

New Jersey State Board of Education
Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of the New Jersey State Board of Education
June 16, 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

Mrs. Fatimah-Burnam Watkins

Absent

Dr. Ronald Butcher

Mr. Arcelio Aponte

Mrs. Mary Beth Gazi

Dr. Ernest Lepore

Mrs. Sylvia Sylvia

Convening

State Board of Education President Kathy Goldenberg convened the public meeting at 9:10am 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 June 16, 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 June 16, 2021.

Reconvening

President Kathy Goldenberg reconvened the open meeting at 10:15 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 May 4, 2021.

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 School District Operations readoption with amendments. Additionally, she stated that the July public testimony session will accept written testimony on State Board of Education Rulemaking Process and Standards and Assessment notice of substantial changes upon adoption.

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. She stated that today is Miss Capoli's last meeting as student representative and asked Miss Capoli to say a few words.

Miss Capoli stated that time flies and it feels like just yesterday she was introducing herself to everyone. She thanked Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan, Interim Commissioner Dehmer, President Goldenberg, Vice President Mulvihill, and the rest of the State Board members for allowing the students to have a voice through her lens. She stated that although unusual, this past year has been an experience of a lifetime as she was given the opportunity to speak to thousands of

board members through the New Jersey State Board Association's virtual workshop series, be featured on a podcast series for the first time ever, and share the thoughts of students each month at the monthly Board meetings. She stated that education is truly her passion, and she feels like the luckiest girl in the world to be here today with all of us. Miss Capoli thanked her advisor, Ms. Erica Maira, for her unwavering support through this entire process and her entire high school career. She concluded that although she is very sad to go, she is very excited to see where this next chapter will take her as she leaves for Notre Dame in August.

President Goldenberg expressed her deepest appreciation to Miss Capoli for serving as the student representative to the State Board. She stated she has been a wonderful student liaison and wished her continued academic and personal success at the University of Notre Dame. She thanked her advisor, Ms. Erica Maira, and asked Miss Capoli to stay in touch and let them know how she is doing.

President Goldenberg stated that the State Board and the Commissioner would like to consider a ceremonial resolution in honor of Sabrina Capoli, the 2020-2021 Permanent Student Representative to the State Board.

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board unanimously approved the following resolution read by State Board President Kathy Goldenberg:

Resolution in Honor of Sabrina Capoli

Whereas, Sabrina Capoli, a student at Seneca High School in Burlington County, has served with dedication as the student representative to the New Jersey State Board of Education from July 2020 to June 2021; and

Whereas, Sabrina has ably executed her duties as the State Board's liaison to the student community with commitment, interest and enthusiasm, and has been an exceptional representative of both the New Jersey Association of Student Councils and Seneca High School;

Whereas, Sabrina's monthly presentations at virtual State Board meetings were candid, timely, and thought-provoking, and provided poignant reminders of the student viewpoint during the unprecedented 2020-2021 school year; and

Whereas, Sabrina was keenly aware and aptly articulated that there were common threads to the student experience in New Jersey during the COVID-19 pandemic, and that every student faced a unique set of challenges and triumphs; and

Whereas, Sabrina used as her guidepost the voices of all of her peers to further advance the Department of Education's support for students, families and school districts during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

Whereas, Sabrina contributed significantly to the Department's Virtual Student Roundtable discussions by assisting in the development of the questions asked to students, welcoming students at the beginning of each roundtable, and providing opening remarks for the video showcasing highlights from the student roundtables; and

Whereas, Sabrina further elevated the student voice by offering insights on the pandemic as a keynote presenter at the New Jersey School Boards Association's Virtual Workshop 2020; now therefore be it

Resolved, that the members of the New Jersey State Board of Education and Acting Commissioner of Education Angelica Allen-McMillan extend their sincere congratulations and appreciation to Sabrina Capoli for a job very well done; and be it further

Resolved, that the New Jersey State Board of Education and the Acting Commissioner of Education acknowledge Sabrina Capoli's personal and academic excellence, as well as her leadership qualities, and that they wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan stated that on behalf of the Department of Education and the State Board, she would like to thank Miss Capoli for serving as the student representative to the State Board for the past year. She stated that although her time as the representative has been less than traditional and they haven't been able to meet in person, she has been resilient and met the challenge. The Commissioner expressed how grateful she is for her involvement and assistance to the Department to further advance efforts to districts and families during the pandemic, and that Miss Capoli has been deeply committed and dedicated to the student voice during the pandemic. The Commissioner wished her continued academic and personal success and asked that she stay in touch to let us know how she is doing at Notre Dame. The Commissioner also extended her thanks to her advisor, Ms. Erica Maira, whose help and guidance this year has been invaluable and greatly appreciated by all of us at the Department. The Commissioner stated that at this time she would like to announce that Maura Baker, a sophomore from West Orange, who will replace Sabrina as the new 2021-2022 permanent student representative in July.

Report of State Board Nominating Committee

Mrs. Fatimah Burnam Watkins, chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the committee's nominations President for the 2021-2022 school year: Mrs. Kathy Goldenberg for president and Mr. Andrew Mulvihill for vice president. The vote will occur next month. State Board members Mr. Arcelio Aponte and Mrs. Mary Beth Berry also served on the committee.

