

**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  
November 1, 2023**

**Presiding:** Kathy Goldenberg, President

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

**Present Constituting a Quorum**

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

**Absent**

Mrs. Fatimah Burnam-Watkins  
Mrs. Mary Beth Gazi

**Convening**

State Board of Education President Kathy Goldenberg convened the public meeting at 9:12 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 November 1, 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 November 1, 2023.

### **Reconvening**

President Kathy Goldenberg reconvened the open meeting at 10:35 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**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mary Beth Berry.

President Goldenberg welcomed the public to the meeting and thanked those who are participating. She stated the State Board meetings are accessible to the public for viewing on YouTube Channel and would like to advise that YouTube provides readily accessible language translation options for closed captioning. She further stated if you are viewing this simulcast now, you can use the settings option in YouTube for information about sub-titles, auto translations and closed captioning in multiple languages.

### **Moment of Silence**

President Goldenberg requested a moment of silence to remember the lives lost in the Middle East.

### **Approval of Minutes of The Meeting**

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board members approved the minutes of the public meeting conducted on October 4, 2023. State Board member Ronald Butcher abstained.

### **President's Reports**

#### **Public Testimony**

President Goldenberg stated that for the month of November, there are no topics scheduled for public testimony. For the month of December, the State Board will receive public testimony on amendments to Chapter 14, Special Education.

#### **Welcome of the Permanent Student Representative**

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

Ms. Nilanjana Ghosh spoke about her experience attending the NJASC Fall Conference on October 10 at The College of New Jersey and her experience delivering the keynote speech at the New Jersey School Boards Association Workshop held on October 24 in Atlantic City. She further spoke about her school choir taking part in their annual Kristallnacht Commemoration on November 8 at a local synagogue, an event which marks the remembrance of the “Night of Broken Glass” and the beginning of the Holocaust.

### **State Board Committee Reports**

President Goldenberg stated there were no committee meetings scheduled for the month of October.

### **Resolution in Recognition of Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Membership Month in New Jersey**

President Goldenberg requested that the State Board adopt a resolution recognizing November as Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Membership Month in New Jersey.

The State Board unanimously adopted the following resolution read by State Board member Sylvia Sylvia recognizing November as Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Membership Month in New Jersey.

#### **Resolution In Recognition Of November 2023 As New Jersey Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Membership Month**

**Whereas**, the New Jersey Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is an association advocating for the benefit of children’s education and well-being by focusing attention on issues affecting youth and public education; and

**Whereas**, for more than 121 years, the New Jersey PTA has served the needs of children, teachers, parents, and schools through active volunteerism; and

**Whereas**, the New Jersey PTA promotes family engagement in schools and communities, advocates for public education, and provides a network of local, State, and national voices speaking together on behalf of all children; and

**Whereas**, among the millions of members of the National PTA, the New Jersey PTA has more than 95,000 members in almost 600 Local PTAs; and

**Whereas**, the strength of the PTA lies in its membership -- the volunteers who tirelessly devote themselves to making the world better for children and youth; now, therefore, be it

**Resolved**, that the New Jersey State Board of Education and the Acting Commissioner of Education encourage everyone to become advocates for children and show their support for their local PTA or the Garden State PTA, which is the Statewide local PTA; and be it further

**Resolved**, that the New Jersey State Board of Education and the Acting Commissioner of Education commend the hardworking individuals and members serving in their local, State, and national roles in PTA and recognize November 2023 as New Jersey PTA Membership Month.

President Goldenberg introduced Ms. Sharon Roseboro, President, New Jersey Parent Teacher Association (PTA) to accept the resolution.

