

**New Jersey State Board of Education
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 4, 2019

Presiding: Kathy Goldenberg, President

Secretary: Lamont O. Repollet, Ed.D., Commissioner

Present Constituting A Quorum

Mr. Arcelio Aponte
Mrs. Elaine Bobrove
Mrs. Fatimah Burnam-Watkins (via teleconference)
Dr. Ronald Butcher
Mrs. Sylvia Sylvia-Cioffi
Dr. Nedd J. Johnson (via teleconference)
Mr. Andrew Mulvihill (via teleconference)
Dr. Joseph Ricca

Absent

Mrs. Mary Beth Berry
Mr. Jack Fornaro
Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Gazi
Dr. Ernest Lepore

Convening

State Board of Education President Kathy Goldenberg convened the public meeting at 9:10 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 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 December 4, 2019, 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 4, 2019.

Reconvening

President Kathy Goldenberg reconvened the open meeting at 10:10 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

Moment of Silence

President Goldenberg requested a moment of silence in honor of Micah Tennant, a 10 year old student from the Atlantic City School District who lost his life on Wednesday, November 20, 2019.

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 6, 2019. State Board members Arcelio Aponte and Dr. Joseph Ricca abstained.

President's Reports

Announcements

Public Testimony

President Goldenberg stated that public testimony would be held today at 2 pm. She stated that the topic for today's public testimony session is the draft Perkins 5 plan. She further stated that she along with State Board member Elaine would hear public testimony today.

President Goldenberg stated that public testimony will be held on Wednesday, January 8, 2020. The topic for the January 8 public testimony session is the Notice of Substantial Changes pertaining to Standards and Assessment, the readoption with amendments pertaining to Educator Effectiveness and the amendments to the Educational Facilities regulations pertaining to safe drinking water. Registration for the January 8, 2019, public testimony session will open Thursday, December 19, 2019, and close at noon on Thursday, January 2, 2020.

President Goldenberg stated that anyone interested in speaking at and/or also attending the public testimony session must register so the State Board staff can make proper arrangements for space. Members of the public should contact the State Board office at 609-376-9071 or check the following [website](#) for updates.

Permanent Student Representative

President Goldenberg welcomed Sahil Ganatra, the 2019-2020 permanent student representative to the State Board of Education. Sahil is a senior from South Brunswick High School in Middlesex County. Sahil spoke about school safety.

Policy Committee

State Board member Elaine Bobrove stated that she had several questions from people sitting in the audience about what is it that the committees do. She also stated that she would take the opportunity to answer that through this review because it's really pertinent. She further stated that the committees do one of two things, they prepare board members for something that is upcoming at the board meeting and this is what we did at this last meeting, but other times they just give us general information so that we're comfortable with what changes are being made in the field. So, that's another function of these committee meetings. This particular meeting talked about the things we really discussed today and those are the review process, the timeline, and Newark briefly.

Mrs. Bobrove stated that the committee talked about educator effectiveness which is something we didn't get to yet. Mrs. Bobrove also stated that's what the committee meetings do and the last one really prepared us for this board meeting.

Petition for Rulemaking

President Goldenberg stated that on April 24, 2019, the State Board Office received a petition for rulemaking from Mr. Angelo Marocco requesting that we amend N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.3 to eliminate the 3.0 grade point average (GPA) requirement for a candidate to be eligible for a certificate of eligibility (CE) in instructional areas. She also stated that instead, the petitioner requested that the rules allow anyone who has a bachelor's degree from an accredited higher education institution to be eligible for a CE and to enroll in an educator preparation program, regardless of the individual's GPA.

President Goldenberg stated that she and the Commissioner reviewed the petitioner's request and determined that the request is denied because the GPA requirement has been a necessary component of certification in the State for more than 35 years. Educator preparation programs, as part of their accreditation requirements, require accepted students to maintain a specific GPA requirement to participate in programs leading to certification. Moreover, the GPA requirement is necessary for issuance of not only a CE but, rather, is required for other types of certificates, including a standard certificate and certificate of eligibility with advanced standing (CEAS). Elimination of the GPA requirement from the CE alone would be inconsistent with the regulatory structure.

President Goldenberg stated that any consideration of the requested change would need to occur through a deeper analysis process during which the requirements for all applicants are considered. She also stated that the Department already has initiated this more thorough review, which is anticipated to conclude in 2020.

