

**Whereas**, according to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1(d)3, at specific times prescribed by the Commissioner, district boards of education shall administer the alternative assessment for students with disabilities to students with severe disabilities who cannot participate in other assessments due to the severity of their disabilities; and

**Whereas**, the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) alternate assessment is provided for assessing student progress toward demonstrating a thorough understanding of essential knowledge and skills delineated by the State standards as the alternative assessment for students with severe disabilities; and

**Whereas**, standard setting studies were completed in accordance with industry best practices in large-scale assessment to determine the assessments' validity and the theoretically appropriate performance level cut scores; and

**Whereas**, the State Board acknowledges the Department's selection of the consortium adopted DLM performance level cut scores; and

**Whereas**, the Department will monitor the impact of these tests and performance level cut scores on the performance rates for each grade level where the test is administered and will report any problems with the same to the State Board; now therefore be it

**Resolved**, that the New Jersey State Board of Education hereby approves the following performance level cut scores, effective August 2, 2023:

*DLM English Language Arts (ELA)*

Grade	Approaching	Target	Advanced
3	22	31	44
4	23	37	49
5	21	33	45
6	21	33	45
7	18	37	53
8	18	35	54
9	17	39	55
10	15	38	59
11	15	39	58

*DLM Math Cut Scores*

Grade	Approaching	Target	Advanced
3	9	15	27
4	10	17	30
5	10	17	25
6	8	18	24
7	9	19	26
8	9	23	30
9	7	20	27
10	8	19	32
11	6	14	25

**\*D. Resolution to Establish Revised PRAXIS Tests and Qualifying Scores for PRAXIS General Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Earth and Space Sciences and New Test and Qualifying Score for the Computer Science Endorsement**

- Adopted the resolution establishing revised tests and qualifying scores for PRAXIS General Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Earth and Space Sciences and New Test and Qualifying Score for the Computer Science Endorsement, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.1.

**Resolution to Establish Revised Praxis Tests and Qualifying Scores for Praxis General Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Earth and Space Sciences and New Test and Qualifying Score for The Computer Science Endorsement**

**Whereas**, the State Board of Education has required that teacher certification candidates pass tests in specified disciplines in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.1, that became effective May 1, 2023; and

**Whereas**, the Educational Testing Service (ETS) has recently revised and established new recommended qualifying scores for revised tests in the subject areas of Praxis General Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Earth Sciences to replace the current tests used by the Department; and

**Whereas**, the Department has recently adopted a new Computer Science endorsement and Educational Testing Service (ETS) has recently established a new test in the subject area of Computer Science;

**Whereas**, New Jersey stakeholders have participated in national standard-setting studies for the General Science, Biology, Chemistry, Earth Sciences, and Computer Science tests; and

**Whereas**, the Department will monitor the impact of these tests and qualifying scores on the passing rates for each subject area and will report any problems with the same to the State Board of Education; now therefore be it

**Resolved**, that the State Board of Education hereby supports the Department’s selection of these Praxis tests; and be it further

**Resolved**, that the State Board of Education hereby acknowledges and accepts the tests and adopts the following qualifying scores effective September 1, 2023:

***Qualifying Score***

Biology	154
Chemistry	156
Earth Science	154
General Science	141
Physics	145
Computer Science	149

**\*E. Chapter 7, Managing for Equality and Equity in Education**

During the discussion of the readoption with amendments pertaining to equality and equity in education proposed at N.J.A.C. 6A:7, Managing for Equality and Equity in Education, State Board Vice President Andrew Mulvihill made a motion to table the item. The State Board adjourned to executive session at 1:00pm to discuss the legal ramifications. The State Board resumed the public meeting at 1:30pm. State Board Vice President withdrew his initial motion. State Board Vice President Andrew Mulvihill presented a new motion that the State Board adopt a resolution requesting Governor Murphy extend the expiration date of N.J.A.C. 6A:7, Managing for Equality and Equity in Education so that it does not expire on August 29, 2023, to give the State Board members additional time to consider the rulemaking. The motion was not affirmed. State Board members Kathy Goldenberg, Arcelio Aponte, Elaine Bobrove, Fatimah Burnam-Watkins, Sylvia Sylvia-Cioffi, and Nedd Johnson opposed. State Board member Arcelio Aponte made a motion that the State Board adopt the readoption with amendments as presented. The motion was affirmed. State Board members Andrew Mulvihill, Mary Beth Berry, Mary Beth Gazi, Jack Fornaro, and Joseph Ricca opposed.

- Adopted the readoption with amendments pertaining to equality and equity in education proposed 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.

**New Business**

There was no new business.

**Adjournment**

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education adjourned its August 2, 2023, public meeting at 1:55 p.m.

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