

**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**

**March 4, 2020**

**Presiding:** Kathy Goldenberg, President

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

**Present Constituting A Quorum**

Mrs. Mary Beth Berry  
Mrs. Elaine Bobrove  
Mrs. Fatimah Burnam-Watkins  
Dr. Ronald Butcher (via teleconference)  
Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Gazi  
Mrs. Sylvia Sylvia-Cioffi  
Dr. Nedd J. Johnson  
Dr. Ernest Lepore (via teleconference)  
Mr. Andrew Mulvihill

**Absent**

Mr. Arcelio Aponte  
Mr. Jack Fornaro  
Dr. Joseph Ricca

**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 March 4, 2020, 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 March 4, 2020.

### **Reconvening**

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 February 5, 2020. State Board members Kathy Goldenberg, Ernest Lepore and Fatimah Burnam-Watkins 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 amendments to the Educational Facilities regulations pertaining to safe drinking water and the revisions to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. She further stated that she along with State Board members Fatimah Burnam-Watkins, Sylvia Sylvia and Elaine Bobrove would hear public testimony today.

President Goldenberg stated that public testimony will be held on Wednesday, April 1, 2020. The topic for the April 1 public testimony session is the amendments to the Special Education Regulations and the Annual Calendar of Religious Holidays for the 2020-2021 school year. She further stated that registration for the April 1, 2020 public testimony session will open Thursday, March 12, 2020, and close at noon on Thursday, March 26, 2020. Registration for the February 5, 2020 public testimony session will open Thursday, January 16, 2020, and close at noon on Thursday, January 30, 2020.

President Goldenberg stated that the last of the three regional hearings to testify before the members of the State Board of Education on the revised New Jersey Student Learning Standards will also take place on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 from 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm at the Camden County College in the Connector Building, Room 105, Civic Hall, 200 College Drive, Blackwood, NJ 08012.

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.

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### **Resolution in Honor of Gifted and Talented Students Month in New Jersey**

President Goldenberg introduced and welcomed Lynne Henwood, Roberta Braverman, Michelle Falanga and Jennifer Madsen, from the New Jersey Association for Gifted Children to receive the following resolution in honor of Gifted and Talented month.

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

#### **Resolution in Honor of Gifted and Talented Students Month in New Jersey**

**Whereas**, the "Strengthening Gifted and Talented Education Act" was signed into law on January 13, 2020, and

**Whereas**, the Act defines a Gifted and Talented Student as one who possesses or demonstrates high levels of ability in one or more content areas when compared to their chronological peers and who require modification of their educational program to achieve in accordance with their capabilities; and

**Whereas**, the Act specifies standards for Gifted and Talented education student identification, services, professional development, and reporting of student counts disaggregated by race, gender, special education designation, and English language learner designation; and

**Whereas**, Gifted and Talented Students may also be Twice-Exceptional, or give evidence of a special need or disability as defined by Federal or State eligibility criteria; and

**Whereas**, the full intellectual and academic potential of Gifted and Twice-Exceptional Students is developed and bolstered through the guidance of trained educators who develop specialized learning services through the local school district, extracurricular programs, and parent collaboration; now, therefore be it

**Resolved**, that the New Jersey State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education recognizes the month of March as "Gifted and Talented Students Month in New Jersey" and honors the gifted and talented students of New Jersey, the parents, and the teachers who are working to ensure that these young people have the resources and opportunities they need to succeed.

### **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 to the State Board about the student Assessment.

### **State Board Committee Reports**

There were no committee reports.

## Commissioner's Reports

### Announcements

Commissioner Repollet introduced Gary Melton, an Associate Director with the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA). Commissioner Repollet stated that the Department has been working tirelessly with Mr. Melton on the grant to fund the Amistad Journey which is intended to be an annual donation for educators to travel to sites related to the trans-Atlantic slave trade and to learn about how to incorporate that experience and information into their teaching across the curriculum.

Commissioner Repollet stated that March is not only STEM month, but also Women's History Month.

### Preview of the Perkins V Plan

Assistant Commissioner Linda Eno, Division of Academics and Performance and her team presented the revised draft of the New Jersey Perkins V State Plan to the State Board. The revised plan will direct career and technical education in the state over the next four years and is designed to increase access and opportunity so more students participate in high-quality career and technical education. The Perkins V plan is one tool for building a pathway to post-secondary success for students.

### 2018-19 School Performance Reports and NJSLA-Science Spring 2019 Results

Assistant Commissioner, Linda Eno, Division of Academics and Performance and her team provided an overview of the 2018-2019 School Performance Reports as well as Statewide data about graduation rates and the 2019 NJSLA-Science results.

