

**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 6, 2025**

Presiding: Kathy Goldenberg, President

Secretary: Kevin Dehmer, Commissioner

Present Constituting a Quorum

Dr. Nedd Johnson
Mr. Arcelio Aponte
Mr. Jack Fornaro
Ms. Elaine Bobrove
Ms. Mary Bennett
Ms. Jeanette Peña
Dr. Claudine Keenan
Mr. Ahmed Shehata

Absent

Dr. Ronald Butcher
Dr. Joseph Ricca
Ms. Mary Beth Berry

Convening

State Board of Education President Kathy Goldenberg convened the public meeting at 9:13 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 6, 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 August 6, 2025.

Reconvening

President Goldenberg reconvened the open meeting at 10:34 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 Jeanette Peña.

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 Meeting

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board members approved the minutes of the public meeting conducted on July 2, 2025. State Board member Ahmed Shehata abstained.

President's Reports

Public Testimony

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.

President Goldenberg stated that for the month of September, the State Board will receive Open Topic public testimony as well as testimony on the statutory amendments to chapters 9, 9A and 9B.

Announcement

President Goldenberg stated that the Commissioner of Education Kevin Dehmer received the 2025 Career and Technical Education (CTE) Leadership Award. She stated the N.J. Council of County Vocational-Technical Schools (NJCCVTS) presented him with the well-deserved recognition during its

annual Summer Meeting last week. She further stated Commissioner Dehmer's leadership has brought to fruition an even stronger delivery model for relevant and effective career programming in New Jersey. President Goldenberg stated the NJCCVTS reports that the \$275 million in state bond funding for vocational-technical school expansion will create more than 4,700 new seats for students, which will result in nearly 1,200 additional vocational school graduates a year. She stated It supported 47 new career programs and 34 expanded programs in both high-demand and emerging fields, including advanced manufacturing, biotechnology, cybersecurity, global logistics and unmanned aerial systems. She stated that, on behalf of the State Board, she extends her congratulations to Commissioner Dehmer on his accomplishments.

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.

Miss DuRose spoke about her experience attending the New Jersey Association of Student Council's Leadership Training Conference (LTC) in July at the College of New Jersey.

State Board Committee Reports

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

Petitions for Rulemaking

Rosemary Catton

President Goldenberg stated the State Board received a Petition for Rulemaking from Rosemary Catton on May 5, 2025. She stated the petitioner requested amendments to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7.5 and 14.3 to allow holders of a multistate registered professional nurse license issued by a state board of nursing that participates in the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) to qualify for a substitute school nurse/non-instructional credential or an educational services certificate with a school nurse endorsement. She further stated in consultation with the Commissioner; it was determined that an additional 90 days is needed to deliberate to allow time for the Department to consult with the New Jersey Board of Nursing regarding a number of issues which can be found in the notice of action posted on the Department website.

Catherine Rubens

President Goldenberg stated the State Board Office received a petition for rulemaking on May 6, 2025, from Catherine Rubens, Ed.S., Certified School Psychologist. She stated the petitioner requested amendments to N.J.A.C. 6A:14-4.7 to reduce the maximum instructional group size for emotional regulation impairment programs. She further stated in consultation with the Commissioner, a determination was made to deny the petition because current research does not demonstrate that reducing class size to a maximum of eight students is the ratio that results in improved academic or behavioral outcomes. President Goldenberg stated behavioral challenges also are not exclusive to students eligible for special education under the ERI classification, therefore, adjusting class size limits for only ERI classes will not address the broader challenge of behavior management and the petitioner's

request is denied. President Goldenberg stated this notice can be found on the Petition for Rulemaking section of the Department’s website.

