

New Jersey State Board of Education
Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of the New Jersey State Board of Education
January 6, 2021

Presiding: Kathy Goldenberg, President

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

Present Constituting A Quorum

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

Absent

Convening

State Board of Education President Kathy Goldenberg convened the public meeting at 9:09 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 January 6, 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 January 6, 2021.

Reconvening

President Kathy Goldenberg reconvened the open meeting at 10:13 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 December 2, 2020. No State Board members 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 receive written open public testimony on any educational topic of choice. 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 State Board of Education's permanent student representative, Sabrina Capoli. Sabrina is a senior at Seneca High School in Burlington County. She spoke to the State Board about her involvement in the Emmanuel Cancer Foundation (ECF). She stated that each year NJASC state officers raise thousands of dollars for a special state charity of their choice. She stated that over the last 40 years, the organization, with the help of student councils in school districts across New Jersey, have raised over 4 million dollars for a variety of causes. She stated that in 2019, the state officers from North Jersey chose ECF to be the charity of the year, but due to COVID-19, the amount raised was significantly lower than years past. She stated that her fellow officers on the State Leadership Board decided to take on ECF for another year, and that in the spring of 2021, the New Jersey Association of Student Councils will make their final donation to the ECF. She stated that donations can be made through NJASC.org by accessing the State Charity tab and completing the pledge form.

Resolution in Honor of New Jersey School Board Recognition Month

On behalf of the State Board and the Department of Education, President Goldenberg and Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan presented the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) with a resolution recognizing January as New Jersey School Board Recognition Month. President Goldenberg acknowledged and welcomed Executive Director, Larry Feinsod, and Vice President, Michael McClure.

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

Resolution in Honor of New Jersey School Board Recognition Month

Whereas, the New Jersey State Board of Education, which adopts the administrative code to implement state education law, has established rigorous standards through its promulgation of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, which set the expectations of academic achievement for nearly 1.4 million public schoolchildren; and

Whereas, New Jersey's locally elected and appointed boards of education play a vital role in ensuring that their local school districts meet state standards and adhere to all code provisions, with the goal of providing an outstanding education to prepare all students for college and the workplace and to enable them to compete in a global economy; and

Whereas, New Jersey's 5,000 non-partisan local board of education members and charter school trustees are public servants who dedicate their time, without pay or benefit, to the oversight of school district operations, sound financial practices, comprehensive policies, curriculum, staffing, and the well-being and academic achievement of all students in the district; and

Whereas, the efforts of local boards of education, in conjunction with state education officials and local educators, have built a foundation of success that has led to New Jersey's status as a leader in student achievement, as evidenced by the National Assessment of Educational Progress scores; and

Whereas, the National School Boards Association and the New Jersey School Boards Association have declared January 2021 to be School Board Recognition Month; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the New Jersey State Board of Education recognizes the contributions of our state's local boards of education to the academic success of its public school students and expresses its sincere appreciation to local board of education members for their continued focus on the achievement of children throughout New Jersey; and be it further

Resolved, that the New Jersey State Board of Education encourages qualified New Jersey citizens to consider serving as members on their local school boards.

State Board Committee Reports

CTE Committee

Mary Beth Berry, chair, CTE Committee, stated that the CTE Committee met on December 9, 2020. She stated that the State Board members in attendance via Microsoft Teams for the meeting, including herself, were Kathy Goldenberg, ex officio, Mary Beth Gazi, Jack Fornaro, and Sylvia Sylvia. Ms. Berry also stated that the Department staff in attendance were Erskine Glover, Kathleen Paquette, Linda Carmona-Bell, Diane Shoener, Beth Auerswald and Stephanie Russo.

Ms. Berry stated that the meeting objective was to learn about the P-Tech pilot program and the framework for equitable CTE programs in New Jersey. Ms. Berry stated that P-Tech (Pathway and Technology Early College and High School) is a career pathway program that includes strong industry, secondary and post-secondary partnerships that are designed to align with local, regional or state industry economic development initiatives. She stated that the vision of the P-Tech program was to provide access and opportunity for under-represented students in comprehensive high schools in New Jersey to an education in an in-demand STEM career pathway. She stated students in grades 9-14 are participating in industry driven, high quality dual enrollment early college programs where they earn a high school diploma and a post-secondary degree, all while gaining valuable employment skills. She stated that the total funding for the pilot program was \$900,000, serving 3 districts with an allocation of \$300,000 each over the total grant period. Ms. Berry stated that the 3 pilot district grantees are Burlington City, New Brunswick, and Paterson. She stated that the P-Tech grade 9-14 model integrates workplace learning opportunities, high school diplomas, and associate degrees at no cost to the student with an integrated 6-

