

**New Jersey State Board of Education
Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting
In the Conference Room on the First Floor
100 River View Executive Plaza
Trenton, NJ**

October 7, 2015

Presiding: Mr. Mark Biedron, President

Secretary: David C. Hespe, Commissioner

PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM

Mr. Arcelio Aponte
Mr. Joseph Fisicaro
Mr. Jack Fornaro
Ms. Edithe Fulton
Dr. Ernest Lepore
Dr. Dorothy Strickland

ABSENT

Dr. Ronald Butcher
Mr. Peter Simon
Mr. Andrew Mulvihill

CONVENING

State Board of Education President Mark Biedron convened the public meeting 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 insure 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, 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 October 7, 2015, was called to order.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Biedron 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 of Education will now adjourn to executive session to discuss personnel and legal issues. The State Board immediately adjourned to executive session on October 7, 2015.

RECONVENING

President Biedron reconvened the open meeting at 10:00 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

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 September 2, 2015. State Board member Arcelio Aponte abstained.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Public Testimony

President Biedron stated that public testimony session will be held today at 2 pm. He stated that the topics for today's public testimony would be the Bilingual Education code and the request from the Camden Educational Services Commission to enlarge its purpose.

President Biedron stated that registration for the November 4, 2015 public testimony session will open on Thursday, October 15, 2015 and close on Thursday, October 29, 2015. He stated that the topic for the November 4 public testimony include amendments to the Managing for Equity and Equality in Education regulations. He further stated that anyone interested in speaking at or also attending the public testimony session must register so that the State Board staff can make proper arrangements for space. President Biedron further stated that members of the public should contact the State Board office at 609-984-6024 or check the following website <http://education.state.nj.us/sboe/reg.php> for updates.

Permanent Student Representative

President Biedron welcomed Alexis Bailey the 2015-2016 permanent student representative to the State Board of Education. Alexis is a junior from Bayonne High School in Hudson County. President Biedron also introduced Alexis's advisor, Ms. Kerry Toomey.

Alexis spoke to the board about the 14th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack and requested that the State Board require that this historic event be a mandatory component of history curriculums in all NJ classrooms.

State Board Retreat

President Biedron stated that the State Board would be holding its retreat on October 21, 2015 at the Visitors Center located on Busch Campus at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, 100 Sutphen Road, Piscataway, NJ 08854 for the purpose of beginning the steps to draft a new Strategic Plan.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

NJ Teacher of the Year

Carl Blanchard, Director, Office of Evaluation introduced Chelsea Collins, a sixth-grade language arts teacher from Salem County, as the 2015-2016 New Jersey State Teacher of the Year. He stated that Mrs. Collins has been a teacher in the Woodstown-Pilesgrove School District since 2011.

Representatives from the following organizations and companies presented Mrs. Collins with these items: New Jersey Education Association - a one-year lease on a new car and a \$500 clothing allowance; and Educational Testing Service - a half-year sabbatical. SMART Technologies will also provide Mrs. Collins with a SMART package for her classroom.

Newark Update

Christopher D. Cerf, Superintendent of the State Operated School District of the City provided a report to State Board about the district's first few weeks of school and the budgetary issues that are still being addressed.

Jersey City QSAC Process

Commissioner Hespe stated that he is recommending the return of the functions of operations and personnel to local control of the Jersey City School District. He also stated that he will establish a working group that is tasked with creating a plan for returning the final function of instruction and program and will provide full local control to the district by as early as the end of the school year.

He stated that the working group will include practitioners, school experts and members of the school community. He also stated that the return of each area of local control is always accompanied by a robust and specific transition plan that sets forth expectations and support for the district and board of education. He further stated that all transition plans that are developed and approved by the department will focus not only on improving efficiency and effectiveness in operations and academics but also building capacity and accountability in the community to ensure that progress continues and that the abuses that led to state takeover never reoccur.

Standards Review Process Update

Commissioner Hespe provided an update on the review of New Jersey's academic standards in language arts literacy and mathematics. He stated that the three Listening Tours and Focus group meetings have concluded. He also stated that the Department received helpful feedback from those meetings that has been passed onto the Review Committees for their consideration. He further stated that the On-line Standards Survey, that closes on Friday, October 9, 2015 continues to receive steady participation.

He stated that the Department is also providing an additional opportunity for the public to submit written comments through October 16, 2015 at the following link <http://www.state.nj.us/education/standards/>.

