

**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 7, 2024**

**Presiding:** Kathy Goldenberg, President

**Secretary:** Kevin Dehmer, Acting Commissioner

**Present Constituting a Quorum**

Mr. Arcelio Aponte  
Mr. Jack Fornaro  
Ms. Mary Beth Berry  
Ms. Elaine Bobrove  
Dr. Nedd Johnson  
Ms. Mary Bennett  
Dr. Claudine Keenan

**Absent**

Dr. Ronald Butcher  
Mr. Ahmed Shehata  
Dr. Joseph Ricca  
Ms. Jeanette Peña

**Convening**

State Board of Education President Kathy Goldenberg convened the public meeting at 9:18 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 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 August 7, 2024.

### **Reconvening**

President Kathy Goldenberg reconvened the open meeting at 10:31 am 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 board member Dr. Claudine Keenan.

### **Welcome**

President Goldenberg 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 Meetings**

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board members approved the minutes of the public meeting conducted on July 10, 2024.

### **President's Reports**

#### **Public Testimony**

President Goldenberg stated that for the month of August, the State Board will receive public testimony on Chapter 30, Evaluation of the Performance of School Districts and Chapter 5, Regulatory Equivalency and Waiver. The State Board will also receive public testimony on the Discussion Resolution to Amend State Board of Education Public Testimony Procedures.

President Goldenberg stated that for the month of September the State Board of Education has scheduled an Open Topic Public Testimony opportunity meaning that registered members of the public may offer public testimony on any educational topic of choice. State Board members Ronald Butcher, Nedd Johnson, Ahmed Shehata and Jeanette Peña are scheduled to hear testimony in September.

#### **Welcome of the Permanent Student Representative**

President Goldenberg introduced the State Board of Education's new permanent student representative, Miss Anna Pasziewicz. Miss Pasziewicz is a rising senior at Palmyra High School in Burlington County.

Miss Pasziewicz stated that she attended the Annual Leadership Training Conference hosted by the New Jersey Association of Student Council held at the College of New Jersey. She stated the

background of the conference dating back to 1955 and the evolution of the conference to present day, which has been inspiring young leaders of all types.

## **State Board Committee Reports**

### **Policy Committee**

Elaine Bobrove, chair of the Policy Committee, stated the Policy Committee met on July 26, 2024, to discuss the Department's proposed revisions to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) State Plan and the proposed amendments to Chapter 30, which contains the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum or NJQSAC regulations and district performance reviews. She stated we also discussed where the ESSA State Plan and NJQSAC intersect and how they differ.

### **CTE Committee**

Mary Beth Berry, chair of the CTE Committee, stated the CTE Committee met on July 25, 2024, to discuss the new Career and Technical Education Scholar Award Program and receive an update on the transition from career programs to CTE programs of study that supported by Perkins V. She stated they also learned about the recent addition of industry-recognized credentials for architecture and construction, as well as the Department's new system for school districts to submit their existing and new industry-recognized credential programs of study for review. She further stated we discussed the Department's work on the opportunity gap analysis related to programs of study and the training that Department staff received from Advance CTE so they can perform gap analyses on State-level data to identify areas of over-or under-representation of student group enrollment in CTE programs of study. Ms. Berry stated they also revisited the issue of students with disabilities' enrollment in CTE programs of study and career programs and how both can play an important role in students' successful transition to adulthood, and she looks forward to continuing the conversation around the last topic to ensure that students with disabilities continue to have opportunities through CTE programs of study.

### **Announcements**

President Goldenberg stated the Sheila Y. Oliver Civic Association held its inaugural Sheila Y. Oliver Legacy Brunch on Saturday, July 20, 2024, at the Valley Regency in Clifton, New Jersey. She stated during this landmark event that honored the extraordinary life and enduring legacy of the late Lieutenant Governor Sheila Y. Oliver, Mary Bennett was recognized along with 10 other inspiring women leaders from New Jersey to celebrate the trailblazing efforts of women who have broken barriers and support the association. She further stated the Sheila Y. Oliver Civic Association's mission is to empower underserved communities and cultivate the next generation of female leaders.

### **Commissioner's Reports**

There were no Commissioner's reports.

### **Items for Consideration**

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

**\*A. Appointments**-There are three appointments.

- Mrs. Samantha Price, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Legal and External Services
- Mr. David Corso, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Finance and Business Services

- Ms. Allie Cobb, Director, Office of Charter and Renaissance Schools

**\*B. Certification of School District**

- 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.

District	County
Margate City School District	Atlantic
Lyndhurst Public School District	Bergen

**\*C. Resolution to Approve the Appointments to the State Special Education Advisory Council**

- Adopted the resolution approving the appointments and reappointments to the State Special Education Advisory Council pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:46-2 and P.L. 94-142.

**Resolution to Appoint State Special Education Advisory Council Members**

**Whereas**, N.J.S.A. 18A:46-2 states that the Commissioner shall appoint biannually, with the approval of the State Board of Education, an advisory council for special education representative of professionals in the field of special education and parents of children with disabilities; and

**Whereas**, N.J.S.A. 18A:46-2 defines the role of the advisory council as advising in the promulgation of rules, regulations and implementation of N.J.A.C. 6A:14 and the establishment of standards and qualifications for the professional personnel; and

**Whereas**, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires each state education agency to have an advisory panel for special education; and

**Whereas**, the New Jersey Department of Education (Department) has established and maintains an advisory panel, known as the New Jersey State Special Education Advisory Council (NJ-SSEAC), for the purpose of providing policy guidance with respect to special education and related services for children with disabilities in the State; and

