

**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
July 2, 2025**

Presiding: Kathy Goldenberg, President

Secretary: Kevin Dehmer, Commissioner

Present Constituting a Quorum

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

Absent

Dr. Ronald Butcher
Mr. Ahmed Shehata

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 July 2, 2025, 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 July 2, 2025.

Reconvening

President Goldenberg reconvened the open meeting at 10:18 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 Vice President Nedd Johnson.

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.

Election of State Officers

Commissioner Kevin Dehmer, secretary to the State Board, conducted the annual election of State Board officers. On motions duly seconded and carried, the State Board members unanimously elected Kathy Goldenberg as State Board President and Nedd Johnson as State Board Vice President. Both were elected for a one-year term.

President Goldenberg and Vice President Johnson expressed their gratitude to the members of the State Board for electing them to their leadership positions.

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 June 4, 2025. State Board member Dr. Ricca abstained.

President's Reports

Public Testimony

President Goldenberg stated that for the month of July, the State Board will receive public testimony on the proposed amendments to Chapter 27, Student Transportation. President Goldenberg also stated that she along with State Board members Mary Beth Berry, Jeanette Peña and Claudine Keenan will be hearing public testimony today.

President Goldenberg stated that for the month of August, the State Board will not receive public testimony as there are no educational topics for discussion.

Permanent Student Representative

President Goldenberg stated that this year's student representative to the board is Kailynn DuRose, a rising junior at East Brunswick High School in Middlesex County, and that her advisor is Bonnie Benkard. She further stated this is Kailynn's first meeting as the student representative today and that she has some remarks she would like to share.

Miss DuRose spoke about students holding leadership positions in school. She further stated that her goal as the new permanent student representative is to encourage all types of students to find their voice.

State Board Committee Reports

President Goldenberg stated there is nothing to report as there were no committee meetings during the month of June.

Announcement

President Goldenberg stated that the American Association of University Women of New Jersey (AAUW NJ) announced Dr. Claudine Keenan as one of the recipients of the 2025 Women Agents of Change Award recognizing outstanding New Jersey women who have demonstrated a steadfast commitment to advancing gender equity through leadership, advocacy and service. She stated that Dr. Keenan, along with Lieutenant Governor Tahesha Way (another distinguished honoree) were celebrated at a special virtual event, "Organizing for Change," where they shared reflections on their journeys, their current work and the values that continue to drive their efforts for equity and inclusion. She further stated Dr. Keenan was named a 2025 Agent of Change for her work on Tech Trek New Jersey over the past decade, AAUW NJ's signature summer STEM program for rising eighth-grade girls that is hosted annually on Stockton University campus.

Commissioner's Reports

There were no Commissioner's reports.

Items for Consideration

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

***A. Appointments**

- Approved the following appointment pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-32-35 and N.J.A.C. 6A:2-1.1 et seq.:

Dr. Davida Coe-Brockington, Acting State District Superintendent, State Operated School District of Camden.

***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.

District	County
Ridgefield Park Public School District	Bergen
Saddle Brook School District	Bergen
Long Beach Island Consolidated School District	Ocean
Point Pleasant Borough School District	Ocean
Hamburg School District	Sussex

***C. Resolution to Adopt New PRAXIS Tests and Qualifying Scores for Technology and Engineering Education, Family and Consumer Science and Social Studies**

- Adopted new PRAXIS tests and qualifying scores for Technology and Engineering Education, Family and Consumer Science and Social Studies, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.2(a)4 and 6A:9B-8.3(a)4.

A Resolution to Adopt Revised Praxis Tests and Qualifying Scores for Technology and Engineering Education, Family and Consumer Science and Social Studies

Whereas, the State Board of Education requires teacher certification candidates to pass tests in specified disciplines in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8 effective May 1, 2023; and

Whereas, the Educational Testing Service (ETS) has recently revised and established new recommended qualifying scores for tests in the subject areas of Technology and Engineering Education, Family and Consumer Science and Social Studies to replace the current tests used by the Department of Education; and

Whereas, New Jersey stakeholders have participated in national standard-setting studies; 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 and accepts the selection of these Praxis tests; and the establishment of the following qualifying scores effective September 1, 2025:

Praxis Tests	Qualifying Score
Technology and Engineering Education	157
Family and Consumer Science	151
Social Studies	153

***D. School District Operations**

- Adopted the proposed amendments at N.J.A.C. 6A:32 related to a State-excused absence for civic events, pursuant to P.L. 2023, c. 274, and N.J.S.A. 18A:4-15.

Work Session

There was no work session.

New Business

State Board member Dr. Ricca stated that nearly \$7 billion in federal funding to support public schools in varying forms is under review. He stated there is a concern being expressed at the local level as to what that will mean for school districts. He further stated since it's such new information, the elected officials, as well as the Department of Education in the State, are following this very closely to see what programs may be impacted by the reduction in federal support. Dr. Ricca stated for parents and guardians, as well as for all taxpayers, who are all an extension of the public school system, this is an important issue because the programming that is supported through these funds goes a long way to making an enormous difference for students among our population who need the most support. He stated while we understand the necessary scrutiny we should provide to the expenditure of tax dollars regularly, we also must recognize that, as the federal budget increases, we should be keeping a close eye on the types of support that children across the nation should be receiving. He further stated opportunities afforded to children through support programs are, in part, supported by these funds, and he will be curious to see how, and if, those allocations are reduced and the types of potentially negative consequences that could take place throughout the country. Dr. Ricca stated we should speak to our elected representatives at the federal level if we have concerns.

Adjournment

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education adjourned its July 2, 2025, public meeting at 10:52 a.m.

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