PARCC Update

Bari Erlichson, Chief Performance Officer/Assistant Commissioner, provided information and resources to assist local educator in helping parents to understand and act upon the student results for the initial administration of the PARCC assessments.

Old Bridge Public Schools

David Cittadino, Superintendent, Old Bridge Public Schools and Kathleen Hoeker, Assistant Superintendent, Old Bridge Public Schools provided an overview of their school district's character education journey and the equal attention they give every day to social and emotional learning along with academics, athletics and the arts.

Report on the Broadband Component of the Digital Readiness for Learning and Assessment Project (NJDR LAP)

Evo Popoff, Chief Innovation Officer/Assistant Commissioner provided a report on the results of the broadband component of the Digital Readiness for Learning and Assessment Project. He stated that the NJDR LAP is part of a multi-faceted effort by the Department to help K-12 schools improve their educational technology capabilities. He also stated that the Department contracted with Dellicker Strategies to develop the concept and partnered with the Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission and the Bergen County Technical Schools to execute the procurement. He further stated that

the success of the initiative is defined by five criteria: good school participation, enhanced Internet capacity, improved service quality, better overall value and a more competitive marketplace.

He stated that for the 2014-2015 school year, NJDRLAP has exceeded its expectations for all evaluated criteria as noted below:

- Participation by schools was good, but could have been even better;
- The capacity of educational networks was enhanced significantly;
- The quality of school technology infrastructure has improved markedly;
- The value of K-12 Internet service contracts has increased substantially; and
- The competitiveness of the K-12 marketplace has advanced dramatically.

He also stated that a second request for proposal RFP will be issued this Fall to allow participation of districts, charter schools and nonpublic schools that currently are not under a DRLAP contract. He further stated that the three year goal is to sign up the majority of school districts and charter schools and as many nonpublic schools as possible to create a statewide cooperative purchasing and shared services network.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

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

***A. Appointment(s)**

- There were no appointments.

***B. State Operation of the Jersey City Public Schools**

- Adopted the following resolution approving the proposal pertaining to the return of the functions of Operations and Personnel to the local control of the Jersey City Public Schools, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:30-7.1.

RESOLUTION TO RETURN FUNCTIONS OF PERSONNEL AND OPERATIONS TO LOCAL CONTROL IN THE JERSEY CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

WHEREAS, by administrative order issued by the State Board of Education on October 4, 1989, the State Board of Education removed the Jersey City School District Board of Education and created a State-operated school district in Jersey City pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-34; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-10 et seq., effective on January 24, 2007, the New Jersey Legislature, in review and consultation with the Joint Committee on the Public Schools, directed the Commissioner of the Department of Education to develop and implement a system for monitoring and evaluating the thoroughness and efficiency of public school districts in the State of New Jersey to be called the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC); and

WHEREAS, NJQSAC involves an assessment of each school district's performance in the five key components of school district effectiveness: Instruction and Program, Personnel, Fiscal Management, Operations, and Governance; and

WHEREAS, local control of Fiscal Management and Governance was returned to Jersey City on September 5, 2007, while the remaining key components of school district performance remained under partial State intervention; and

WHEREAS, the Jersey City School District has demonstrated substantial and sustained progress in improving its NJQSAC scores in Operations from meeting an initial 74% of the performance indicators

in 2007 to having met 84% in 2009, 100% in 2010, 94% in 2012 and 95% of the performance indicators in 2015, as well as substantial evidence that the public school district has adequate programs, policies and personnel in place and in operation to ensure that the demonstrated progress in Operations will be sustained; and

WHEREAS, the Jersey City School District has demonstrated substantial and sustained progress in improving its NJQSAC scores in Personnel from meeting an initial 58% of the performance indicators in 2007 to having met 78% in 2009, 68% in 2010, 73% in 2012 and 100% of the performance indicators in 2015, as well as substantial evidence that the public school district has adequate programs, policies and personnel in place and in operation to ensure that the demonstrated progress in Personnel will be sustained; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:30-7.1 the Commissioner has determined that Jersey City has met the factors for initiating return of the function of Operations and Personnel to local control; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the process for transition to local control of the function of Operations and Personnel shall be initiated forthwith in the Jersey City School District pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:30-7.2 and that the function of Instruction and Program shall continue to be placed under partial State intervention pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:30-7.2; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Department of Education, in collaboration with the Jersey City School District, shall develop a transition plan to return the functions of Operations and Personnel to local control, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:30-7.2 and 7.3.

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 October 7, 2015, public meeting at 1:19 p.m.

David C. Hespe, Commissioner
Secretary, State Board of Education