

**New Jersey State Board of Education**  
**Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of the New Jersey State Board of Education**  
**April 7, 2021**

**Presiding:** Kathy Goldenberg, President

**Secretary:** Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed.D., Acting Commissioner

**Present Constituting a Quorum**

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

**Absent**

Dr. Ronald Butcher  
Dr. Ernest Lepore  
Mrs. Fatimah-Burnam Watkins

**Convening**

State Board of Education President Kathy Goldenberg convened the public meeting at 9:14 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 April 7, 2021 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 April 7, 2021.

**Reconvening**

President Kathy Goldenberg reconvened the open meeting at 10:26 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 March 3, 2021. State Board member Joseph Ricca abstained.

**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 accept written public testimony on the Religious Holidays Calendar Resolution for the 2021-2022 school calendar year. She also stated that in May the State Board would accept written testimony on the State Board Rulemaking readoption with amendments. Additionally, she stated that the May public testimony session will also be an Open Topic public testimony session meaning that the State Board will accept written testimony from a registered member of the public on any educational topic of their choice.

**Report of the Permanent Student Representative**

President Goldenberg introduced and welcomed the State Board of Education’s permanent student representative, Miss Sabrina Capoli. Miss Capoli is a senior at Seneca High School in Burlington County. Miss Capoli spoke to the State Board about the positive aspects of schools reopening.

**State Board Committee Reports**

**Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee**

Ms. Mary Beth Berry, chair, Career and Technical Education Committee, stated that the CTE Committee met with Department staff on March 22, 2021.

Ms. Berry stated they had an in-depth discussion on the Perkins Plan update. She stated requirements for the Perkins V grant award are that each state must prepare a plan narrative and state

determined performance levels, which include seven indicators; four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate, academic proficiency in reading, language arts, math, science, and placement in non-traditional program enrollment. She stated this includes a program quality indicator in work-based learning, and one optional indicator of technical skills attainment. Ms. Berry further stated that data has been collected from post-secondary credit and credentials; however, the priority for fiscal year 2021-2022 is to concentrate on work-based learning quality indicators. She stated that target performance data for fiscal year 2020-2021 will not be used for accountability purposes due to the pandemic, and that the Department's target performance goals may not be satisfied in accordance with the New Jersey Perkins V state plan. She further stated the Department will be proposing to revise fiscal year 2023 target performance levels, so that the Department can show just cause to the U.S. Department of Education (USED) as to why revisions should be allowed due to unanticipated circumstances. Ms. Berry stated the Department will be reviewing applications for new Perkins funding this spring. She further stated they just received an additional \$1 million in Perkins funding which will bring us to \$26.5 million statewide, and that 85% of the funding will be going back to school districts. She stated there are approximately 79,000 CTE students in the state, and the goal is to get up to 90,000 CTE students by 2025. She further stated that some of the CTE grant money will be applied to the middle schools as far down as fifth grade to promote CTE in those younger grades. She stated the Department is in the process of approving new school programs such as wind and solar energy around STEM, and by 2023 all programs will be transitioning to programs of study either in an internship or apprenticeship.

Ms. Berry stated that the Department has an agreement with Rutgers University to train more structured learning coordinators to observe students in the field. She stated the code requires that an SEL coordinator must be a certified teacher, and the goal over the next four years will be to add another 1,000 SEL coordinators in the field. Ms. Berry concluded that the committee will continue to meet with the Department to discuss the performance progress revisions to the Perkins V state plan.

### **Assessment Committee**

Mr. Arcelio Aponte, chair, Assessment Committee, stated that the Assessment Committee met with Department staff on March 16, 2021 and March 29, 2021.

Mr. Aponte stated that they discussed the Chapter 8 Standards and Assessments rulemaking proposal. He stated that since this item is on the agenda, he would like to delay this discussion until they get to the agenda item later in the meeting. Mr. Aponte stated that in terms of the waiver, he has asked the Commissioner to provide an update during the Commissioner's report.

### **Resolution in Recognition of School and Library Month**

President Goldenberg requested the State Board consider the following ceremonial resolution recognizing April as School and Library month in New Jersey.

President Goldenberg introduced and welcomed Ms. Beth Thomas, President of the New Jersey Association of School Librarians (NJASL), to receive the following resolution in honor of School and Library month.

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board unanimously approved the following resolution read by State Board member Ms. Mary Beth Berry:

### **Resolution in Recognition of School Library Month in New Jersey**

**Whereas**, the month of April 2021 has been designated nationally as School Library Month by the American Association of School Librarians; and

**Whereas**, the New Jersey State Board of Education recognizes that school libraries contribute to the individual growth and development of all students, while fostering both excellence and equity in education; and

**Whereas**, school libraries provide open access to both print and digital collections that encompass divergent viewpoints, cultures, and experiences and teach students to take responsibility for seeking multiple points of view and a global perspective; and

**Whereas**, school libraries connect students and staff to ideas and knowledge by providing instruction in the information literacy skills of locating, evaluating, and using information through traditional resources and new technologies, provide literature appreciation activities, and guide and encourage content area and recreational reading to every student; and

**Whereas**, school libraries nurture the social and emotional growth of students by providing a collection of resources and instruction in order for students to develop knowledge, empathy, responsible decision-making and relationship skills; and

**Whereas**, school librarians were able to pivot their practice during a time of remote learning to provide assistance to not only their students but also their colleagues and communities as they navigated a new educational paradigm to ensure that schools had the tools necessary to be successful; and

**Whereas**, school libraries and certified school library media specialists are instrumental in helping school districts to not only meet New Jersey Student Learning Standards but also prepare New Jersey students with college- and career-readiness skills; and

**Whereas**, it is both fitting and proper that special recognition be given to school libraries and the role of certified school library media specialists as they prepare students to become active, informed citizens and contributing members of local, state, national, and global communities; now, therefore be it

**Resolved**, that the New Jersey State Board of Education and the Acting Commissioner of Education recognize April 2021 as School Library Month in New Jersey.

