

**Minutes of the Meeting of the New Jersey State Board of Education
In the Conference Room on the First Floor
100 River View Executive Plaza
Trenton, NJ
July 12, 2023**

Presiding: Kathy Goldenberg, President

Secretary: Angelica Allen-McMillan, Acting Commissioner

Present Constituting a Quorum

Mr. Arcelio Aponte
Mrs. Mary Beth Berry
Mrs. Elaine Bobrove
Mr. Jack Fornaro
Dr. Nedd Johnson
Dr. Joseph Ricca
Mrs. Sylvia Sylvia

Absent

Mr. Andrew Mulvihill
Dr. Ronald Butcher
Mrs. Fatimah Burnam-Watkins
Mrs. Mary Beth Gazi

Convening

State Board of Education President Kathy Goldenberg convened the public meeting at 9:20 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 July 12, 2023, 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 July 12, 2023.

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

President Goldenberg welcomed the public to the meeting and thanked those either in person or virtually who are participating.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sylvia Sylvia-Cioffi.

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 expressed her 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 7, 2023.

President's Reports

Public Testimony

For the month of July, there are no topics for public testimony. For the month of August, there are no topics scheduled for public testimony.

Report of the Permanent Student Representative

President Goldenberg introduced the State Board of Education's new permanent student representative, Miss Nilanjana (Nillie) Ghosh. Miss Ghosh is a rising junior at West Windsor-Plainsboro High School North.

Miss Ghosh introduced herself to the State Board members. She stated she is honored to be chosen as the 2023-2024 permanent student representative for the State Board of Education. She further stated she aims to advocate for the students she represents, and it is an honor to have the opportunity to be of service to her peers.

State Board Committee Reports

Policy Committee

Ms. Elaine Bobrove, chair of the Policy committee stated the committee met on June 19, 2023, to discuss the Department's request for the State Board to adopt revised cut scores for Praxis® assessments in general science, biology, chemistry, physics, earth and space sciences, and computer science. She stated these are the appropriate State tests of subject matter knowledge that are required for candidates to earn the corresponding endorsements to teach the subject matter. She further stated the resolution is on today's agenda for discussion, so she will forgo further description of the proposed changes.

Ms. Bobrove stated they had brief discussions about the proposed readoptions with amendments of Chapter 15, Bilingual Education, and Chapter 7, Managing for Equality and Equity in Education and that Chapter 15 is on today's agenda. She stated the comments received for Chapter 7 continue to be reviewed and the proposal likely will be considered by the State Board at adoption level in August.

Assessment Committee

Mr. Arcelio Aponte, chair of the Assessment Committee stated the committee met on June 13, 2023, to discuss an adjustment to the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) cut scores. He stated as the committee discussion correlates to an item on today's agenda, he will forgo the rest of his report.

Commissioner's Reports

In Case You Missed It

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan expressed her sincere gratitude to Governor Murphy and the New Jersey Legislature for the historic investment in education through the fiscal year 2024 budget. She stated that the Department of Education's budget totals \$19.8 billion, an increase of \$1.048 billion or 5.6% over the fiscal 2023 adjusted appropriation of \$18.760 billion. School Aid State Aid to school districts for fiscal year 2024 is over \$12.5 billion, an increase of \$766 million over the fiscal 2023 adjusted appropriation. She also stated that this includes reallocations of aid through the school funding formula. She further stated that the funding will also be provided to support the continued expansion of preschool programs, and existing districts will receive a per pupil increase applied to their projected enrollments.

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan stated that funding will be provided to support Charter School Aid to ensure that the funding each charter school receives in fiscal 2024 is not less than the 2023 funding, on a total revenue basis. She stated that direct State payments for education is \$6.028 billion in fiscal year 2024 and will support the costs of teachers' pensions, post-retirement medical benefits and Social Security payments. She also stated that the 2024 budget includes a \$3 million appropriation to support investment in community schools, to provide healthcare and other non-academic community resources co-located within schools. She further stated that the budget also includes funding to help ensure New Jersey has the trained and dedicated work force to provide top-quality education to our public-school students for years into the future, including \$2 million for Culture and Climate Innovation Grants to help address educator quality of life issues, \$1 million to develop local partnerships for paraprofessional training, \$1 million for a public media campaign and \$500 thousand to expand the Teacher Leader Network.

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan stated on July 1, 2023, Governor Murphy announced a Certification Fee Holiday for all New Jersey educator certificates and associated fees

for one year through June 30, 2024. She also stated that the goal of the fee holiday is to bolster the teaching profession and recognize the invaluable contributions of educators while aiming to alleviate a financial burden for both current and aspiring educators in the State of New Jersey.

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan stated that the department will recognize Social Wellness Month in July, promote summer learning and safety and continue to work on programs and initiatives to prepare for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year. She also stated that our work remains to ensure continued progress and success of our educators, students, and communities. She further stated that the Department continues to review grant applications for a share of \$350 million for high-priority capital projects for Regular Operating Districts. These grants are made possible through legislation signed in 2022 by Governor Murphy, with the goal of addressing critical operational building needs in more than 550 regular operating school districts in the state. Once eligibility has been determined, funding will be executed through the New Jersey Schools Development Authority to the districts.

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan updated the State Board members on the following recent initiatives and outreach that demonstrate the continued efforts to support New Jersey's students and educators. She stated that social media efforts in June marked Pride Month, honoring the LGBTQ+ community and their ongoing contributions to society. She also stated that the department continued to recognize the Good News in NJ Schools (#GoodNewsinNJSchools) as graduations and honors were bestowed on our students and educators. She further stated that the Department continued to work with the New Jersey Partnership for Student Success to promote affiliated resource documents and information for potential volunteers.

