

**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 1, 2026**

Presiding: Kathy Goldenberg, President

Secretary: Dr. Lily Laux, Commissioner

Present Constituting a Quorum

Ms. Mary Bennett
Mr. Arcelio Aponte
Ms. Mary Beth Berry
Dr. Ronald Butcher
Mr. Jack Fornaro
Dr. Nedd Johnson
Dr. Claudine Keenan
Ms. Jeanette Peña
Dr. Joseph Ricca
Mr. Ahmed Shehata
Mr. James Williams

Absent

Convening

State Board of Education President Kathy Goldenberg convened the public meeting at 9:17 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 1, 2026, 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 1, 2026.

Reconvening

President Goldenberg reconvened the open meeting at 10:11 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 Claudine Keenan.

Election of State Officers

Commissioner Lily Laux, Secretary to the State Board, conducted the annual election of State Board officers. On motions duly seconded and carried, the State Board members elected Kathy Goldenberg as State Board President and Mary Bennett as State Board Vice President. Both were elected for a one-year term.

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

Welcome

President Goldenberg stated the State Board meetings are accessible to the public for viewing on the 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 June 3, 2026.

President's Reports

Public Testimony

President Goldenberg stated that we will hold the Central Regional Public Hearing today on corrections to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in four content areas: Career Readiness, Life Literacies and Key Skills, Computer Science and Design Thinking, World Languages, and Visual and Performing Arts as well as the New Jersey Preschool Teaching and Learning Standards.

President Goldenberg stated that for the month of August, public testimony will not be held since there are no educational topics to be discussed.

Permanent Student Representative

President Goldenberg stated that this year’s student representative to the board is Emilia Reynolds, a rising junior at Collingswood High School in Camden County. She further stated this is Emilia’s first meeting and welcomed Emilia to the State Board.

Emilia stated that her mission as the new permanent student representative to the State Board of Education is to provide a perspective that reflects the needs and concerns of the students of New Jersey.

State Board Committee Reports

Instructional Policy Committee Meeting

Nedd Johnson, chair of the Instructional Policy Committee, stated that the committee met on June 18, 2026, to discuss the Department’s efforts to finalize results for State assessments and provide them to school districts as soon as possible. He stated the committee and Department discussed the standard setting process for both the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment-Adaptive (NJGPA-A) and the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment-Adaptive (NJSLA-A) and the timeline for presenting the recommended cut scores to the State Board for approval. He further stated the committee looks forward to further discussions with Commissioner Laux and Department staff on this issue.

Commissioner’s Reports

Monthly Literacy Update

Commissioner Laux presented an update on New Jersey’s literacy framework.

2026 NJGPA-A and NJSLA-A Standard Setting

Dr. Jorden Schiff, Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Teaching and Learning Services, and Mr. John Boczany, Director, Office of Assessments, presented an overview of the upcoming standard setting timelines for the 2026 NJGPA-A and NLSLA-A adaptive assessments.

Items for Consideration

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

*A. Appointments

- There were 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. Vice President Mary Bennett abstained.

Districts	County
Wood-Ridge School District	Bergen
Bloomfield Township School District	Essex
Essex County Schools of Technology	Essex
Newark Public School District	Essex
Deptford Township Public School District	Gloucester

Greenwich Township School District	Gloucester
Monroe Township Public School District	Gloucester
Hopewell Valley Regional School District	Mercer
Robbinsville Public School District	Mercer
West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District	Mercer
Carteret Public School District	Middlesex
Middlesex County Vocational and Technical School District	Middlesex
Holmdel Township School District	Monmouth
Little Silver Boro School District	Monmouth
Butler Public School District	Morris
East Hanover Township School District	Morris
Florham Park School District	Morris
Montville Township School District	Morris
Morris County Vocational School District	Morris
Mount Olive Township School District	Morris
Pequannock Township School District	Morris
Roxbury Township School District	Morris
Bay Head Borough School District	Ocean
Bound Brook School District	Somerset
Montgomery Township School District	Somerset
North Plainfield School District	Somerset

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

- Adopted the resolution approving 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 New Jersey Association of Former County Superintendents; and

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 \$1,400 was made by the New Jersey Association of Former County Superintendents. The 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 Adopt the Revised PRAXIS Test and Qualifying Score for Middle School Social Studies**

- Adopted the revised Praxis Test and qualifying score for Middle School Social Studies, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B.

Resolution to Adopt the Revised Praxis Test and Qualifying Score for Middle School Social Studies

Whereas, the State Board of Education requires teacher certification candidates to pass appropriate State test(s) of subject matter knowledge in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8; and

Whereas, the Educational Testing Service (ETS) has revised its Middle School Social Studies test to modernize the content and format to better assess the skills necessary to teach social studies at the middle school level and will replace the current test in use by the New Jersey Department of Education (Department) effective September 1, 2026; and

Whereas, ETS completed a national standard-setting study that included 16 panelists from 10 ETS client states across the country to identify the minimum level of knowledge and skill required for entry into the teaching profession; and

Whereas, ETS has determined that this revised test requires the establishment of a new recommended qualifying score; now therefore be it

Resolved, that the State Board of Education hereby supports and accepts the selection of this revised Praxis test and the establishment of the following qualifying score effective September 1, 2026; and be it further

Praxis Test

Middle School Social Studies (5589)

Qualifying Score

149

Resolved, that the Department will monitor the impact of this revised test and qualifying score on the passing rate for the Middle School Social Studies endorsement and will report any concerns to the State Board of Education.

Work Session

There was no work session.

New Business

There was no new business.

Adjournment

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education adjourned its July 1, 2026, public meeting at 11:06 a.m.

Dr. Lily Laux, Commissioner
Secretary, N.J. State Board of Education