

**New Jersey State Board of Education**  
**Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of the New Jersey State Board of Education**  
**October 7, 2020**

**Presiding:** Kathy Goldenberg, President

**Secretary:** Kevin Dehmer, Interim Commissioner

**Present Constituting A Quorum**

Mr. Arcelio Aponte  
Mrs. Mary Beth Berry  
Mrs. Elaine Bobrove  
Dr. Ronald Butcher  
Mrs. Fatimah Burnam-Watkins  
Mr. Jack Fornaro  
Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Gazi  
Dr. Nedd J. Johnson  
Mr. Andrew Mulvihill  
Dr. Joseph Ricca  
Mrs. Sylvia Sylvia-Cioffi

**Absent**

Dr. Ernest Lepore

**Convening**

State Board of Education President Kathy Goldenberg convened the public meeting at 9:05 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 7, 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 October 7, 2020.

### **Reconvening**

President Kathy Goldenberg reconvened the open meeting at 10:20 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 September 9, 2020.

### **President's Reports**

President Goldenberg welcomed everyone to the State Board's virtual meeting and extended her best wishes on behalf of the State Board that all are safe and healthy.

### **Public Testimony**

President Goldenberg stated that the State Board would not receive testimony today. She also stated that going forward the State Board would only accept written testimony on administrative code items currently pending before the State Board.

### **Report of the Permanent Student Representative**

President Goldenberg introduced and welcomed the new permanent student representative, Sabrina Capoli Board of Education. Sabrina is a rising senior from Seneca High School in Burlington County. She spoke to the State Board about the school Peers Program and the Anti-Defamation League.

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

President Goldenberg stated that the elections for the President Elect of the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) will take place at the annual business meeting during NASBE's virtual conference on October 22. President Goldenberg also stated that she will serve as the State delegate to the conference this year. She further stated that the candidates for President Elect are Janet Cannon from Utah, and Ron McNinch from The Territory of Guam.

The NJ State Board of Education took a voice vote and chose Janet Cannon as their choice for President Elect. President Goldenberg stated that she will submit the name of Janet Cannon as New Jersey's choice for President Elect.

## **State Board Committee Reports**

### **Ad Hoc Committee**

Mary Beth Gazi, chair, Ad Hoc Committee stated that the Ad Hoc Committee reviewed and made recommended changes to Chapter 1, The Bylaws of the State Board of Education and Chapter 6, The State Board of Education Rulemaking Process in order to prepare for re-adoption. The recommendations will be prepared for the policy committee to consider and then bring forward to the full board for consideration at the end of this year or beginning of 2021. These chapters are set to expire in 2021.

### **Policy Committee**

Elaine Bobrove, chair, Policy Committee stated that the Policy Committee met twice, both on September 16<sup>th</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup>. She stated that the State Board members in attendance via Microsoft Teams for the September 16<sup>th</sup> meeting including herself were Kathy Goldenberg, ex officio; Mary Beth Gazi, Mary Beth Berry, Andrew Mulvihill, and Joseph Ricca. She also stated that the Department staff in attendance were Daryl Minus-Vincent, Paula Bloom, Luiz Pereira, Kelly Allen, Diane Shoener, Beth Auerswald and Stephanie Russo.

Mrs. Bobrove stated that the purpose of the program was to discuss Chapter 16, which is Programs to Support Student Development. She stated that the meeting was to present an overview of N.J.A.C. 6A:16. She also stated that the Department plans to present the Chapter for re-adoption with amendments so the rules do not expire. She stated that the Chapter applies to the provision of programs and services for all students in kindergarten through grade 12 in school districts, charter schools, jointure commissions, educational service commissions and approved private school for students with disabilities. Mrs. Bobrove stated that the chapter's purpose is to specify the minimum standards for district boards of education in establishing policies and procedures in operating programs to support social, emotional and physical development of students.

Mrs. Bobrove further stated that the Department will be proposing minimal amendments to the Chapter. She stated that many of the amendments correct cross references and improve consistency with other chapters within title 6A of the N.J. Administrative Code. She stated that in addition, some of the draft recommendations emphasize and clarify applicable federal and state statutes governing the chapter. She further stated that the Department does not want to create additional disruptions for this school year or the next due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

She stated that New Jersey's response to the Covid 19 pandemic will provide valuable information and data that could inform future amendments to the Chapter. She also stated that the anti-bullying task force is being reestablished due to a new state law. She further stated that the task force will likely result in additional recommended amendments to Chapter 16. Mrs. Bobrove explained the recommended amendments to be proposed throughout the Chapter.

Elaine Bobrove, chair, Policy Committee stated that at the Policy Committee on September 30<sup>th</sup> the committee continued the discussion of the pending changes to Chapter 16, Programs to Support Student Development. All the members of the aforementioned Committee attended with the exception of Dr. Ricca, and all members of the staff previously attended were also present.

Mrs. Bobrove stated that they reviewed the definitions and talked about how the discipline rules that affect students is spelled out for all students including those with disabilities. She stated that the Committee reviewed the various draft recommendations, and again the discussion was very active. She also stated the Department is waiting for internal feedback regarding the proposed draft recommended amendments. She stated the feedback could result in additional recommended changes prior to First Discussion. She stated that the plan is to update the Policy Committee at its October meeting if needed, and then to present the readoption with amendments with first discussion in November.

