

**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**

**September 4, 2019**

**Presiding:** Kathy Goldenberg, President

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

**Present Constituting A Quorum**

Mr. Arcelio Aponte (via teleconference)

Mrs. Elaine Bobrove

Mrs. Fatimah Burnam-Watkins

Dr. Ronald Butcher

Mr. Jack Fornaro

Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Gazi

Mrs. Kathy Goldenberg

Dr. Nedd J. Johnson

Dr. Ernest Lepore

Mr. Andrew Mulvihill

Dr. Joseph Ricca (via teleconference)

**Absent**

Mrs. Mary Beth Berry

Mrs. Sylvia Sylvia-Cioffi

**Convening**

State Board of Education President Kathy Goldenberg convened the public meeting at 9:20 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 September 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 September 4, 2019.

## **Reconvening**

President Kathy 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**

## **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 August 7, 2019. State Board members Dr. Joseph Ricca, Dr. Ronald Butcher, Mrs. Mary Beth Gazi, and Mrs. Fatimah Burnam-Watkins abstained.

## **President's Reports**

## **Announcements**

## **Public Testimony**

Public testimony would be held today at 2:00 p.m. Today is an Open Topic public testimony session and there are no other scheduled topics for public testimony. State Board members Kathy Goldenberg, Andrew Mulvihill, Fatimah Burnam-Watkins, Dr. Nedd Johnson, and Mrs. Elaine Bobrove are scheduled to hear public testimony today.

Public testimony will not be held on Wednesday, October 2, 2019, as there are no topics scheduled.

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 <https://www.state.nj.us/education/sboe/meetings/pubtest.shtml> for updates.

## **Permanent Student Representative**

President Goldenberg stated that Sahil Ganatra is the 2019-2020 permanent student representative to the State Board of Education. Sahil is a senior from South Brunswick High School in Middlesex County. President Goldenberg stated that Sahil is unable to attend today's meeting because he is attending his school's HiTOPS retreat.

## **Commissioner's Reports**

Commissioner Repollet marked the opening of the 2019-2020 school year with welcoming and congratulatory remarks directed to New Jersey educators, teachers, and Department staff and applauded all of their hard work. Commissioner Repollet announced that Education Week named New Jersey as the number one state education system in the country. Commissioner Repollet also acknowledged the hard work of Department staff to expand preschool education to open 1,450 new seats in 28 more school districts.

## **State Level Student Performance Data**

Dr. Linda Eno, Assistant Commissioner of the Division of Academics and Performance, Diana Pasculli, Deputy Assistant Commissioner of the Division of Academics and Performance, and Gilbert Gonzalez, Director of Assessments, presented the spring 2019 assessment results and the new direction of the New Jersey assessment system. They stated that in 2019 the Department reduced testing time by 60 to 90 minutes in the English language arts (ELA) and mathematics New Jersey Student Learning Assessment (NJSLA), lowered the weight of standardized testing in teacher evaluations, and streamlined high school assessments to now require the administration of two years of State ELA and math assessments. They also stated that the Department engaged practitioners and content experts from 151 school districts across all 21 counties in working groups to discuss the 2019 NJSLA.

Dr. Eno, Diana Pasculli, and Gilbert Gonzalez stated that the 2019 NJSLA measure the same content as the previous State assessment and use the same scale scores and performance levels as previous years. They also stated that the 2019 NJSLA have nearly identical procedures in the administration, scoring, and reporting systems as the previous State assessment. Dr. Eno, Diana Pasculli, and Gilbert Gonzalez presented graphs showing the percentage of students meeting expectations in each grade level on the ELA and mathematics State assessments from 2015 to 2019 across different categories. They further stated that the next steps with the NJSLA will be to:

- Support school districts to build tools and promote closer alignment between standards, assessment, and accompanying resources in support of continuous improvement to instructional practice;
- Explore State assessments in a 21<sup>st</sup> century context by examining the role of State assessments in high school and supporting school districts in systematically improving standards-aligned teaching and assessment while strengthening assessment and data literacy; and
- Continue the transition to the next generation assessment system.

Dr. Eno, Diana Pasculli, and Gilbert Gonzalez presented an implementation timeline for the 2019-2020 school year through the 2023-2024 school year and what the proposed implementation will look like for students. The PowerPoint presentation with the charts may be accessed on the State Board website at:

<https://www.nj.gov/education/sboe/meetings/agenda/2019/september/public/4a%20State%20Level%20Student%20Performance%20Data.pdf>.

