

**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**

**June 5, 2019**

**Presiding:** Arcelio Aponte, President

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

**Present Constituting A Quorum**

Mr. Arcelio Aponte  
Mrs. Kathy Goldenberg  
Dr. Ron Butcher  
Mrs. Elaine Bobrove  
Mrs. Fatimah Burnam-Watkins  
Mrs. Mary Beth Berry  
Dr. Nedd J. Johnson  
Mr. Andrew Mulvihill  
Mrs. Sylvia Sylvia-Cioffi

**Absent**

Dr. Joseph Ricca  
Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Gazi  
Mr. Jack Fornaro  
Dr. Ernest Lepore

**Convening**

State Board of Education President Arcelio Aponte convened the public meeting at 9:30 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 June 5, 2019 was called to order.

**Adjourn to Executive Session**

President Aponte 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 June 5, 2019.

### **Reconvening**

In President Aponte's absence, State Board Vice President Kathy Goldenberg reconvened the open meeting at 10:30 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 May 1, 2019. State Board member Dr. Ron Butcher abstained.

### **President's Report**

### **Announcements**

### **Sign Language Interpreters**

Vice President Goldenberg introduced and welcomed the two the Sign Language Interpreters, Monica Ayrer and Rayna Notta.

### **Resolution to Honor Nora Faverzani**

Vice President Goldenberg welcomed Nora Faverzani, the 2018-2019 permanent student representative, to the State Board of Education. Nora Faverzani is a senior from Ocean City High School in Cape May County. Nora introduced and welcomed her mother, Susan Sheppard, her school advisor Mr. Matt Purdue, Dr. Kathleen Taylor, the Superintendent of the Ocean City School District, and Dr. Matthew Jamison, Ocean City High School principal. In her last address before the State Board, Nora thanked the Commissioner and the Board members for their support and guidance over the year and for making her experience as the student representative a positive one.

The State Board members approved a resolution, congratulating and thanking Nora Faverzani for her service. On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board unanimously approved the following resolution read by State Board member Mary Beth Berry:

## **Resolution for Nora Faverzani**

**Whereas**, Nora Faverzani, a student at Ocean City High School in Cape May County, has served with dedication as the student representative to the New Jersey State Board of Education from July 2018 to June 2019; and

**Whereas**, Nora has executed her duties as the State Board's liaison to the student community with dedication and enthusiasm, and has been an exceptional representative of both the New Jersey Association of Student Councils and Ocean City High School;

**Whereas**, Nora adeptly presented a student perspective through well-timed monthly reports on innovative and wide-ranging topics that were beneficial to the State Board members, and she actively participated in State Board meetings with thought-provoking comments and questions; and

**Whereas**, Nora's academic career demonstrates that she is an accomplished student who has made valuable contributions to her school and local communities, as well as a lasting impact on education in New Jersey; and

**Whereas**, Nora is an intelligent, affable, and confident young woman who has a thorough understanding of the issues affecting her and her student peers and who has an obvious passion for public policy; now therefore be it

**Resolved**, that the members of the New Jersey State Board of Education and Commissioner of Education Lamont O. Repollet extend their sincere congratulations and appreciation to Nora Faverzani for a job very well done; and be it further

**Resolved**, that the New Jersey State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education wish to acknowledge Nora Faverzani's academic excellence, personal dispositions and talents, and outstanding leadership qualities, and wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

### **New Permanent Student Representative**

Outgoing student representative Nora Faverzani introduced and welcomed the new permanent student representative, Sahil Ganatra to the State Board of Education. Sahil is a junior from South Brunswick High School in Middlesex County. He thanked the State Board members for welcoming him and stated his excitement to represent New Jersey's students. Sahil was accompanied by his student advisor, Mrs. Harlee Olsen.

### **Public Testimony**

Vice President Goldenberg stated public testimony would not be held today. She also stated that public testimony would not be held on July 3, 2019 because no topics are scheduled for public testimony.

Vice President Goldenberg further stated that more information regarding public testimony is forthcoming.

## **Petition for Rulemaking**

Vice President Goldenberg read the decision for a petition for rulemaking that was sent to the State Board on March 26, 2019. The Commissioner and the State Board reviewed the petitioner's request and determined that the request is denied because it would directly impact the health, safety, and welfare of New Jersey students.

## **Report of State Board Nominating Committee**

Dr. Nedd Johnson, member of the Nominating Committee, presented the committee's nominations: Mrs. Kathy Goldenberg for president and Dr. Joseph Ricca for vice president. The vote will occur next month. State Board members Dr. Ernest Lepore and Mrs. Sylvia Sylvia-Cioffi also served on the committee.

## **Commissioner's Reports**

### **Transition Report**

Chris Huber, Special Assistant to the Commissioner, and Caitlin Pletcher, Office of Field Services, presented Newark Public School District's progress in their transition plan to the State Board members. Chris Huber and Caitlin Pletcher explained where Newark and the Department are in the two-year implementation of the transition plan and the procedure that was developed to complete the transition by January 31, 2020.

Chris Huber and Caitlin Pletcher also explained the collaboration between Newark Public School District, the Department, and the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University to create a Comprehensive Accountability Office. The Department and Newark Public School District also partnered with a highly-skilled professional within the Department who works in the Newark school district to provide them with technical assistance and to report Newark's progress back to the Department.