**Whereas**, the advisory panel must be consistent with the IDEA, and should, to the maximum extent possible, be representative of the State population, and be comprised of individuals involved in, or concerned with, the education of children with disabilities, including but not limited to: (i) parents of children with disabilities ages birth through 26; (ii) individuals with disabilities; (iii) A representative of the State Parent Advisory Network (SPAN) Parent Training and Information Center; (iv) teachers; (v) representatives of institutions of higher education that prepare special education and related services personnel; (vi) State and local education officials, including officials who carry out activities under subtitle B of title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. § 11431 et. seq.); (vii) Administrators of programs for children with disabilities; (viii) representatives of other State agencies involved in the financing or delivery of related services to children with disabilities; (ix) representatives of private schools and public charter schools; (x) no less than one representative of a vocational, community, or business organization concerned with

the provision of transition services to children with disabilities. (xi) representatives from the State juvenile and adult corrections agencies; and (xii) a representative from the State child welfare agency responsible for foster care; and

**Whereas**, a majority of the members of the panel shall be individuals with disabilities or parents of children with disabilities; and

**Whereas**, the advisory panel shall: (i) advise the Department of unmet needs in the education of children with disabilities within the State; (ii) comment publicly on any rules or regulations proposed by the Department regarding the education of children with disabilities; (iii) advise the Department in developing evaluations and reporting of data to the Secretary of the United States Department of Education under Part B Sec. 618 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA); (iv) advise the Department in developing corrective action plans to address findings identified in federal monitoring reports under this part of the IDEA; and (v) advise the Department in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children with disabilities; now therefore be it

**Resolved**, that the State Special Education Advisory Council meets the State mandate for an advisory council and the federal requirements for an advisory panel; and be it further

**Resolved**, that the Acting Commissioner recommends that the following individuals be either reappointed or appointed to new terms for the council:

Dr. Paul Barbato  
Ms. Jocelyn Gottlieb  
Dr. Harold Abraham  
Mr. John Worthington, Esq.  
Dr. Pam Brillante  
Dr. Dorothy McMullen  
Ms. Elizabeth Alves  
Dr. Peggy McDonald  
Mr. Scott Longazel  
Dr. Cynthia DeFina  
Ms. Jennifer Vecchiarelli  
Ms. Gladasia Trotman  
Ms. Amanda Villamar  
Ms. Diane Perez  
Ms. Sonya Bertini

**Resolved**, that the State Board of Education hereby approves the Acting Commissioner's recommended appointments to the State Special Education Advisory Council for two-year terms effective August 7, 2024.

**\*D. Resolution to Adopt the New Jersey Learning Standards**

- Adopted the resolution to revise the New Jersey Student Learning Standards implementation timeline established for mathematics, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-2.1(a).

**Resolution to Amend the 2023 New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) Mathematics Curriculum Implementation Schedule**

**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 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 adopted a resolution on October 4, 2023, that directs that the revised New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) – 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

**Whereas**, the adopted resolution required district boards of education to implement the revised New Jersey Student Learning Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics by September 2024 and align their curricula with the standards and ensure students learn and are assessed as required by federal law; and

**Whereas**, local education agencies and stakeholder associations have expressed concern for implementing both English Language Arts and Mathematics standards on this timeline given the importance of both assessed content areas and the limited implementation timeline of less than one calendar year, which has made it difficult for school districts to engage in curriculum writing processes and professional learning for both content areas as planned, and these concerns have persisted through various attempts by the Department of Education to provide implementation support resources; and

**Whereas**, the State Board of Education acknowledges the planning and fiscal challenges that school districts have been facing as a result and believes that, to support school districts in revising and rewriting curriculum aligned to the 2023 NJSLS in a manner that results in a robust and viable instructional resource, it is necessary to adjust the curriculum implementation schedule that is described above; and now therefore 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 – English Language Arts and Mathematics in kindergarten through grade 12; and be it further

**Resolved**, the school districts shall align their curriculum to the revised 2023 New Jersey Student Learning Standards for English Language Arts by September 2024 and Mathematics by September 2025 and ensure students learn and are assessed as required by law.

**\*E. Student Residency**

- A motion and second were made to move to adopt the proposed re-adoption with amendments to the rules at N.J.A.C. 6A:22, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1.1. A roll call vote was conducted, State Board members Arcelio Aponte, Mary Beth Berry, Elaine Bobrove and Need Johnson voted to abstain. State Board members Mary Bennett, Claudine Keenan, Jack Fornaro and Kathy Goldenberg voted in the affirmative resulting in a tie vote.

The State Board went into Executive Session to discuss procedures for reconsideration. Upon adjournment, Vice President Nedd Johnson made a motion to reconsider the vote, The motion to reconsider passed. A motion to move the proposal was made and the State Board adopted the proposed readoption with amendments to the rules at N.J.A.C. 6A:22, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1.1. State Board member Mary Beth Berry abstained.

**F. Evaluation of the Performance of School Districts**

- Discussed the readoption with amendments pertaining to the monitoring and evaluation of school districts, set forth in chapter 30, Evaluation of the Performance of School Districts pursuant to P.L. 2005, c. 235, P.L. 2007, c. 16, and N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-1 et seq.

**Work Session**

There was no work session.

**New Business**

Vice President Nedd Johnson commended the Amistad Commission for its efforts in offering an excellent summer training institute to more than 350 educators last week.

President Goldenberg stated she was very impressed with the County Teachers of the Year Ceremony led by Dr. Jordan Schiff and inspired by the teaching the winners exemplify.

**Adjournment**

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education adjourned its August 7, 2024, public meeting at 12:28 p.m.

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