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan stated that the Department issued information on Chapter 9 to stakeholders via Broadcast and social media channels to ensure that every student, school, and district have access to well-trained, effective educators who meet the needs of their communities; as well as to increase diversity and the supply of educators all while maintaining New Jersey's high standards for educators. She also stated that she issued the second monthly newsletter on June 21st for teachers in the online "Teacher Toolkit." She further stated that the NJDOE Monthly Teacher Newsletter provides information and resources to educators, along with messages from New Jersey's Teacher of the Year, information on the services provided by Department offices, and helpful resources for everything from instruction aids to professional development. The toolkit can be found from the DOE's homepage by clicking on the word "Educators" in the blue bar at the top to access the latest newsletter.

Items for Consideration

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

***A. Appointments**

- There we 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
Stone Harbor	Cape May
Essex County Schools of Technology	Essex
Clayton	Gloucester
Monroe Twp.	Gloucester
Delaware Twp.	Hunterdon
Tewksbury Twp.	Hunterdon
Robbinsville	Mercer
Warren Hills Regional	Warren

***C. Chapter 15, Bilingual Education**

- Adopted 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. Resolution to Establish Performance Level Cut Scores for Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM): Grades 3 through 8 and Grade 11 Mathematics and English Language Arts

- Discussed the resolution approving the New Jersey Performance Level Cut Scores for Dynamic Learning Maps, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1(b)1.

Resolution to Establish Performance Level Cut Score Standards for Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM): English Language Arts And Mathematics

Whereas, the New Jersey State Board of Education (State Board) has required that all students in grades three through high school be assessed in English language arts and mathematics, and students enrolled in grade five, grade eight, and high school be assessed in science in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4; and

Whereas, according to Section 1111(b)(2) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), each state may provide for alternate assessments aligned with the challenging state academic standards and alternate academic achievement standards for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities; and

Whereas, according to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1(d)3, at specific times prescribed by the Commissioner, district boards of education shall administer the alternative assessment for students with disabilities to students with severe disabilities who cannot participate in other assessments due to the severity of their disabilities; and

Whereas, the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) alternate assessment is provided for assessing student progress toward demonstrating a thorough understanding of essential knowledge and skills delineated by the State standards as the alternative assessment for students with severe disabilities; and

Whereas, standard setting studies were completed in accordance with industry best practices in large-scale assessment to determine the assessments' validity and the theoretically appropriate performance level cut scores; and

Whereas, the State Board acknowledges the Department’s selection of the consortium adopted DLM performance level cut scores; and

Whereas, the Department will monitor the impact of these tests and performance level cut scores on the performance rates for each grade level where the test is administered and will report any problems with the same to the State Board; now therefore be it

Resolved, that the New Jersey State Board of Education hereby approves the following performance level cut scores, effective July 12, 2023:

DLM English Language Arts (ELA)

Grade	Approaching	Target	Advanced
3	36	50	71
4	38	57	75
5	35	53	76
6	27	46	65
7	27	52	73
8	23	48	72
11	18	47	70

DLM Mathematics Cut Scores

Grade	Approaching	Target	Advanced
3	12	21	37
4	20	30	56
5	15	32	48
6	13	28	38
7	19	37	53
8	17	40	53
11	8	18	38

E. Resolution to Establish Revised PRAXIS Tests and Qualifying Scores for PRAXIS General Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Earth and Space Sciences and New Test and Qualifying Score for the Computer Science Endorsement

- Discussed the resolution to establish revised tests and qualifying scores for PRAXIS General Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Earth and Space Sciences and a new test and qualifying score for the Computer Science endorsement, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.1.

Resolution to Adopt Revised Praxis Tests and Qualifying Scores for Praxis General Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Earth and Space Sciences and a New Test and Qualifying Score for Computer Science

Whereas, the State Board of Education has required that teacher certification candidates pass tests in specified disciplines in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.1 that became effective May 1, 2023; and

Whereas, the Educational Testing Service (ETS) has recently revised and established new recommended qualifying scores for revised tests in the subject areas of Praxis General Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Earth Sciences to replace the current tests used by the Department; and

Whereas, the Department has recently adopted a new Computer Science endorsement and Educational Testing Service (ETS) has recently established a new test in the subject area of Computer Science;

Whereas, New Jersey stakeholders have participated in national standard-setting studies for the General Science, Biology, Chemistry, Earth Sciences, and Computer Science tests; and

Whereas, the Department will monitor the impact of these tests and qualifying scores on the passing rates for each subject area and will report any problems with the same to the State Board of Education; now therefore be it

Resolved, that the State Board of Education hereby supports the Department’s selection of these Praxis tests; and be it further

Resolved, that the State Board of Education hereby acknowledges and accepts the tests and adopts the following qualifying scores effective September 1, 2023:

Qualifying Score

Biology	154
Chemistry	156
Earth Science	154
General Science	141
Physics	145
Computer Science	149

New Business

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan stated that the Department continues to pursue efforts to use ASVAB as a second pathway to graduation but that currently this once accessible option remains unavailable. She also stated that the Department is currently engaged in conversations with the Department of Defense, and we are working to understanding how we can gain access to the data to eventually make ASVAB a viable option to students in the future.

State Board members Sylvia Sylvia, Arcelio Aponte and Joseph Ricca thanked and congratulated President Goldenberg and Vice President Mulvihill for their dedication and commitment of time to the leadership positions for another year.

Public Testimony

For the month of July, there were no topics scheduled for discussion.

Adjournment

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education adjourned its July 12, 2023, public meeting at 11:51 a.m.

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