### 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.

Certified School District	County
Brigantine	Atlantic
Norwood	Bergen
Old Tappan	Bergen
Ramapo-Indian Hills Regional	Bergen
Tenafly	Bergen
Westwood Reg.	Bergen
Pemberton Twp	Burlington
Belleville	Essex
Bloomfield	Essex

Cedar Grove	Essex
Harrison	Hudson
Henry Hudson Reg HS	Monmouth
Holmdel	Monmouth
Little Silver	Monmouth
Shrewsbury	Monmouth
Wall Twp	Monmouth
Bay Head	Ocean
Lavallette	Ocean
Pompton Lakes	Passaic
Totowa	Passaic
Elizabeth	Union
North Warren Reg.	Warren

**\*C. Resolution to Accept Donated Funds**

- Adopted the following the resolution approving the acceptance of up to \$75,000 in donated funds.

**Resolution to Accept Donated Funds**

**Whereas**, the New Jersey Department of Education is the recipient of a donation from the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA); and

**Whereas**, N.J.S.A. 18A:4-26 requires the approval of the New Jersey State Board of Education in order for the Commissioner of Education to accept donated funds; and

**Whereas**, the following donation was made from NJEA:

\$75,000 – *Amistad Journey*. These funds are restricted to experiential learning opportunities for educators to travel to sites related to the trans-Atlantic slave trade and to learn about how to incorporate that experience and information into their teaching across the curriculum; now therefore be it

**Resolved**, that the New Jersey State Board of Education approves the acceptance of the donated funds for the aforementioned specified purposes.

**\*D. Resolution to Adopt Revised Qualifying Scores for State-Issued High School Diplomas**

- Adopted the following resolution pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:20-1.4(a) recommending the revised qualifying scores for their respective tests for the granting of state-issued high school diplomas. State Board member Andrew Mulvihill opposed.

**A Resolution to Adopt The Revised Qualifying Scores for State-Issued High School Diplomas**

**Whereas**, the New Jersey State Board of Education (State Board) has required that adult education students pass all sections of one of the New Jersey High School Equivalency Assessments in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.2 and 6A:20-1.4.

**Whereas,** the State Board in 2013 adopted three different tests (GED, HiSET, and TASC), which qualify a person for a State-issued high school diploma, and each test's initial qualifying scores; and

**Whereas,** after the test's initial qualifying scores were adopted by the State Board, the General Education Development (GED) had established in 2016 the passing score per subject to be 145; and

**Whereas,** the High School Standard Equivalency Test (HiSET) also established in 2014 that the passing score per subject to be 8, with a total battery score of 45; and

**Whereas,** the passing score of 9 instead of 500 per subject was adopted in 2014 for the Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC); and

**Whereas,** in 2019 the Department researched the studies of the passing scores of GED and HiSET to determine the validity of and the theoretically appropriate passing scores for those tests; and

**Whereas,** based on this research, the Department recommends to the State Board that revisions be made to the qualifying scores for the GED, HiSET and TASC and that those passing scores for the GED and HiSET be applied now and retroactively from 2014; and

**Whereas,** the Department will monitor the impact of these new qualifying scores on the passing rates for each subject area and will report any problems with the same to the State Board; and now therefore be it

**Resolved,** that the State Board hereby approves the Department's recommendation to adjust the qualifying scores for the GED, HiSET and TASC and that those passing scores for the GED and HiSET be applied now and retroactively from 2014; and be it further

**Resolved,** that the New Jersey State Board of Education hereby acknowledges and approves the following passing scores, effective March 4, 2020:

**Passing Scores**

	<b>HiSET</b>	<b>GED</b>	<b>TASC</b>
	Each subtest score range: 1-20	Each subtest score range: 100-200	Each subtest score range: 300-800
<b>Language Arts – Writing</b>	8 and at least a score of 2 on the writing essay	145	500 and at least a score of 2 on the writing essay
<b>Language Arts - Reading</b>	8	Included with writing	500
<b>Social Studies</b>	8	145	500
<b>Science</b>	8	145	500
<b>Mathematics</b>	8	145	500

<b>Total Score Needed</b>	45	NA	NA
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**E. Resolution to Adopt the Annual Religious Holidays Calendar**

- Discussed the resolution pertaining to the annual calendar of religious holidays for the 2020-2021 school year as established at N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.3(j), pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:36-14-16.

**F. Special Education**

- Discussed the readoption with amendments pertaining to the rules concerning the services, programs, and instruction, including educational and related services, provided to students with disabilities pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-15, 18A:7B-1 et seq., 18A:7C-1 et seq., 18A:7F-1 et seq., 18A:39-1.1, 18A:40-4, 18A:46-1 et seq., and 18A:46A-1 et seq.; and U.S. P.L. 93-112, § 504; 94-142; 99-457; 101-476; 105-17; and 108-446.

**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 March 4, 2020, public meeting at 12:53 p.m.

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