### **Resolution in Recognition of Better Speech and Hearing Month**

President Goldenberg requested the State Board consider the following ceremonial resolution recognizing the month of May as Better Speech and Hearing Month in New Jersey.

President Goldenberg introduced and welcomed Ms. Kathy Palatucci, President-elect for the New Jersey Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NJSHA), to receive the following resolution in honor of Better Speech and Hearing Month in New Jersey.

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

### **Resolution for Better Hearing and Speech Month**

**Whereas**, the month of May 2021 is being celebrated nationally as Better Hearing and Speech Month; and

**Whereas**, the New Jersey State Board of Education recognizes that many students have communication disorders and acknowledges the significance that the ability to communicate plays in building personal and societal relationships as students grow and mature; and

**Whereas**, Better Hearing and Speech Month is a time to raise awareness about communication disorders and to encourage children and families to receive appropriate screenings and evaluations; and

**Whereas**, Better Hearing and Speech Month is also a time to acknowledge the hard work of audiologists, speech-language pathologists, and speech, language, and hearing scientists and the contributions they make that remarkably affect the lives of students in New Jersey; and

**Whereas**, these professionals are invested in serving the needs of students with speech, language, and hearing disorders to foster success in all aspects of their lives by prioritizing effective communication for the highest quality of life; and

**Whereas**, the New Jersey Speech-Language-Hearing Association supports students and professionals by its professional development offerings, advocacy efforts, and public awareness campaigns designed to ensure that high-quality care is provided; and

**Whereas**, it is both fitting and proper that special recognition be given to acknowledge May 2021 as Better Hearing and Speech Month along with commending the New Jersey Speech-Language-Hearing Association for its role in providing outstanding service to professionals throughout the State of New Jersey; now, therefore, be it

**Resolved**, that the New Jersey State Board of Education and the Acting Commissioner of Education recognize May 2021 as Better Hearing and Speech Month in New Jersey.

### **Commissioner's Reports**

#### **Waiver Update**

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan shared that the Department received a response from the U.S. Department of Education to the assessment waiver. She stated the Department is assessing the response, and that she anticipates moving forward with specific guidance to school districts in the next few days.

## Honoring New Jersey Department of Education Retiring Employees

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan stated that it is important to acknowledge the service of New Jersey Department of Education retiring employees who have dedicated themselves to advancing educational outcomes for students across our great state. She stated that today she will acknowledge one employee who made the momentous decision to retire.

*Kim Harvilla, Office of Fiscal Accountability and Compliance, Division of Field Services, January 1983 – May 2021, 38 years of service.*

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan thanked Ms. Harvilla for her dedication, commitment and hard work over the years and wishes her the best of health and happiness in her retirement.

## 2020 School Performance Reports/Graduation Data

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan asked Dr. Lisa Gleason, Ms. Diana Pasculli and Ms. Jessica Merville to provide a report on the release of the 2019-2020 School Performance reports.

## Report of the Commissions

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan asked Ms. Kerlyn Espinal, Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Division of Field Services to provide an overview of the work of the following four Commissions within the Department of Education: The Amistad Commission, Holocaust Education Commission, Latino and Hispanic Heritage Commission and the New Jersey Commission on Italian and Italian American Heritage.

## 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.

Districts	County
Audubon	Camden
Middle Twp.	Cape May
Manchester Twp.	Ocean
Franklin Twp.	Warren
Greenwich Twp.	Warren

### \*C. Standards and Assessments

- The State Board tabled the discussion and vote to adopt the amendments pertaining to assessment and graduation requirements at N.J.A.C. 6A:8, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-

15, 18A:7A-10 through 14, 18A:7C-1 et seq., 18A:7E-2 through 5, 18A:35-4.2 and 4.7, and 18A:59-5.

**D. Resolution to Amend the Implementation of the New Jersey Learning Standards**

- The State Board discussed the resolution to amend the implementation schedule for the 2020 New Jersey Student Learning Standards, including the science, social studies, comprehensive health and physical education, visual and performing arts, world languages, and 21st century life and career, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-2.1(a).

**E. State Board Rulemaking**

- The State Board discussed the readoption with amendments pertaining to rulemaking at N.J.A.C. 6A:6, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-15 and 52:14B-1. The State Board voted to move to proposal level at the May meeting.

**New Business**

There was no new business.

**Public Testimony**

The State Board accepted written testimony on the Religious Holidays Calendar discussion.

**Adjournment**

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education adjourned its April 7, 2021, public meeting at 12:17 p.m.

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Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed.D., Acting Commissioner  
Acting Secretary, N.J. State Board of Education