

New Jersey State Board of Education
Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of the New Jersey State Board of Education
July 14, 2021

Presiding: Kathy Goldenberg, President

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

Present Constituting A Quorum

Mrs. Mary Beth Berry
Mrs. Elaine Bobrove
Mr. Jack Fornaro
Dr. Nedd Johnson
Mr. Andrew Mulvihill
Dr. Joseph Ricca
Fatimah Burnam- Watkins
Mrs. Sylvia Sylvia

Absent

Mr. Arcelio Aponte
Mrs. Mary Beth Gazi
Dr. Ernest Lepore
Dr. Ronald Butcher

Convening

State Board of Education President Kathy Goldenberg convened the public meeting at 9:03 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 (Department), 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 July 14, 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 July 14, 2021.

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

Election of State Board Officers

Acting Commissioner Angelica Allen-McMillan, acting secretary to the State Board, conducted the annual election of State Board officers. On motions duly seconded and carried, the State Board members unanimously elected Kathy Goldenberg as State Board President and Andrew Mulvihill as State Board Vice President. Both were elected for a one-year term.

President Goldenberg and Vice President Mulvihill expressed their gratitude to the members of the State Board for electing them to their leadership positions.

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 June 16, 2021. State Board member Sylvia Sylvia-Cioffi abstained.

President's Reports

President Goldenberg welcomed the viewing audience to the virtual State Board of Education meeting.

Public Testimony

President Goldenberg stated that the State Board would accept written public testimony on the State Board of Education Rulemaking Process (readoption) and the notice of substantial changes upon adoption related to Standards and Assessment. She also stated that the topic for August written testimony will be the readoption with amendments of Education for Homeless Children and Students in State Facilities.

Report of the Permanent Student Representative

President Goldenberg introduced and welcomed the State Board of Education's the new permanent student representative, Miss Maura Baker. Miss Baker is a rising junior at West

Orange High School in Essex County. She asked Miss Baker to introduce herself and to say a few words.

Miss Baker introduced herself to the State Board members. She also expressed her excitement about the opportunity to represent New Jersey's student body and thanked the NJ State Board of Education for giving her the opportunity to serve as the liaison between herself and New Jersey's students. She also thanked the students of New Jersey for choosing her to be their voice on the State Board of Education for the 2021-2022 school year.

State Board Committee Reports

Policy Committee

Ms. Elaine Bobrove, chair, Policy Committee, stated that the Policy Committee met with Department staff on June 23, 2021.

Ms. Bobrove stated that Department presented preliminary information about adopting qualifying scores for certain assessments related to teacher certification. She further stated the committee also received an initial presentation about the charter school regulations in Chapter 11, and the committee and Department staff will continue to discuss these issues next month in greater detail.

SEL Committee

Ms. Fatimah Burnam-Watkins, chair, SEL Committee, stated that the SEL Committee met with Department staff on June 23, 2021.

Ms. Burnam-Watkins stated that they received an update from Department staff about a number of social and emotional learning (SEL) and mental health initiatives currently underway. She stated they discussed how the Department is supporting districts to address the SEL and mental health needs of students, particularly as schools continue to deal with the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. She further stated the Department updated the committee on the Mental Health Supports and Services Grant, which is being funded by federal ESSER II funds, and the school-based mental health training and technical assistance being provided to districts through a partnership with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Ms. Burnam-Watkins further stated they discussed the Clayton Model program to implement a school-based SEL model serving all students, and that they discussed the impact of the pandemic on students with disabilities who are aging out of the school system and the supports that will be provided to ensure they receive appropriate transition services.

Commissioner's Reports

Honoring New Jersey Department of Education Retiring Employees

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan acknowledged five employees who made the momentous decision to retire.

- Donna Fleming, Marie Katzenbach School for the Deaf, Division of Student Services, December 2000 – July 2021, 20 years of service.

- Lei (Sherry) Gu, Office of Information Technology, Division of Finance, January 2001 – July 2021, 20 years of service.
- Michael McKnight, Cape May County Office, Division of Field Services, August 2002 – July 2021, 19 years of service.
- Carol Webb, Essex County Office, Division of Field Services, July 1984 – July 2021, 37 years of service.
- Ruth Winters, Office of Certification and Induction, Division of Academics and Performance, October 1996-July 2021, 24 years of service.