year progression. Ms. Berry stated that Kathleen Paquette spoke with the committee about the department's in-depth planning, implementation phases, and program requirements, as well as the importance of sustainability of the P-Tech programs at the pilot schools and beyond the grant program. She stated that in a collaborative effort with the Department, IBM successfully responded to the request for qualification to launch the P-Tech model in New Jersey. She stated that IBM is providing technical assistance at no cost to the pilot sites, and that IBM is working with all 3 school districts to better build the partnership between secondary and higher education for P-Tech school districts. Ms. Berry stated that the first cohort began on December 1, 2018, and finished June 30, 2020. She stated that Mr. Glover informed them that at the local level districts are given the opportunity to see what local business partners can support them, and IBM is there to provide support and guidance. She stated that enrolled students are selected through a lottery process, and part of the lottery process is to make sure parents understand the long-term commitment to the P-Tech program. Ms. Berry stated that P-Tech New Brunswick was highlighted recently in an article for their forward thinking, and Mr. Glover acknowledged the work of the New Brunswick Superintendent and their school leadership for jumping into their partnership with IBM. Ms. Berry stated that through their discussion, committee members learned that P-Tech is a transformational learning process which makes sure that students are successful.

Ms. Berry stated they also had a discussion on the framework for equitable CTE programs in New Jersey. She stated that Lindo Carmona-Bell spoke with them about the need to look internally into processes to make sure that the Department is advocating for and supporting all students in CTE programs. She stated that through an internal equity committee working with the Office of Special Education and other agencies, work is ongoing to fully include students with all levels of disabilities in high quality CTE programs.

Ms. Berry stated that she is looking forward to meeting again with CTE Department staff on January 20.

Commissioner's Reports

Start Strong Assessment Presentation

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan, along with Dr. Lisa Gleason, Assistant Commissioner of Academics and Performance, and Gilbert Gonzalez, Director of the Office of Assessments presented the first of two Start Strong Assessment presentations. The presentation included an overview of the Start Strong Assessment as well as implementation considerations, test design and reporting capabilities and participation rates. Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan stated the second presentation in February will include newly released performance data as well as the findings and considerations for future assessments.

Items for Consideration:

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

***A. Appointments**

- There were no appointments.

***B. State Operation of the City of Paterson Public Schools**

Report of the Comprehensive Accountability Office and the Highly Skilled Professional

Chris Huber, Special Assistant, Paula Bloom, Acting Deputy Commissioner, Stephen Cowan, Highly Skilled Professional, and Alexis Colander, Highly Skilled Professional, shared the findings of the Report of Comprehensive Accountability Office and the Report of the Highly Skilled Professionals to demonstrate through the reports that the Paterson Public School District

has met the objectives and benchmarks established in its Transition Plan and is poised to assume full local control.

Resolution to Return the City of Paterson Public Schools to Local Control

- On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board unanimously adopted the following resolution pertaining to the status of state operation of the Paterson Public Schools read by State Board member, Dr. Ronald Butcher.

Resolution to Return the Paterson Public School District to Full Local Control

Whereas, by administrative order issued by the State Board of Education on August 7, 1991, the State Board of Education removed the Paterson Public School District Board of Education and created a State-Operated School District in Paterson pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-34; and

Whereas, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-10 et seq., effective on January 24, 2007, the New Jersey Legislature, in review and consultation with the Joint Committee on the Public Schools, directed the Commissioner of the Department of Education to develop and implement a system for monitoring and evaluating the thoroughness and efficiency of public school districts in the State of New Jersey to be called the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC); and

Whereas, NJQSAC involves an assessment of each school district's performance in the five key components of school district effectiveness: Instruction and Program, Personnel, Fiscal Management, Operations, and Governance; and

Whereas, local control of Operations was returned to Paterson on June 4, 2014, while the remaining key components of school district performance remained under partial State intervention; and

Whereas, the State Board of Education passed resolutions on February 10, 2016 and May 2, 2018 to return the areas of Personnel and Fiscal Management, and Instruction and Program and Governance, to local control, respectively, while the remaining key components of school district performance continued under partial State intervention; and