### **Charter School Update**

Kellie LeDet, Chief of Staff and Assistant Commissioner of Executive Services, and Dr. Julie Bunt, Acting Director of the Office of Charter and Renaissance Schools, presented a brief update about charter school applications. Dr. Bunt stated that 11 charter schools in the 2019 charter renewal cohort applied and were granted charter renewal. Dr. Bunt also stated that charter schools had the opportunity during the renewal process to request an increase in the number of seats allocated to their charter. Dr. Bunt further stated nine of the 11 renewed charter schools were granted additional seats. Dr. Bunt stated there are two processes to renew a charter – an expedited renewal cohort and the general renewal cohort. She also stated that 1,041 additional seats were approved during the general renewal cohort and 124 additional seats were granted during the expedited renewal cohort.

Dr. Bunt stated that three new charter school applications have been approved during Governor Murphy’s administration. She stated that the applications were initiated during the previous administration and two charters were granted in July 2018 and the third charter was granted in July 2019. She further stated that the first two charter schools were granted 180 seats for the first year and were approved to expand to 678 seats by the fourth year of operation; the third new charter school was approved for 96 seats in the first year and up to 192 seats by the fourth year of operation. Dr. Bunt further stated that the Department is currently in the March charter school application round and that two potential charter schools are currently undergoing the application process.

### **Standards and Instructional Units Update**

Dr. Linda Eno, Dr. David Greer, Deputy Assistant Commissioner of Academics, and Dr. Beverly Plein, Director of the Office of Standards, presented the updates to the ELA and mathematics instructional units in the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS). They outlined the review of the 2014 NJSLS in comprehensive health and physical science, science, social studies, technology, visual and performing arts, world languages, and 21<sup>st</sup> century life and careers. They also outlined how the Department unpacked the 2016 NJSLS into student learning objectives using the Connected Action Roadmap (CAR) process. They further stated that the professional learning experiences involving the instructional units will be provided through the 2019-2020 school year by the Department and organization partners.

Dr. Eno, Dr. Greer, and Dr. Plein presented the NJSLS review and instructional units update. They stated that a standardized approach was adapted for each content area through collaborative work with educator teams and the Department’s process of revising NJSLS for State Board consideration. They also included a timeline of the proposed activity that includes the actions the State Board members may take to readopt the standards. The PowerPoint presentation may be accessed on the State Board website at:

### Preschool Update

Cary Booker, Assistant Commissioner of the Division of Early Childhood Education, and Tonya Coston, Deputy Assistant Commissioner of the Division of Early Childhood Education, presented to the State Board about the Preschool Education Aid (PEA) announcement made on September 3, 2019. Mr. Booker and Ms. Coston stated that the fiscal year (FY) 2020 budget includes \$20 million for PEA to increase the number of school districts that receive PEA to administer preschool education and that 28 school districts were awarded the PEA funds. They also stated that 158 school districts were eligible to apply for PEA in June based on their partial State funding under earlier programs (i.e., former Early Childhood Program Aid (ECPA) or Early Launch to Learning Initiative (ELLI)) or because at least 20 percent of their student populations is eligible for free and reduced-priced lunch.

Mr. Booker stated that eligible school districts were required to attend one of the Department’s three technical assistance sessions before submitting a PEA application. Mr. Booker also stated that 57 of the 158 eligible school districts attended a technical assistance session and 43 of the school districts submitted applications. Mr. Booker further stated that 28 approved school districts were chosen by rank order from the highest scoring school district PEA applications. Mr. Booker further stated that 1,450 new preschool seats have been approved through the FY 2020 PEA and that the 28 approved school districts must begin serving students by October 1, 2019. Mr. Booker also stated the Department is looking for ways to further support the 130 school districts that did not receive FY 2020 PEA, if additional PEA is available next year.

### 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:
  - Margaret McDonald, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Student Services.

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

- The State Board 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.

Atlantic County Special Services	Atlantic
Elmwood Park	Bergen
Fort Lee	Bergen
Paramus	Bergen
Gloucester City	Camden
Belleville	Essex
Caldwell-West Caldwell	Essex

Fairfield	Essex
Glen Ridge	Essex
Millburn	Essex
North Caldwell	Essex
Roseland	Essex
West Essex Regional	Essex
Deptford Township	Gloucester
Elk Township	Gloucester
Alloway Township	Salem
Salem County Special Services	Salem
Salem County Vocational	Salem

End of table.

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

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

**Work Session**

There was no work session.

**New Business**

President Goldenberg stated the State Board members are still considering what State Board committees will be in place during 2019-2020. President Goldenberg also stated the State Board members are considering the following committees: Social and Emotional Learning (SEL), Career and Technical Education (CTE), Policy, and Ad Hoc.

**Public Testimony**

Open Topic

**Adjournment**

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education adjourned its September 4, 2019, public meeting at 12:27 a.m.

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