Amistad Summer Institute

Vice President Johnson stated that he and State Board member Claudine Keenan attended the Amistad Summer Institute at Stockton University’s Atlantic City Campus on August 5, 2025. He stated over 100 teachers registered for the professional development training which runs from Monday evening through Thursday to learn further about history. He further stated the theme was Moving Forward: Preserving our past “Revolution, Reaction and Reform.” Vice President Johnson stated, as a former history teacher and current historian researcher, some of the things discussed in the session he had an opportunity to sit in on were much needed in regards to the current environment we find ourselves in, where people seem to want to not only erase history but forget about things that have happened in this country. He stated it was good to sit in and hear teachers talk about the things they’re looking forward to bringing to their students when school opens in September. Dr. Keenan stated that it was a terrific event, and she recognized Assistant Commissioner Ambrose Duckett who was also in attendance.

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.:

Ms. Katrina McCombs, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Early Childhood Services
Mr. Ralph Hoag, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Administrative Services

***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. State Board member Mary Bennett abstained.

District	County
Estell Manor School District	Atlantic
Ventnor City School District	Atlantic
Bergen County Special Services School District	Bergen
Cliffside Park School District	Bergen
Harrington Park School District	Bergen
Maywood School District	Bergen

Park Ridge School District	Bergen
Lenape Regional High School District	Burlington
Medford Lakes School District	Burlington
Rancocas Valley Regional High School District	Burlington
Shamong Township School District	Burlington
Avalon School District	Cape May
Newark Public School District	Essex
Swedesboro-Woolwich School District	Gloucester
West New York School District	Hudson
Flemington-Raritan Regional School District	Hunterdon
East Brunswick Township School District	Middlesex
Highland Park School District	Middlesex
Middlesex Borough School District	Middlesex
Monroe Township School District	Middlesex
Freehold Township School District	Monmouth
Hazlet Township Public School District	Monmouth
Keyport School District	Monmouth
Dover Public School District	Morris
Hanover Park Regional High School District	Morris
Jefferson Township Public School District	Morris
Mendham Borough School District	Morris
Washington Township School District	Morris
Southern Regional School District	Ocean
Passaic Valley Regional High School District	Passaic
Wanaque School District	Passaic
Upper Pittsgrove Township School District	Salem
Bedminster Township Public School District	Somerset
Bound Brook School District	Somerset
Fredon Township School District	Sussex
High Point Regional High School District	Sussex
Union County Vocational-Technical School District	Union
Allamuchy Township School District	Warren

***C. Resolution to Accept Donated Funds**

- Adopted the following resolution approving the acceptance of donated funds.

Resolution to Accept Donated Funds

Whereas, the New Jersey Department of Education, Marie H Katzenbach School for the Deaf is the recipient of a donation from the Medford Lakes Lions Club.

Whereas, N.J.S.A. 18A:4-26 requires the approval of the New Jersey State Board of Education in order for the Commissioner of Education to accept donated funds; and

Whereas, a donation in the amount of \$250 was made by the Medford Lakes Lions Club. These funds are to provide the Department of Education, Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf to use for student activity funds which are for the sole use of supporting student activities such as field trips, yearbooks and student clubs, now therefore be it

Resolved, that the New Jersey State Board of Education approves the acceptance of the donated funds to the aforementioned specified purposes.

***D. Resolution to Approve Appointments to the State Board of Examiners**

- Adopted the following resolution approving the appointment(s) to the State Board of Examiners in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:6-34 and 35.

Resolution to Approve State Board of Examiners Appointment

Whereas, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-38, the State Board of Examiners is responsible for issuing, revoking and suspending educational certificates under rules prescribed by the State Board of Education; and

Whereas, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-34, members of the State Board of Examiners are appointed by the Commissioner of Education with the approval of the State Board of Education; and

Whereas, the Commissioner, after consulting with members of the education community, has recommended the appointment of one member to the State Board of Examiners; and

Whereas, the person whom the Commissioner has recommended has established a reputation for distinguished service in their profession; now therefore be it

Resolved, the State Board of Education hereby approves the appointment of the following person, whose terms expire September 2026:

New appointment

Ambrose F. Duckett, III
Assistant Commissioner
Division of Field Support and Services

Work Session

There was no work session.

New Business**Adjournment**

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education adjourned its August 6, 2025, public meeting at 11:01 a.m.

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