### **Career and Technical Education Committee**

Mary Beth Berry, chair, Career and Technical Education Committee stated that the Committee met on September 16, 2020. She stated that the State Board members in attendance via Microsoft Teams including herself were Kathy Goldenberg, ex officio; Mary Beth Gazi, Jack Fornaro and Sylvia Sylvia. She also stated that the Department staff in attendance were Erskine Glover, Kathleen Paquette, Diane Shoener, Beth Auerswald and Stephanie Russo. She applauded the staff on the fabulous job they are doing on behalf of our CTE programs.

Mrs. Berry stated that Mr. Glover identified 78,000 students and 162 districts are involved in CTE programs in New Jersey. She stated that they discussed and updated the status of the digital divide as it relates to CTE students and are waiting for some follow up communications that the DOE sent out to these districts regarding this matter. She also stated that they had a chance to celebrate an article in NJ Monthly highlighting the New Brunswick P-Tech school. Mrs. Berry stated that these CTE students that are enrolled in a 6-year program are not only achieving high school diplomas, but they are also paired with industry partners and will graduate with an associate degree. She stated that Mr. Glover informed them that in addition to the New Brunswick P-Tech program, P-Tech is also happening in Paterson and Burlington City and the next cohort is the P-Tech for Trenton. She stated that Ms. Paquette informed them that funding for the grant for P-Tech ran out on June 30<sup>th</sup> for this first cohort year, but Ms. Paquette will be creating a summary of the programs for the past year and a half and is hoping around November to be able to present to Department leadership, the State Board, and legislature, the program summary so that they can make recommendations for programs in the future. She stated that the Committee had a conversation about meeting the needs of the students with special needs and the Department echoed its ongoing commitment to including all students in CTE programs and insuring that all districts are inclusive of students with disabilities. She stated that it is always amazing all the hard work going on behind the scenes with the Department of Education, and she is most appreciative to their commitment to encouraging Career and Technical Education in the state.

### **Commissioner's Reports**

#### **Presentation of the 2020-2021 New Jersey State Teacher of the Year**

Tonya Breland, Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Division of Academics and Performance, introduced Mr. Angel Santiago, a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Loring Fleming Elementary School in Gloucester Township, as the 2020-2021 New Jersey State Teacher of the Year.

Representatives from the following organizations presented Mr. Santiago 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.

### **Resolution in Recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month**

Interim Commissioner Dehmer introduced a ceremonial resolution in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month. On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board unanimously approved the following resolution read by State Board member Sylvia Sylvia:

#### **Resolution for Hispanic Heritage Month**

**Whereas**, the State of New Jersey and, by extension, the New Jersey Department of Education celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15, 2020 to October 15, 2020; and

**Whereas**, this year’s virtual New Jersey Department of Education observance, Celebrating Latinx Pride: Celebrando Nuestra Herencia Hispana, recognizes the lasting impact that Latinx New Jerseyans have had on our State, including participating in public service, innovating our economy, revolutionizing STEM pathways, excelling in education, enriching the arts and humanities, and calling for social change; and

**Whereas**, in January 2020, Governor Murphy signed the Latino and Hispanic Heritage Commission within the New Jersey Department of Education into law, ensuring that the cultural contributions and history of Latinx people are properly explored within school curriculum and activities; and

**Whereas**, approximately 4,000 students have received the Spanish language Seal of Biliteracy through the New Jersey Department of Education since 2016, the highest number of Seals in any one language; and

**Whereas**, specifically during this COVID-19 pandemic, the New Jersey Department of Education provided links to resources for our English Language Learning (ELL) parents, students, and educators through our agency’s COVID-19 webpage; and

**Whereas**, the webpage includes a portal for Spanish-speaking and bilingual parents that provides guidance on ELL instruction, the importance of being bilingual, and community resources for bilingual parents; and

**Whereas**, this year’s New Jersey State Teacher of the Year, Angel Santiago, is of Hispanic descent; now therefore be it

**Resolved**, that the New Jersey State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education hereby recognize September 15, 2020 to October 15, 2020 as Hispanic Heritage Month and welcome virtual celebrations by school districts throughout the state.

**Comprehensive Accountability Office Report-Paterson**

Chris Huber, Special Assistant to the Commissioner and Paula Bloom, Acting Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Division of Field Services provided an update on the Paterson Public School District’s progress in the transition to local control. Chris Huber stated the District’s Transition Plan for the Return of Local Control became effective on September 6, 2018.

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 substantially met and requires a continuing effort which means that it is premature to make a sustainability judgment.

The information provided by the Highly Skilled Professionals (HSP’s) complements the CAO’s report by providing anecdotal information and/or addressing section of the Transition Plan that are not on the Scorecard. The information provided by the HSP’s demonstrates that the 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**

- Approved for a period of three years, those school districts recommended by the Commissioner, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-14.a and b.

| <b>Districts</b> | <b>County</b> |
|------------------|---------------|
| Jamesburg        | Middlesex     |
| Roosevelt        | Monmouth      |
| Paterson         | Passaic       |
| Hillside         | Union         |
| Union Twp.       | Union         |

**New Business**

State Board member Arcelio Aponte stated that he met with Diana Pasculli, Acting Assistant Commissioner, Academic and Performance and Gilbert Gonzales, Director, Office of

Assessments, to have a discussion on Assessments and will provide a full report at the next monthly public business meeting.

**Public Testimony**

The State Board accepted written testimony on the readoption with amendments to Chapter 20, Adult Education and Chapter 27, Student Transportation.

**Adjournment**

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education adjourned its October 7, 2020, public meeting at 11:57 a.m.

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Kevin Dehmer, Interim Commissioner  
Interim Secretary, N.J. State Board of Education