NJEA Annual Conference

President Goldenberg stated that on Friday, November 8, 2019, State Board members, Ronald Butcher, Mary Beth Berry, Sylvia Sylvia, Nedd James Johnson, and she were invited to attend and participate in the New Jersey Education Association's Annual Convention at the Atlantic City Convention Center in Atlantic City, NJ. She also stated that during the time at the convention, the State Board members attended the Plenary Keynote offered by Dr. Cornel West titled, "Justice is What Love Looks Like in

Public,” in Hall A, at the Atlantic City Convention Center. President Goldenberg stated that the board members in attendance also participated in a Q & A panel discussion with the NJEA conference attendees.

ASAH Annual Conference

President Goldenberg stated on Friday, November 15, 2019, State Board member Mary Beth Berry and I attended along with Diane Shoener, Director of the Office of the State Board of Education, the 42nd Annual ASAH Conference at Harrah’s Waterfront Conference Center in Atlantic City, NJ. She also stated the ASAH conference is a full-scale professional development event designed for special education teachers, therapists, teacher aids and management personnel. She further stated that this year’s conference theme was “The Rewards of Education.

President Goldenberg stated that she was honored to welcome the conference attendees at the opening of the event with brief remarks on behalf of the State Board.

Knowles Teacher Initiative

President Goldenberg stated that on November 14, the Moorestown-based Knowles Teacher Initiative celebrated their 20th anniversary of supporting teachers to transform mathematics and science education. The Knowles Teaching Fellows Program is a five year program that supports early-career, high school teachers to develop teaching expertise and lead from the classroom. To date, over 400 teachers from 43 states have been awarded a Knowles Teaching Fellowship. Through the Knowles Senior Fellows Program, former Teaching Fellows have the opportunity to remain involved in the Knowles community throughout their careers and be supported in ongoing leadership efforts. And finally, the Knowles Academy, launched in 2017, offers state-of-the-art professional development designed and facilitated by experienced teachers who understand the complexities of teaching in today’s world. Over 175 teachers mostly in South Jersey/Greater Philadelphia area have participated in Knowles Academy professional development since its launch.

Letter from New Jersey Education Association

President Goldenberg stated that the Commissioner received a letter from the New Jersey Education Association requesting an alternative schedule for State Board meetings. We thank you very much for your interest and willingness to participate in the process and will take the request under consideration.

Commissioner’s Reports

Comprehensive Accountability Office Report-Newark

Chris Huber, Special Assistant to the Commissioner and Caitlin Pletcher, provided an update on the Newark Public School District’s progress in the transition to local control. He stated the District’s Transition Plan for the Return of Local Control became effective on February 1, 2018. He also stated the projected end date of the Transition plan is January 31, 2020.

They reported that the Department partnered with the Bloustein Local Government Research Center of Rutgers University to form a Comprehensive Accountability Office or CAO responsible for collecting and publishing data that corresponds to the Scorecard and demonstrates whether the District is making substantial and sustainable progress on the accountability metrics. In the following areas: Fundamental Consideration, Governance, Fiscal Management and Personnel, the CAO found that the District’s practices are sustainable, and the scores all increased. The information provided by the Highly Skilled

Professional complements the CAO’s report and continues to demonstrate that he District is developing and improving internal controls that support sustainability and successful implementation of the Transition Plan.

Items for Consideration:

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

***A. Appointments**

- There were no appointments.

***B. Certification of School Districts**

- The State Board certified for a period of three years the following school districts recommended by the Commissioner, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-14a and b. State Board member Elaine Bobrove abstained.

Certified School District	County
Bellmawr	Camden
Plumstead	Ocean

***C. State Board of Examiners and Certification**

- Approved for publication in the New Jersey Register the amendments pertaining to the swimming and water safety endorsement at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.10 and N.J.A.C.6A:9B-5.15, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-15, 18A:6-38, and 18A:26-2.3.

D. Educator Effectiveness

- Discussed the amendments pertaining to the testing for lead in drinking water proposed at N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12.4, pursuant to P.L. 2016, c. 10 and P.L. 2017, c. 86.

E. Educational Facilities

- Discussed the amendments pertaining to the testing for lead in drinking water proposed at N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12.4, pursuant to P.L. 2016, c. 10 and P.L. 2017, c. 86.

F. Resolution to Adopt the New Jersey Student Learning Standards

- Discussed the readoption of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards as revised including the science, social studies, comprehensive health and physical education, visual and performing arts, world languages, and 21st century life and career, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-2.1(a).

Work Session

There was no work session.

New Business

There was no new business.

Public Testimony

There was no public testimony.

Adjournment

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education adjourned its November 6, 2019, public meeting at 12:35 p.m.

Dr. Lamont O. Repollet, Commissioner
Secretary, N.J. State Board of Education