### **State Operated School District Annual Report – Newark**

Commissioner Repollet welcomed Mr. Roger León, Superintendent of Newark School District and his team to the State Board meeting. Mr. León introduced his colleagues, Josephine Garcia, President of the Newark Board of Education and Newark School Board members: Shayvonne Anderson, Asia Norton, and Flohisha Hill. Mr. León also recognized his colleagues in attendance: Javier Nazario, Chief of Staff, Dr. Gerald Fitzhugh II, Deputy Superintendent, Brenda Liss, General Counsel, Valerie Wilson, School Business Administrator, and Anzella King-Nelms, Highly-Skilled Professional.

Mr. León presented a report to the State Board members outlining the procedures for transitioning to local control and the components of the transition plan. The presentation agenda included the core elements of restructuring the school district: governance, instruction and program, fiscal management, operations, and personnel. Mr. León also presented the accountability scorecard that the school district will use to track and measure its progress toward implementation of the plan. Additionally, Mr. León presented the data that his team collected from Newark Public School District's 2016-2019 three-year strategic plan, The Next Three Years.

## Graduation Assessment Requirement Update

Linda Eno, Assistant Commissioner of Academics and Performance, and Chris Huber, Special Assistant to the Commissioner, provided updates to the State Board members regarding the graduation assessment requirement. On May 15, 2019, the Department filed a joint notice in request to extend the consent order to cover the classes of 2021 and 2022. Chris Huber stated the appellate division has not yet responded to the Department's request.

### Items for Consideration:

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

#### \*A. Commissioner

- On a motion duly moved and seconded, the State Board unanimously adopted the proposed organizational structure for the State Department of Education at N.J.A.C. 6A:2-1.1 et seq., pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-3(1).

#### \*B. Appointment(s)

- Approved the following appointment(s) pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:2:
  - AbdulSaleem Hasan, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Field Services
  - Cary Booker, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Early Childhood Education
  - Allen Dupree, Director, Office of School Finance
  - Shashi Yellambhatla, Director, Office of Information Technology
  - Leslie Franks-McRae, Director, Office of Supplemental Services
  - Kim Buxenbaum, Director, Special Education

#### \*C. Certification of School Districts

- Certified for a period of three years, the following school district(s) recommended by the Commissioner, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-14a and b.

Certified School District	County
Linwood	Atlantic
Bordentown Regional	Burlington
Burlington Co. Spec. Serv.	Burlington
Burlington Township	Burlington
Florence Township	Burlington
Mansfield Township	Burlington
Avalon	Cape May
Cape May Co. Spec. Serv.	Cape May
North Wildwood	Cape May
Wildwood Crest	Cape May

Alexandria Township	Hunterdon
Bloomsbury	Hunterdon
East Amwell Township	Hunterdon
Hunterdon Central Reg. HS	Hunterdon
Ewing Township	Mercer
Woodbridge	Middlesex
Fair Haven	Monmouth
Spring Lake	Monmouth
Union Beach	Monmouth
Wayne Township	Passaic

End of table.

**\*D. State Board Calendar of Meeting Dates**

- The State Board adopted the following resolution pertaining to the annual calendar of 2019-2020 meeting dates of the State Board of Education pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:1-2.2, N.J.S.A. 18A:4-7 and 10:4-6 et seq.

**Resolution**

**Annual Calendar of State Board Meeting/Public Testimony Dates**

**Whereas**, N.J.S.A. 18A:4-7 states that, the State Board of Education shall hold public meetings at least once each month at such times as its rules may prescribe and at such other times and such places within the state as in its judgment may be necessary, but no meeting may commence later than 8:00 p.m.; and

**Whereas**, N.J.A.C. 6A:1-2.2 requires that such meetings be held at such time, place, and on such dates as established by the State Board, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., Open Public Meetings Act, and notice of such meetings shall be made in a manner consistent with the law; now therefore be it

**Resolved**, that the State Board establishes the following dates for its monthly business meetings and public hearings for the 2019-2020 school year, and directs that a copy of the dates be sent to the Governor, the Secretary of State, the news media, the county superintendents, and the state board agenda subscribers.

**Public Business Meetings/Public Testimony Sessions 2019-2020**

July 3  
August 7  
September 4  
October 2  
November 6  
December 4  
December 11\*  
January 8  
January 15\*

February 5  
February 19\*  
March 4  
March 18\*  
April 1  
May 6  
June 3

Open Topic Sessions – January, May and September

\*Alternate Board Meeting Days in the event of Snow Cancellations

Notice of changes in the above will be made in compliance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act.

**\*E. Professional Standards, State Board of Examiners and Certification**

- Approved for publication in the *New Jersey Register*, the amendments pertaining to the career and technical education (CTE) endorsement at N.J.A.C. 6A:9, Professional Standards, and N.J.A.C. 6A:9B, State Board of Examiners and Certification, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:1-1, 18A:4-15, 18A:6-34, 18A:6-38, 18A:26-2.7, and 18A:26-10, and P.L. 2012, c. 11.

**\*F. Professional Standards, State Board of Examiners and Certification**

- Discussed the proposed new Praxis test and qualifying score for Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators; and New School Leadership Series Tests for School Administrators and Principals, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8 and N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-12.

**Work Session**

There was no work session.

**New Business**

Commissioner Repollet introduced and welcomed former student representative Russell Bauer to the State Board meeting. Russell served on the New Jersey State Board in the 2014-2015 school year as a junior from Seneca High School in Burlington County. Russell is entering his 4<sup>th</sup> year at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Mr. Andrew Mulvihill asked the Department to provide an update to the charter school applications. Mr. Mulvihill also proposed that the Board rearrange the order of the State Board meetings, so action items are earlier in the agenda.

**Public Testimony**

There was no public testimony.

## **Adjournment**

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education adjourned its June 5, 2019, public meeting at 1:18 p.m.

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