

**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**

**October 2, 2019**

**Presiding:** Kathy Goldenberg, President

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

**Present Constituting a Quorum**

Mr. Arcelio Aponte  
Mrs. Mary Beth Berry  
Mrs. Elaine Bobrove  
Mrs. Fatimah Burnam-Watkins  
Dr. Ronald Butcher (via teleconference)  
Mrs. Sylvia Sylvia-Cioffi  
Mr. Jack Fornaro (meeting only)  
Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Gazi  
Mrs. Kathy Goldenberg  
Dr. Ernest Lepore  
Mr. Andrew Mulvihill  
Dr. Joseph Ricca (via teleconference)

**Absent**

Dr. Nedd J. Johnson

**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 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 2, 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 October 2, 2019.

## **Reconvening**

President Kathy Goldenberg reconvened the open meeting at 10:35 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 called for a moment of silence in memory of Dwayne Johnson, brother of State Board member Dr. Nedd J. Johnson, who passed away last week.

## **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 4, 2019. State Board members Mrs. Sylvia Sylvia-Cioffi and Mrs. Mary Beth Berry abstained.

## **President's Reports**

## **Announcements**

## **Public Testimony**

President Goldenberg stated that public testimony would not be held today as there are no topics scheduled.

President Goldenberg stated that public testimony will be held on Wednesday, November 6, 2019. The topic for the November 6 public testimony session is the proposed amendments to Ch. 9B, State Board of Examiners and Certification, related to the swimming and water safety

endorsement. Registration for the November 6, 2019, public testimony session will open Thursday, October 17, 2019, and close at noon on Thursday, October 31, 2019.

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 [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 student awareness and participation in the policy-making process. Sahil also spoke about the importance of the upcoming student summit at the New Jersey Association of Student Councils (NJASC) Winter Conference. He proposed a new initiative where the Department provides students with education policy updates through monthly bulletins or start a student advisory committee to get more students involved in the policy-making process.

### **Resolution to Recognize Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Membership Month**

On behalf of the State Board and the Department of Education, President Goldenberg and Commissioner Repollet presented the New Jersey Parent Teacher Association (PTA) with a resolution recognizing October as National PTA Membership Month in New Jersey. President Goldenberg introduced and welcomed the following members of the New Jersey PTA: Cathy Lindenbaum, President; Rose Acerra, Immediate Past President; and Lynette Howard, Vice President of Advocacy.

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board unanimously approved the following resolution read by State Board member Sylvia Sylvia-Cioffi:

#### **Resolution in Recognition of October 2019 as Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Membership Month**

**Whereas**, New Jersey Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is an association acting for the benefit of children's education and well-being by focusing attention on issues affecting youth and public education; and

**Whereas**, the New Jersey PTA also promotes family engagement in schools and communities, and advocates for public education; and

**Whereas**, for more than 118 years, New Jersey PTA has served the needs of children, teachers, parents, and schools through active volunteerism; and

**Whereas**, the New Jersey PTA provides a network of local, state and national voices speaking together on behalf of all children; and

**Whereas**, among the millions of members of National PTA, the New Jersey PTA ranks with more than 115,000 members in 600 Local PTAs; and

**Whereas**, the strength of the PTA lies in its Membership—the volunteers who tirelessly devote themselves to making this a better world for children and youth; now therefore be it

**Resolved**, that the New Jersey State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education recognize October 2019 as PTA Membership Month in New Jersey and encourages everyone to join the PTA and become an advocate for children.

### **National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Election**

President Goldenberg stated that the elections for the President Elect and the Area Directors of the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) will take place at the annual business meeting during NASBE’s annual conference in Omaha, Nebraska on October 19. President Goldenberg also stated that the State Board is not sending a delegate to the conference this year; however, she will send New Jersey’s vote through the State Board Office to NASBE. She further stated that the nominee for President Elect is Byron Ernest from Indiana, and the nominee for Northeast Area Director is Audrey Noble from Delaware. The NJ State Board of Education supported the choice of Byron Ernest from Indiana to be President-elect and Audrey Noble from Delaware to be Northeast Area Director.

### **Leadership Exchange for Adolescent Health Promotion (LEAHP)**

President Goldenberg stated that both the State Board and the Department are going to send representatives to participate in the January LEAHP cohort to work on policy aimed at helping students feel safe and secure. President Goldenberg also stated the LEAHP advisory board is made up of many organizations, including the National Governor’s Organization and representatives from the New Jersey Department of Health, the New Jersey Department of Education, and the New Jersey State Board of Education.

### **State Board Committee Announcement**

President Goldenberg announced the new 2019-2020 State Board committees. President Goldenberg stated that the committee list will be posted online, and committees will meet on the third Wednesday of each month from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

## **New Jersey State Board of Education Committees 2019-2020**

### **Ad Hoc**

Sylvia Sylvia, *Chair*

Arcelio Aponte

Fatimah Burnam-Watkins

Mary Beth Gazi

Ernest Lepore

Joseph Ricca

**Policy**

Elaine Bobrove, *Chair*

Mary Beth Gazi

Joseph Ricca

Sylvia Sylvia

Kathy Goldenberg, *Ex-Officio*

**Assessment**

Nedd Johnson, *Chair*

Arcelio Aponte

Ronald Butcher

Andrew Mulvihill

Joseph Ricca

Kathy Goldenberg, *Ex-Officio*

**Social and Emotional**

Fatimah Burnam-Watkins, *Chair*

Mary Beth Berry

Elaine Bobrove

Jack Fornaro

Nedd Johnson

Kathy Goldenberg, *Ex-Officio*

**CTE/Coding**

Mary Beth Berry, *Chair*

Elaine Bobrove

Jack Fornaro

Kathy Goldenberg, *Ex-Officio*

**Strategic Plan**

Arcelio Aponte, *Chair*

Andrew Mulvihill

Fatimah Burnam-Watkins

Kathy Goldenberg, *Ex-Officio*

**NASBE Liaison**

Kathy Goldenberg

**State Special Education Advisory Council**

State Board member Mary Beth Berry stated that she and President Goldenberg attended the State Special Education Advisory Council (SSEAC) meeting on September 19. Mrs. Berry stated SSEAC meets monthly as an opportunity for parents to speak about concerns they may have regarding special education and related services. Mrs. Berry further stated that the council is

comprised of representatives from multiple State agencies and that the meeting's featured topic was "Understanding Tourette Syndrome."