Whereas, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:30-7.1 the Commissioner determined that the Paterson Public School District met the factors for initiating withdrawal from partial intervention and a return to full local control; and

Whereas, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:30-7.2 the Commissioner recommended to the State Board of Education that the process for withdrawal from partial intervention shall be initiated forthwith in Paterson Public School District; and

Whereas, the State Board of Education also passed a Resolution on May 2, 2018 directing the Department of Education, in collaboration with Paterson Public School District, to develop a full transition plan pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:30-7.2 and 7.3 and initiate the process of withdrawal of the Paterson Public School District from partial State intervention; and

Whereas, the Department of Education, in collaboration with the Paterson Public School District, developed a full transition plan pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:30-7.2 and 7.3, which established the framework for the return to local control of the school district and went into effect on September 5, 2018; and

Whereas, pursuant to the transition plan, the Commissioner appointed three Highly Skilled Professionals (HSP's) to the Paterson Public School District to provide the school district with technical assistance in implementing the transition plan, to serve as liaisons between the school district and the

Department of Education, and to provide qualitative observations regarding the school district's progress under the transition plan; and

Whereas, pursuant to the transition plan, the Department of Education partnered with an independent entity, the Bloustein Local Government Research Center of Rutgers University, to form a Comprehensive Accountability Office (CAO); and

Whereas, pursuant to the transition plan, the CAO was tasked with collecting, analyzing and publishing data regarding the ongoing operations and performance of the school district and the school district's quantitative progress in implementing the transition plan, as measured by metrics on an Accountability Scorecard; and

Whereas, the CAO completed three reports regarding the school district's progress in implementing the transition plan, a first annual report, a progress report, and a final report; and

Whereas, the CAO's final report confirms that the school district successfully completed the quantitative metrics on the Accountability Scorecard and fulfilled the requirements of the transition plan; and

Whereas, the HSP's completed three reports regarding the school district's progress in implementing the transition plan and the final report confirms that the school district fulfilled the requirements of the transition plan and has developed systems and processes to sustain the school district's practices and progress; and

Whereas, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:30-7.6, the Commissioner has determined that the Paterson Public School District has successfully implemented the full transition plan and recommends to the State Board of Education the withdrawal from State intervention be completed and the Paterson Public School District be returned fully to local control; and be it further

Resolved, that the State Board of Education approves the withdrawal of the Paterson Public School District from State intervention and further approves that the Paterson Public School District be returned fully to local control.

Certification of the District as High Performing

- Certified the Paterson Public School District as High Performing, as recommended by the Commissioner, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:30-7.6.

Congratulatory remarks were offered by:

Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Senator Nellie Pou
Assemblyman Benjie Wimberly
Mayor Andre Sayegh
Paterson School Board President Kenneth Simmons
Paterson Public Schools Superintendent Eileen Shafer
Former Commissioner of Education, Dr. Lamont Repollet
Sean Spiller, Vice President of the NJEA

***C. Student Transportation**

- Adopted the readoption with amendments pertaining to the transportation of students pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:1-1, 18A:4-15, 18A:39-21, 18A:39-24, and 18A:39-33.

***D. Adult Education**

- Adopted the reoption with amendments pertaining to adult education proposed at N.J.A.C. 6A:20, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:1-1, 18A:4-15, 18A:7C-1 et seq., 18A:27-2, 18A:48-1, 18A:49-1 through 8, 18A:50-12, 13, and 14, and the Adult Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1201 et seq.

***E. Programs to Support Student Development**

- Approved for publication in the *New Jersey Register* the proposed reoption with amendments at Chapter 16 to establish policies and procedures and to operate programs to support the social, emotional, and physical development of students pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2A:4A-60, 2C:33-19, 18A:4-15, 18A:17-46, 18A:25-2, 18A:36-5.1, 18A:36-19, 18A:36-19a, 18A:36-25, 18A:37-1 through 12, 18A:37-13 et seq., 18A:38-25 through 31, 18A:40A-7.1, and 18A:46A-1 et seq.; 20 U.S.C. § 1232g, 20 U.S.C. § 1232h, and 20 U.S.C. § 1400; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Health Insurance and Portability and Accountability Act; and the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (P.L. 115-141).

New Business

There was no new business.

Public Testimony

The State Board accepted open public written testimony today.

Adjournment

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education adjourned its January 6, 2021, public meeting at 12:50 p.m.

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