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan thanked them for their dedication, commitment and contributions over the years and wished them the best of health and happiness in retirement.

The Road Forward

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan stated that on Monday June 28, the Administration proudly released three guidance documents to help school districts, educators, and families provide full-time in-person learning this fall and continue the path to recovery from the effects of COVID-19. She stated those three documents included (1) health and safety strategies to reduce risks to students and staff from COVID-19, while still prioritizing full-time in-person learning; (2) a self-assessment of district readiness to accelerate learning and provide supportive school climates; and (3) a compilation of specific, research-based learning acceleration practices. She further stated the guidance reflects Governor Murphy’s commitment that for the 2021-2022 school year, school districts will provide full-day, full-time in person instruction and operations with all enrolled students and staff present, as they did prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan stated that the release of these documents marked a significant milestone in our battle against COVID-19 in that they represent an actionable blueprint for the return to full-time, full-day in-person instruction, a Road Forward. She thanked all the students, educators, and caregivers whose resilience and ingenuity throughout the pandemic made this milestone possible and that if anyone would like further information and to view the guidance in its entirety, they can visit the Department’s website.

Student Roundtable

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan stated that in collaboration with New Jersey county offices of education and local education agencies, the New Jersey Department of Education’s Virtual Student Roundtable team identified high school students from each of New Jersey’s 21 counties who served as voices in their communities. During the third week of May, these students joined us for Virtual Student Roundtables. 85 student participants representing 82 local education agencies shared their thoughts, ideas, and guidance with me and the rest of the Virtual Student Roundtable team across 12 Virtual Student Roundtable sessions. There were two Virtual Student Roundtable sessions for each of the New Jersey regions we identified: northwest, northeast, central west, central east, southwest, and southeast. Each of the sessions was 45 minutes long, and immediately following the sessions, school counselors were available for a student debrief session.

Students shared their personal experiences and their hopes for the future. Themes that emerged during the Virtual Student Roundtables included students’ wishes to return to consistent educational experiences, students’ resiliency, and students’ desire for connecting with each other.

We are excited to announce that we will be releasing a video summary of this event so that students, educators, parents, and education advocates across New Jersey can benefit from the myriad of insights shared by students who participated in the roundtables.

Items for Consideration:

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

***A. Appointments**

- Approved the following appointment pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-32-35 and N.J.A.C. 6A:2-1.1 et seq.:
 - Kathleen Ehling, Esq, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Student Services.
- Approved the following title change pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-32-35 and N.J.A.C. 6A:2-1.1 et seq.:
 - Dr. Angelica Allen-McMillan, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Executive Services.

***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
Palmyra	Burlington
Oceanport	Monmouth
Mountain Lakes	Morris
Eagleswood Twp.	Ocean
Pinelands Regional	Ocean
North Haledon	Passaic
Roselle Park	Union

***C. School District Operations**

- Approved for publication in the *New Jersey Register* the readoption with amendments and new rules at N.J.A.C. 6A:32, School District Operations, pertaining to the daily operation of schools, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-10 and 15, 18A:6-50, 18A:10-6, 18A:12-21 et seq., 18A:13-14, 18A:16-1, 18A:17-14 through 14.3, 15, 17, 20, and 32, 18A:22-14 and 19, 18A:24-11, 18A:28-9 and 13, 18A:29-9, 11, and 13 to 16, 18A:38-1, 18A:40-12.1, P.L. 2020, c. 27, and the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (P.L. 115-141).

D. Education for Homeless Children and Students in State Facilities

- Discussed the readoption with amendments pertaining to the rules at N.J.A.C. 6A:17, Education for Homeless Children and Students in State Facilities, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7B-1 et seq., 18A:7F-43 et seq., and 18A:38-1.d and 19, 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

State Board member Mary Beth Berry stated that she attended the Career Pathways Institute on June 23, 2021, sponsored by the Department.

Public Testimony

The State Board accepted written testimony on Chapter 8, Standards and Assessment, the notice of substantial changes upon adoption and Chapter 6, State Board of Education Rulemaking.

Adjournment

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education adjourned its July 14, 2021, public meeting at 11:20 a.m.

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