

**Minutes of the Meeting of the New Jersey State Board of Education
In the Conference Room on the
Trenton, NJ
December 6, 2023**

Presiding: Kathy Goldenberg, President

Secretary: Angelica Allen-McMillan, Acting Commissioner

Present Constituting a Quorum

Mr. Andrew Mulvihill

Dr. Ronald Butcher

Mrs. Mary Beth Berry

Mr. Jack Fornaro

Dr. Nedd Johnson

Mrs. Sylvia Sylvia

Mr. Arcelio Aponte

Mrs. Elaine Bobrove

Dr. Joseph Ricca

Ms. Fatimah Burnam-Watkins

Absent

Mrs. Mary Beth Gazi

Convening

State Board of Education President Kathy Goldenberg convened the public meeting at 9:11 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 December 6, 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 December 6, 2023.

Reconvening

President Kathy Goldenberg reconvened the open meeting at 10:22 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 State Board member Sylvia Sylvia-Cioffi.

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 November 1, 2023. State Board member Fatimah Burnam-Watkins abstained.

President's Reports

Public Testimony

President Goldenberg stated that for the month of December, the State Board will receive public testimony on Chapter 14, Special Education. For the month of January, the State Board will receive public testimony on the second discussion level amendments to Chapter 22, Student Residency. In addition, the State Board has also scheduled Open Topic public testimony, meaning any registered member of the public may provide written testimony on any educational topic of choice.

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 stated that she wanted to share various school-wide activities underway. She stated she recently attended the New Jersey Association of Student Councils (NJASC) November 13 Executive meeting where she learned of various events happening in her fellow State Officers schools. She further shared her thoughts on the conflict in the Middle East.

State Board Committee Reports

Assessment Committee

Arcelio Aponte, chair of the Assessment committee stated the committee met on November 14, 2023, to discuss the 2023 statewide data testing results for the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment (NJSLA), the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment (NJGPA), ACCESS for Individual English Language Learners Assessment (ACCESS for ELLs) and the Dynamic Learning Maps Assessment (DLM). He stated that since this item is on today's agenda, he will forgo the remaining details of his report.

Policy Committee

Elaine Bobrove, chair of the Policy committee stated the committee met on November 27, 2023, to discuss the upcoming readoptions of Chapter 22, Student Residency, and Chapter 23A, Fiscal Accountability, Efficiency, and Budgeting Procedures. She stated that both chapters expire in April. She further stated we surely will have rich discussions about the proposals during upcoming public meetings, so she will forgo further details of her report.

New Jersey Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (NJALAS)

State Board member Arcelio Aponte stated that the New Jersey Association of Latino Administrators celebrated its first anniversary with an Inaugural Gala and Annual Student Scholarship Fundraiser held on December 1, 2023. He also stated that he was very humbled to be honored at the gala for his service to the state as a member of the New Jersey State Board of Education.

Commissioner's Reports

2022-2023 Statewide Assessment Overview

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan introduced Dr. Jorden Schiff, Assistant Commissioner, for the Division of Teaching and Learning Services, and Mr. John Boczany, Office of Assessments, who provided an overview of the 2022-2023 Statewide Assessment results.

Comprehensive Update on Statewide Initiatives to Address Learning Acceleration

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan introduced Dr. Jorden Schiff, Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Teaching and Learning Services, and Mrs. Lisa Haberl, Executive Director of the division, who provided an update of the statewide initiatives to address learning acceleration.

In Case You Missed It

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan stated that she had the opportunity to visit and make congratulatory remarks at the Morgan Village Middle School in Camden to celebrate the grand opening of their Innovator Academy, which is a part of the Star Academy program. She stated the Star Academy program embodies our commitment to nurturing young minds, as it provides disengaged students who have fallen behind in their educational journey with the customized tools and opportunities they need to succeed. She further stated this is a significant milestone in the pursuit of excellence during the critical middle school years for our students in Camden City School District.

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan stated that between Election Day on November 7 and Veterans Day celebrated on November 10, Acting Assistant Commissioner Chris Huber filled in for her alongside State Board President Goldenberg and State Board members Nedd James Johnson and Fatimah Burnam-Watkins at the New Jersey Education Association's Convention in Atlantic City. She stated the Department and State Board members participated in a panel discussion moderated by NJEA Vice President Steve Beatty on current and upcoming educational

initiatives and accomplishments, and after the panel discussion NJEA attendees had the opportunity to ask questions, fostering an open dialogue with New Jersey’s educators.

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan stated that the Department County Roundtable meetings have continued with a joint Atlantic County and Cape May County Board of Education meeting at the convention center in Atlantic City, as well as the Union County Roundtable at the beginning of December. She further stated additional roundtable discussions are planned for the new year.

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan stated our social media campaigns for November included STEAM Month, promoting Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math education to encourage curiosity and ingenuity as our educators and students discover the boundless wonders in these subjects. She stated we also honored our veterans, including the announcement of a program supporting our military as they pursue a career in education. She further stated other monthly awareness highlighted National Scholarship Month and Academic Writing Month. She stated National Scholarship Month is a time to raise awareness of opportunities for current and future college students looking for possible financial assistance, and Academic Writing Month is an online writing event where participants challenge themselves and encourage others to meet self-set writing goals during the month.

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan stated that in the final week of November, she celebrated Department employees for their dedication and hard work at the Department’s Employee Recognition Ceremony. She further stated during the month of December, the Department will highlight Computer Science Education Week, Special Education Day, the International Day of People with Disabilities, among our celebrations of Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa. She stated be sure to like, comment, share, and retweet as we spread awareness of the exceptional work being done at the Department, where we will continue to dream, achieve, serve, and inspire our followers and our communities. She further wished everyone a wonderful holiday season.

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.

Districts	County
West Deptford Township School District	Gloucester
Toms River Regional School District	Ocean
Springfield Public School District	Union

C. Chapter 22, Student Residency

- Discussed the amendments to the rules at N.J.A.C. 6A:22, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1.1.

New Business

State Board Member Mary Beth Berry requested additional information about the implementation of the legislation recently signed by Governor Murphy eliminating the PRAXIS test for teacher certification. Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan stated that an update would be provided at the next meeting.

Adjournment

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education adjourned its December 6, 2023, public meeting at 1:12 p.m.

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