

**New Jersey State Board of Education**  
**Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of the New Jersey State Board of Education**  
**December 7, 2022**

**Presiding:** Kathy Goldenberg, President

**Secretary:** Dr. Angelica Allen-McMillan, Acting Commissioner

**Present Constituting a Quorum**

Mr. Andrew Mulvihill

Mrs. Elaine Bobrove

Mrs. Mary Beth Berry

Mr. Jack Fornaro

Dr. Joseph Ricca

Dr. Nedd Johnson

Dr. Ronald Butcher

Mr. Arcelio Aponte

**Absent**

Dr. Ernest Lepore

Mrs. Fatimah Burnam-Watkins

Mrs. Sylvia Sylvia

Mrs. Mary Beth Gazi

**Convening**

State Board of Education President Kathy Goldenberg convened the public meeting at 9:17 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 ensure 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 December 7, 2022, 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 December 7, 2022.

### **Reconvening**

President Kathy Goldenberg reconvened the open meeting at 10:57 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**

President Goldenberg welcomed the public and thanked everyone for joining the State Board for another virtual meeting. She also acknowledged that today is Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by State Board Member, Mrs. Mary Beth Berry.

### **Statement by President Goldenberg**

President Goldenberg stated that she would like to clarify misinformation that has been circulating in the public. She stated that with respect to the release of the State Board agenda, the State Board agenda is released each month in accordance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) and is posted on the State Board's web page 48 hours prior to the State Board's monthly public business meeting.

President Goldenberg stated that with respect to the public comment on the State Board accepting written testimony on the rulemaking proposals currently under consideration, in accordance with the schedule established by the Administrative Procedures Act (APA), the Board receives, reviews and considers all comments received.

President Goldenberg stated that with respect to the return to in person meetings, the State Board continues to endeavor and investigate a hybrid approach in January working with the Department to ensure that the appropriate technological needs are met for all interested parties. She further stated we will keep the public notified with any changes to the schedule but hope to begin a hybrid system in January.

### **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 November 9, 2022. State Board Members Arcelio Aponte abstained.

## **President's Reports**

### **Public Testimony**

President Goldenberg stated that the State Board will receive testimony on Chapter 15, Bilingual Education, readoption with amendments. For the month of January, the State Board will receive written Open Topic Public Testimony on any educational topic of choice.

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

President Goldenberg introduced the State Board of Education's permanent student representative, Miss Lauren Knopp. Miss Knopp is a senior at Ocean High School in Cape May county. She asked Miss Knopp to present her report for the month of October.

Ms. Knopp stated the importance of extracurricular activities and their role in the local community surrounding a school district. She stated Ocean City High School's student council has run successful food drives for decades during this time of the year and that their annual food drive is one of the primary outlets for donations to the local food pantry in her community. She further stated in addition to the food drive, the National Honor Society organizes a clothing drive in January for their local community and their PRISM club organizes an item drive in December for the Covenant House in Atlantic City for youth subjected to homelessness and trafficking. She stated in addition to charitable work, their school participates in other extracurricular activities that provide community engagement within the school. Ms. Knopp stated involvement within the community develops a mindset of citizenship and civic engagement students should develop and acquire throughout their lives, and hopes that people can help in supporting students in every endeavor they pursue to make the holidays extra special for their communities.

## **State Board Committee Reports**

### *Assessment Committee*

Mr. Arcelio Aponte, chair of the Assessment committee, stated that the committee met with Department staff on November 21, 2022 to discuss the results for the 2021-2022 New Jersey Student Learning Assessment, the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment and the National Assessment of Educational Progress (or NAEP). The Department staff and Committee members discussed the assessment results that will be presented publicly by the Department later on during this meeting.

### *Policy Committee*

Ms. Elaine Bobrove, chair of the Policy committee, stated that the committee met with Department staff on November 30, 2022, to present on the readoption with amendments of Chapter 7, Managing for Equality and Equity in Education. The chapter establishes the required components of the comprehensive equity plans that all school districts must develop and implement. We discussed the amendments being proposed, as well as a number of issues related to equity. As the rulemaking is on today's agenda at first discussion, I will forgo any further details about the proposal.

## **Resolution in Honor of Dr. Ernest Lepore**

President Goldenberg stated that Dr. Ernest Lepore has decided to step down from the State Board effective January 1, 2023. She asked that the State Board adopt a resolution in honor of Dr. Ernest Lepore.

The State Board unanimously adopted the following resolution read by State Board member Arcelio Aponte in honor of Dr. Ernest Lepore.

### **Resolution to Honor Dr. Ernest P. Lepore**

**Whereas**, Dr. Ernest P. Lepore was first appointed to the New Jersey State Board of Education in 2004, and is being honored for his commitment and dedication to public education through his role as an education policymaker having served under five Governors, seven State Board of Education Presidents and collaborated with 12 Commissioners of Education; and

**Whereas**, Dr. Lepore played an integral part in facilitating the institution of a variety of initiatives to support the needs of students, including revised academic standards, graduation requirements and assessments, and the expansion of early childhood education, all of which challenged the education community to expand the view of a traditional education and consider the diverse needs of students; and

**Whereas**, Dr. Lepore contributed significantly to the work of the State Board and the Department of Education through his service on the Legal Committee, Legislative/Administrative Code Committee, Strategic Planning/Retreat Committee, and the Urban Education Committee; and

