

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
December 3, 2025

Presiding: Kathy Goldenberg, President

Secretary: Kevin Dehmer, Commissioner

Present Constituting a Quorum

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

Absent

Dr. Joseph Ricca

Convening

State Board of Education President Kathy Goldenberg convened the public meeting at 9:15 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 December 3, 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 December 3, 2025.

Reconvening

President Goldenberg reconvened the open meeting at 10:17 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 Mary Beth Berry.

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 November 5, 2025.

President's Reports

Public Testimony

President Goldenberg did not make any formal announcements regarding public testimony, however, for the month of January, she stated the State Board will receive testimony from registered members of the public on any educational topic of their choice as the January public testimony session is an Open Topic Public Testimony Session. She further stated the proposed amendments to Chapter 9B related to school nurse endorsements also will be a topic for January. President Goldenberg stated interested members of the public may register for public testimony beginning December 17, 2025, until noon on December 31, 2025.

President Goldenberg stated that State Board members Nedd Johnson, Ron Butcher, Ahmed Shehata, and Jeanette Peña are scheduled to receive public testimony in January.

Permanent Student Representative

President Goldenberg stated that this year's student representative to the board is Kailynn DuRose, a junior at East Brunswick High School in Middlesex County, and that her advisor is Bonnie Benkard.

Miss DuRose spoke about her recent experiences at the New Jersey Schools Boards Association (NJSBA) Workshop and the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA) Convention.

State Board Committee Reports

Administrative Policy Committee Meeting

President Kathy Goldenberg, ex-officio of the Administrative Policy Committee, stated that the committee met on November 20, 2025, to receive an overview of the 2024-2025 Statewide assessment results and summation of the adoption level rulemaking for Chapters 9, 9A, and 9B, Professional Standards; New Jersey Educator Preparation Programs; and State Board of Examiners and Certification. President Goldenberg stated that, since the item is on today's agenda for discussion, she will refrain from providing a longer report.

Instructional Policy Committee Meeting

Dr. Nedd Johnson, chair of the Instructional Policy Committee, stated that the committee met on November 21, 2025, to begin a series of discussions on the draft revisions to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. He further stated they discussed three content areas – Computer Science and Design Thinking, World Languages and Visual and Performing Arts. Dr. Johnson stated that, since this item is on today's agenda for discussion, he will refrain from providing a longer report.

Petition for Rulemaking – James Garcia

President Goldenberg stated the State Board received a petition for rulemaking from James Garcia on September 22, 2025. She stated the petitioner requested amendments at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.8 to delete the requirement for a candidate to document 20 years of military experience to qualify for a standard instructional certificate with a military science endorsement. She further stated Commissioner Dehmer and she determined that the best course of action is to approve the petitioner's request with additional necessary changes at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.8(a) and (b). President Goldenberg stated the Department will be discussing these amendments later today during Items for Consideration at Item D. She stated that to meet the Office of Administrative Law and State Board requirements for timely processing of rules related to approved petitions, the State Board will be expediting this rulemaking and moving to Proposal Level next month. She further stated she strongly encourages interested parties to submit written comments on the proposed rules and remind everyone that in-person public testimony will be received in March 2026.

Commissioner's Reports

2024-2025 Statewide Assessment Overview

Dr. Jorden Schiff, Assistant Commissioner, for the Division of Teaching and Learning Services and Mr. John Boczany, Office of Assessments, presented the 2024-2025 Statewide Assessment results.

Items for Consideration

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

***A. Appointments**

- There were no appointments.

***B. Certification of School Districts**

- There were no districts for certification.

***C. Professional Standards; New Jersey Educator Preparation Programs; and State Board of Examiners and Certification**

- Adopted the amendments to the rules at N.J.A.C. 6A:9, Professional Standards, N.J.A.C. 6A:9A, New Jersey Educator Preparation Programs, and N.J.A.C. 6A:9B, State Board of Examiners and Certification, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:26-2.23, 2.24, 2.26, 2.31, 2.32, 35, and 36; and P.L. 2024, c. 26.

D. State Board of Examiners and Certification

- Discussed the amendments to the rules pertaining to the military science endorsement at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7.5, 14.3 and 14.4, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-15 and 18A:26-2 and 2h; and N.J.A.C. 1:30-4.2(a)3

E. Resolution to Adopt the New Jersey Learning Standards

- Discussed the readoption of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards as revised, specifically, Computer Science and Design Thinking, World Languages, Visual and Performing Arts, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-2.1.

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 December 3, 2025, public meeting at 12:31 p.m.

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