### **Governor's Press Conference**

President Goldenberg stated that she and Commissioner Repollet participated in Governor Murphy's press conference on September 9, 2019 in Paramus, New Jersey. President Goldenberg also stated that Governor Murphy and Bob Morrison, the Arts Ed NJ founder and director, announced that New Jersey will be offering universal access to arts education in New Jersey public schools from preschool through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. President Goldenberg further stated that New Jersey is the first state in the country to achieve this milestone.

### **Commissioner's Reports**

Commissioner Repollet announced that October is both Hispanic Heritage Month and Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Commissioner Repollet stated that Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated from September 15 through October 15. He also stated that Hispanic-Americans have had a long-lasting impact on American history and that their significant achievements are an example of who we are as a State and who we are as a nation. Commissioner Repollet further stated that Hispanic-Americans are an inspiration to our students and thanked the members of the State Board with Hispanic origins for their contribution to New Jersey.

Commissioner Repollet also acknowledged that October is a time to remember the millions of courageous men and women who battle breast cancer and to remember those who have lost their lives to breast cancer. He further stated his support to continue the ongoing research to one day find a cure.

### **Presentation of the 2019-2020 New Jersey State Teacher of the Year**

Dr. Linda Eno, Assistant Commissioner of the Division of Academics and Performance, introduced Mrs. Kimberly Dickstein-Hughes, a high school English teacher at Haddonfield Memorial High School in Camden County, as the 2019-2020 New Jersey State Teacher of the Year. Dr. Eno stated that Mrs. Dickstein-Hughes teaches high school students how to make Shakespearean literature come alive and how to move beyond books to become global citizens.

Representatives from the following organizations presented Mrs. Dickstein-Hughes with these items: New Jersey Education Association - a one-year lease on a new car and a \$500 clothing allowance; and Educational Testing Service – finance a half-year sabbatical and a laptop.

### **Every Student Succeeds Act Update**

Dr. Peggy McDonald, Assistant Commissioner of the Division of Student Services, presented updates about New Jersey's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) State plan. Dr. McDonald stated that the Department's plan has collectively aligned accountability in the following areas: school accountability, QSAC, school and district performance reports, and collaborative monitoring. Dr. McDonald stated that the Department has also realized a system of performance management and support for educators and students through its ESSA plan. Dr. McDonald also

presented the ESSA implementation timeline for 2019-2020. The presentation may be found on the State Board of Education [website](#).

**Items for Consideration:**

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

**\*A. Appointments**

- Approved the following appointment(s) pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:2:
  - Salma Chand, Esq., Executive Legal Affairs Officer, Division of Executive Services
  - Dr. Julie Bunt, Director, Office of Charter and Renaissance Schools, Division of Executive Services
  - Dr. Martin Egan, Director, Office of Grants Management, Division of Finance
  - Christopher Cox, Director, Office of STEM, Division of Academics and Performance
  - Rani Singh, Director, Office of Certification and Induction, Division of Academics and Performance

**\*B. 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. State Board member Fatimah Burnam-Watkins abstained.

<b>District</b>	<b>County</b>
Allendale	Bergen
Ridgefield Park	Bergen
Mercer County Special Services	Mercer
Union Township	Union

End of table.

**\*C. Resolution to Approve New Proficient Level Cut Scores for the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment Science (NJSLA-S)**

- Adopted new proficient level cut scores for the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment in Science, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.

**A Resolution to Adopt Proficient Level Cut Scores For The New Jersey Student Learning Assessment-Science (NJSLA-S)**

**Whereas**, the New Jersey State Board of Education (State Board) has required that all students enrolled in grade 5, grade 8, and high school be assessed in science in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.

**Whereas,** the Department has recently established new tests to replace the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge for Science (NJ ASK) and the New Jersey Biology Competency Test (NJBCT) that were in use by the Department of Education; and

**Whereas,** the Department has participated in standard-setting studies for the NJSLA-S to determine the validity of and the theoretically appropriate proficient level cut scores for those tests; and

**Whereas,** the State Board approves the Department’s selection of the respective New Jersey Student Learning Assessment-Science initial proficient level cut scores; and

**Whereas,** the Department will monitor the impact of these tests and proficient level cut scores on the proficiency rates for each grade level where the test is administered and will report any problems with the same to the State Board; now therefore be it

**Resolved,** that the New Jersey State Board of Education hereby acknowledges and approves the following proficient level cut scores, effective November 1, 2019:

**Proficient Level Cut Scores**

Grade level	Raw score	Percent correct
5	39	65%
8	40	57%
11	45	58%

**\*D. Standards and Assessment**

- Discussed the proposed notice of substantial change pertaining to assessment and graduation requirements at N.J.A.C. 6A:8. The State Board tabled the vote to occur later in the month at a special meeting prior to the expiration date for the original proposal which is November 6, 2019.

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

- Discussed the amendments pertaining to the swimming and water safety endorsement at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.10, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-15, 18A:6-38, and 18A:26-2.3.

**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 October 2, 2019, public meeting at 2:34 p.m.

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