**Whereas**, through his service on the Local Control Committee, Dr. Lepore consistently contributed to the decisions to return local control to three of the State-operated school districts during his tenure on the State Board; and

**Whereas**, Dr. Lepore has been recognized not only for his extensive and outstanding service to public education at the preschool, elementary and high school levels but also through his exemplary career in higher education and his service to numerous professional advisory boards, associations and conferences at national and international levels; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Board of Education recognizes Dr. Ernest P. Lepore's numerous accomplishments and his contributions to education in New Jersey through his qualities as an insightful, innovative policymaker and advocate for all children and educators, as well as his personal qualities of warmth, wit, and unconventional style; now therefore be it

**Resolved**, it is both fitting and proper that the New Jersey State Board of Education and the Acting Commissioner of Education express their sincere appreciation for Dr. Ernest P. Lepore's commitment to his role as a State Board member and for his service to the education community; and be it further

**Resolved**, the New Jersey State Board of Education appreciates his dedication and service to the children of New Jersey.

## **New Jersey Professionals Recognition**

President Goldenberg presented opening remarks to the honorees and special guests invited in recognition of New Jersey's exemplary teachers and administrators which included the Superintendent of the Year, William T. Smith, School Business Administrator of the Year, Stacy Garvey, Visionary Principals of the Year, Chris Turnbull and Stella Nwanjuma, State Teacher of the Year Finalists, Daryl Detrick, Ian Evans and Leana Malinowsky, and Milken Educator Award Recipients Taylor Potts Matyas, Sarah Mae Lagasca, and Shaina Brenner.

President Goldenberg turned the meeting over to Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan and Acting Assistant Commissioner Dr. Jordan Schiff to emcee the event. President Goldenberg concluded the program expressing her appreciation to all the distinguished guests and congratulated the honorees for their accomplishments.

## **Commissioner's Reports**

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan took a moment to honor all veterans who served our country, reminding all that while Veterans Day was officially celebrated on November 11, shortly after last month's State Board meeting, she felt it imperative to take the time to recognize those who have served so selflessly in our military.

## **In Case You Missed It**

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan stated that on November 22<sup>nd</sup>, the second Notice of Funding Opportunity or NFO closed for preschool expansion funding, and the Department is in the process of reviewing the new applications and anticipate notifying the qualifying districts very shortly. She further stated that on November 11, she visited the New Jersey Education Association's annual convention in Atlantic City to take part in a "fireside chat" program. She stated she was able to discuss various educational topics with Steve Beatty, Vice President of the NJEA and that it is important we keep open the lines of communications with teachers and other school staff. Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan further stated on November 15, she gave the keynote address at the Newark Board of Education's Annual Title I Parent Conference to speak about the importance of parental engagement, and the conference offered families various workshops, resources, and breakout sessions on issues ranging from autism to Medicaid benefits. She further stated on November 15<sup>th</sup>, she visited University High School in Newark, where she visited two 10<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms spoke with several teachers and met with a student journalist who interviewed her as part of a documentary titled, "Y Teach." which will focus on the nation's teacher shortage, the impact of quality educators, and why teaching matters.

Commissioner Allen-McMillan wished everyone a gratifying holiday season, and a healthy and prosperous 2023.

## **2021-2022 Statewide Assessment Data Overview**

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan highlighted a new initiative called the New Jersey Partnership for Success (NJ PSS), designed to help with learning recovery among our students and offered the findings from the 2021-2022 Statewide Assessment Data.

She introduced Dr. Jordan Schiff, Acting Assistant Commissioner of the Division of Teaching and Learning Services and Mr. John Boczany, Acting Director of the Office of Assessments, to provide the assessment 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.:
  - John Boczany, Director, Office of Assessments, Division of Teaching and Learning Services.

**\*B. Certification of School Districts**

- There were no districts for certification.

**C. Chapter 15, Bilingual Education**

- Discussed the readoption with amendments pertaining to bilingual education at N.J.A.C. 6A:15, Bilingual Education, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-15 and 18A:35-15 to 26 and Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (P.L. 114-95).

**D. Chapter 7, Managing for Equality and Equity in Education**

- Discussed the readoption with amendments pertaining to equality and equity in education at N.J.A.C. 6A:7, Managing for Equality and Equity in Education, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-15 and 18A:36-20.

**New Business**

President Goldenberg restated the following from her opening statements.

President Goldenberg stated that she would like to once again clarify misinformation that has been circulating in the public. She stated that with respect to the release of the State Board agenda, the State Board agenda is released each month in accordance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) and is posted on the State Board’s web page 48 hours prior to the State Board’s monthly public business meeting.

President Goldenberg stated that with respect to the public comment on the State Board accepting written testimony on the rulemaking proposals currently under consideration, in accordance with the schedule established by the Administrative Procedures Act (APA), the Board receives, reviews and considers all comments received.

President Goldenberg stated that with respect to the return to in person meetings, the State Board continues to endeavor and investigate a hybrid approach in January working with the

Department to ensure that the appropriate technological needs are met for all interested parties. She further stated we will keep the public notified with any changes to the schedule but hope to begin a hybrid system in January.

**Public Testimony**

For the month of December, the State Board accepted written testimony on Chapter 15, Bilingual Education, readoption with amendments.

**Adjournment**

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education adjourned its December 7, 2022, public meeting at 4:06 p.m.

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