State Board Committee Reports

Policy Committee

Ms. Elaine Bobrove, chair, Policy Committee, stated that the Policy Committee met with Department staff on May 19, 2021 and May 21, 2021.

Ms. Bobrove stated that at the first meeting Colleen Schulz-Eskow spoke about the Road Forward and the Road Back Plan, and the stakeholder groups that would be meeting to discuss this. She stated they also discussed School District Operations, but she won't report on it since it is going to be a topic on the agenda at today's meeting.

Ms. Bobrove stated that at the second meeting they talked extensively about the School Ethics Commission and what they plan on doing. She stated it will be presented at the August meeting.

Commissioner's Reports

Honoring New Jersey Department of Education Retiring Employees

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

- Caryl Carthew, Office of Special Education, Division of Student Services, July 1997 – June 2021, 23 years of service.
- Daniel Marino, Marie Katzenbach School for the Deaf, Division of Student Services, June 2011 – June 2021, 10 years of service.
- Gail Rivas, Marie Katzenbach School for the Deaf, Division of Student Services, January 1985 – June 2021, 36 years of service.

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

Paul Harris Fellow

Commissioner Allen-McMillan stated that President Goldenberg was recently recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow at a meeting of the Moorestown Rotary Club by The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International. She stated that President Goldenberg was recognized in for her tangible and significant assistance given for the furtherance of better understanding and friendly relations among the peoples of the world.

Commissioner Allen-McMillan stated that New Jersey Congressman Andy Kim presented President Goldenberg with the Paul Harris Fellow Recognition Certificate and lapel pin.

New Jersey Interim Assessment Data Collection

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan offered the findings from the local education agency (LEA) interim data collection. She stated that while analysis is ongoing, she is excited to feature the work of the Department and our LEAs in continuing to evaluate the performance of the students we serve.

Acting whether students were either on grade level, below grade level, or above grade level. She stated that this data collection will help to identify performance gaps and opportunities, help LEAs determine how to use the American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds, and help the Department implement a more equitable education through broad and targeted assistance. She stated that she remains committed to using this data with the most productivity in guiding LEAs to thoughtful implementation of areas to examine and to accelerate learning by removing barriers to equitable access to education. She introduced Dr. Lisa Gleason, Assistant Commissioner of the Division of Academics and Performance, to provide the report.

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.:
 - Dr. Jorden Schiff, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Field Services effective July 19, 2021.

***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
Greenwich Twp.	Cumberland
Alpha	Warren
Great Meadows Regional	Warren

***C. Programs to Support Student Development**

- Approved for publication in the *New Jersey Register* the proposed readoption 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). State Board member Jack Fornaro abstained.

***D. Resolution to Adopt the Annual State Board Calendar of Meeting Dates**

- Adopted the following resolution establishing the annual calendar of 2021-2022 meeting dates of the State Board of Education set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:1-2.2, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-7 and 10:4-6 et seq.

Resolution to Adopt The Annual State Board Calendar of Meeting Dates

Whereas, N.J.S.A. 18A:4-7 states that, the State Board of Education shall hold public meetings at least once each month at such times as its rules may prescribe and at such other times and such places within the state as in its judgment may be necessary, but no meeting may commence later than 8:00 p.m.; and

Whereas, N.J.A.C. 6A:1-2.2 requires that such meetings be held at such time, place, and on such dates as established by the State Board, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., Open Public Meetings Act, and notice of such meetings shall be made in a manner consistent with the law; now therefore be

Resolved, that the State Board establishes the following dates for its monthly business meetings and public testimony sessions for the 2021-2022 school year and directs that a copy of the dates be sent to the Governor, the Secretary of State, the news media, the executive county superintendents, and the State Board agenda subscribers.

Regular Public Business Meetings/Public Testimony Sessions 2021-2022

July 14	November 3	March 2
August 4	December 1	April 6
September 8	January 5	May 4
October 6	February 2	June 1

***Open Topic Testimony Sessions 2021-2022**

*September 8	*January 5	*May 4
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****Alternate Board Meeting Dates in The Event of Snow Cancellations**

**December 15	**January 19	**February 16	**March 16
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Notice of changes in the above will be made in compliance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act.

***E. Resolution to Accept Donations**

- Adopted the following resolution approving the acceptance of up to \$25,000 in-kind donations.

Resolution to Accept Donations

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 New Jersey Department of Education (Department) is in receipt of an in-kind donation of services totaling \$25,000 from The New Teacher Project (TNTP).

Whereas, the services will provide the Department with the resources to support and identify policy and programmatic opportunities to encourage educator preparation programs to strengthen the ethno-racial diversity of their candidates and completers, as well as to ensure that all completers are effectively trained in culturally responsive pedagogy; now therefore be it

Resolved, that the New Jersey State Board of Education approves the acceptance of the in-kind donation for the aforementioned specified purposes.

F. School District Operations

- Discussed 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).

New Business

There was no new business.

Public Testimony

The State Board accepted written testimony on the readoption with amendments of chapter 16, School District Operations.

Adjournment

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education adjourned its June 16, 2021, public meeting at 12:12 p.m.

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