

**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
February 7, 2024**

Presiding: Kathy Goldenberg, President

Secretary: Christopher Huber, Acting Commissioner

Present Constituting a Quorum

Mr. Andrew Mulvihill

Dr. Ronald Butcher

Mr. Arcelio Aponte

Mrs. Mary Beth Berry

Mr. Jack Fornaro

Dr. Nedd Johnson

Mrs. Sylvia Sylvia

Mrs. Elaine Bobrove

Ms. Fatimah Burnam-Watkins

Ms. Mary Bennett

Ms. Jeanette Peña

Absent

Dr. Joseph Ricca

Convening

State Board of Education President Kathy Goldenberg convened the public meeting at 9:06 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 February 7, 2024, 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 February 7, 2024.

Reconvening

President Kathy Goldenberg reconvened the open meeting at 10:26 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 Ms. Jeanette Peña.

Welcome

President Goldenberg welcomed the public to the meeting and thanked all who are participating. She also welcomed Mr. Christopher Huber, who is serving as Acting Commissioner and Acting Secretary of the State Board of Education to the State Board meeting. President Goldenberg offered her congratulations and gratitude to Mr. Huber for his service to education.

She further 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.

Acknowledgement of Mr. Kevin Dehmer

President Goldenberg stated Mr. Kevin Dehmer is here with us today and welcomed him back to the Department of Education and to the State Board of Education meeting. She stated Mr. Dehmer is a former Assistant Commissioner and Chief Financial Officer of the Division of Finance for the Department of Education. She further stated Governor Murphy recently announced his intention to nominate Mr. Dehmer to serve as the Commissioner of the Department of Education. She congratulated him and stated that she greatly looks forward to working with him once again.

Acting Commissioner Christopher Huber requested that the State Board consider, at this point in the agenda, the appointment of Mr. Kevin Dehmer as Assistant Commissioner, Division of Administrative Services. He stated that for Mr. Dehmer to begin serving as Acting Commissioner, the State Board must first appoint him to an Assistant Commissioner position and then he will elevate him to Acting Commissioner upon his resignation and return to his current position of Assistant Commissioner, Division of Legal and External Services. The State Board unanimously approved the appointment as noted below under Items for Consideration.

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 January 17, 2024.

President's Reports

Public Testimony

President Goldenberg stated that for the month of February, the State Board will receive public testimony on second discussion level amendments to Chapter 12, Interdistrict Public School Choice and Chapter 23A, Fiscal Accountability. For the month of March, the State Board will not receive public testimony as there are no topics for discussion.

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.

Miss Nilanjana Ghosh (Nillie) stated that her student council met to come up with innovative ways to increase school spirit and improve school culture by changing tardiness policies and implementing a school-wide field day in her district.

State Board Committee Reports

Policy Committee

Elaine Bobrove, chair of the Policy committee stated that the committee met on January 26 and February 5, 2024, to discuss the readoption with amendments of the second half of the fiscal accountability rules in Chapter 23A. She stated they reviewed the proposed amendments to Subchapters 16 through 22 and discussed the new changes that the Department is proposing at second discussion. She further stated since the item is on today's agenda, she will forego a full report.

Petitions for Rulemaking

Jamie Epstein

President Goldenberg stated that The New Jersey State Board of Education (State Board) received a petition for rulemaking from Jamie Epstein, requesting to amend chapter 27, Student Transportation 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 final notice of action explaining the denial of the request can be found on the Department's [website](#).

Shawn Hyland and other petitioners

President Goldenberg stated that the New Jersey State Board of Education (State Board) received a petition for rulemaking from Shawn Hyland and approximately 400 other petitioners requesting the State Board make various amendments to Chapter 7, Managing for Equity in Education. She stated the final notice of action explaining the denial of the request can be found on the Department's [website](#).

New Jersey State Teacher of the Year Named National Teacher of the Year Finalist

President Goldenberg stated she would like to extend congratulations to our NJ State Teacher of the Year, Mr., Joseph Nappi on being selected on January 25, 2024, as one of the four National Teacher of the Year finalists by the Council of Chief State School Officers. She stated Mr. Nappi is a high school history teacher from Monmouth County and will interview with the National Teacher of the Year

Program's Selection Committee, and CCSSO will announce the 2024 National Teacher of the Year later this spring. She further stated the 2024 National Teacher of the Year will spend the next year serving as an ambassador and advocate for all teachers and students, and she congratulated Mr. Nappi on behalf of the State Board of Education and wished him the best of luck.

Resolution in Honor of Career and Technical Education Month in New Jersey

President Goldenberg requested that the State Board adopt a ceremonial Resolution in Honor of Career and Technical Education Month in New Jersey. The State Board unanimously adopted the following resolution read by State Board member Mary Beth Berry recognizing February as Career and Technical Education Month in New Jersey.

Resolution in Honor of Career and Technical Education Month in New Jersey

Whereas, the month of February 2024 has been designated nationally as Career and Technical Education Month[®] by the Association for Career and Technical Education; and

Whereas, teachers, administrators and school counselors involved in career and technical education help more than 137,608 secondary and postsecondary students in New Jersey pursue a range of career pathways; and

Whereas, career and technical education programs incorporate rigorous academic core coupled with high-level technical curriculum to deliver an opportunity for students to earn college credit, industry-valued credentials, and work-based learning to be college and career ready; and

Whereas, career and technical education prepares New Jerseyans for the jobs that exist today, and equips them with the skills employers will need in the future; and

Whereas, the New Jersey Department of Education has continued to implement a variety of career and technical education initiatives including the Building Capacity for Career Pathways initiative and the Middle Grades Career Awareness and Exploration Program; and

Whereas, career and technical education offers opportunities for student leadership experiences supporting personal and professional growth through seven state career and technical student organizations currently serving approximately 41,876 students in New Jersey through membership in Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA); National FFA (formerly known as Future Farmers of America) Organization; Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA); DECA, an Association of Marketing Students; Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA); Technology Student Association (TSA); and SkillsUSA; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the New Jersey State Board of Education and the Acting Commissioner of Education acknowledge the potential of career and technical education to fully prepare our students for postsecondary success and hereby recognize February 2024 as Career and Technical Education Month in New Jersey.

President Goldenberg introduced Dr. James Pedersen, Superintendent of Essex County Schools of Technology and President of The New Jersey Council of County Vocational-Technical Schools who accepted the resolution offered brief remarks along with Ms. Jackie Burke, Executive Director, The New Jersey Council of County Vocational-Technical Schools.

Commissioner's Reports

Career and Technical Education Landscape in New Jersey

Acting Commissioner Christopher Huber stated that Dr. Jorden Schiff, Assistant Commissioner and Ms. Lisa Haberl, Executive Director, for the Division of Teaching and Learning Services are here to present the presentation. He stated that Dr. Schiff is joined by Dr. Todd Bonsall, Superintendent of Hunterdon County Vocational School District and three of his students, who are all here today to talk about the Career and Technical Education Programs available in their school.

Teacher Recruitment Initiatives

Acting Commissioner Christopher Huber stated that Ms. Paula Bloom, Executive Director of the Division of Field Support and Services is here today to provide an overview of teacher recruitment initiatives underway in the Department.

Items for Consideration

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

***A. Appointments**

- Approved the following appointments pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-32-35 and N.J.A.C. 6A:2-1.1 et seq.:
 - Mr. Kevin Dehmer, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Administrative Services

***B. Certification of School Districts**

- There are no districts for certification.

***C. Chapter 22, Student Residency**

- Approved for publication in the New Jersey Register, the proposed readoption with amendments to the rules at N.J.A.C. 6A:22, Student Residency, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1.1.

D. Chapter 12, Interdistrict Public School Choice

- Discussed the readoption with amendments repeals, and new rules at N.J.A.C. 6A:12, Interdistrict Public School Choice, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:36B-14 through 24.

E. Chapter 23A, Fiscal Accountability, Efficiency and Budgeting Procedures

- Discussed the proposed readoption with amendments to the rules at N.J.A. C. 6A:23A, Fiscal Accountability, Efficiency and Budgeting Procedures, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-15, 18A:36A-18, 18A:36C-7, and 18A:46-15.

New Business

President Goldenberg acknowledged former Commissioner, Vito Gagliardi, Sr., who was in the audience.

Adjournment

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education adjourned its February 7, 2024, public meeting at 12:59 p.m.

Kevin Dehmer, Acting Commissioner
Acting Secretary, N.J. State Board of Education