## **New Jersey School Boards Association Workshop 2023**

President Kathy Goldenberg stated that on Tuesday, October 24, 2023, she along with Vice President Andrew Mulvihill, and State Board members Ron Butcher and Nedd Johson attended and participated in a panel discussion at the New Jersey School Boards Association Workshop 2023 at the Atlantic City Convention Center in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

### **Commissioner's Reports**

#### **In Case You Missed It**

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan stated that in early October, she gave remarks in Morris School District to kick off a partnership between Morristown High School and the County College of Morris, which is committed to helping motivate middle and high school students gain access to tutoring, mentoring, and other preparatory programs at no cost. She stated this is a significant milestone in our commitment to education and the future of our youth and she is excited to see the transformational efforts of this collaboration and the positive impact it will have on the lives of countless students. She further stated the Department of Education had the pleasure to join in the awarding of three Milken Foundation awards in October and congratulated these exemplary teachers: elementary teacher Taylor Trost of Grace Norton Rogers Elementary School in East Windsor Regional School District; high school mathematics teacher Riley Gartland of Cinnaminson High School in Cinnaminson Township School District; and high school science teacher Virginia Fasulo of Lodi High School in Lodi Public Schools.

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan stated many department staff attended the annual NJPSA Fall Conference themed "Making Excellence Happen," held in October in Atlantic City. She stated that Assistant Commissioner Dr. Jorden Schiff gave welcome remarks and presented honored attendees with the Dr. Ernest L. Boyer Outstanding Educator award and the Visionary awards. She further stated commissioners Dr. Irving, Ms. Ehling, Dr. Schiff, and Mr. Booker participated in a panel discussion that fostered open dialogue with state education leadership.

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan stated that on October 18, Assistant Commissioner Cary Booker and she joined Acting Governor Tahesha Way in announcing new funding for statewide preschool services. She stated the \$25 million in funding will be used to expand access to high-quality preschool programs across New Jersey, adding 1,715 seats across 26 districts which ensures over 190 districts will now have access to these vital resources.

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan stated that on October 24th, she was the keynote speaker at the NJSBA Workshop themed "Today's Students ... Tomorrow's Superheroes." She stated the focus was on how we can nurture a positive collective legacy of education at every grade band: high school, middle school, and elementary school that includes pre3-k.

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan stated our social media campaigns in October included National Principals Month, Careers in Construction Month, and Cybersecurity Awareness Month, and they also promoted the New Jersey Week of Respect, National Stop Bullying Day, and the challenge coin contest for the upcoming commissioning of the USS New Jersey submarine.

**Items for Consideration**

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

**\*A. Appointments**

- Approved the following appointments pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-32-35 and N.J.A.C. 6A:2-1.1 et seq.:
  - Mr. Christopher Huber, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Legal and External Services
  - Ms. Brigid Martens, Director, Office of School Ethics, Division of Legal and External Services
  - Ms. Michelle Whitmore, Equal Employment Opportunity Officer
  - Ms. Tami Strege, Director, Office of Standards, Division of Teaching and Learning 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
Springfield Township School District	Burlington
Orange Board of Education School District	Essex
Roosevelt Borough Public School District	Monmouth

**\*C. Chapter 3, Controversies and Disputes**

- Approved for publication in the *New Jersey Register* the readoption with amendments at N.J.A.C. 6A:3, Controversies and Disputes, pertaining to the rules of procedure for the filing of petitions with the Commissioner of Education to hear and decide controversies and disputes arising under school laws, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-9 and 10; 18A:7-4; 18A:7A-15 and 42.a(3); 18A:7F-9; 18A:11-3; 18A:12-29; 18A:20-36; 18A:26-10; 18A:28-8; 18A:29-4 and 14; 18A:33-2; 18A:38-1 and 13; 18A:39-28 et seq.; 18A:54-4; and 18A:60-1; P.L. 2007, c. 260; and P.L. 2012, c. 26.

**\*D. Request to Amend Chapter 7, Managing for Equity in Education**

- Denied the request that the Department commence or initiate the rulemaking process to amend Chapter 7, Managing for Equity in Education. President Goldenberg abstained. State Board members Arcelio Aponte, Elaine Bobrove, Ronald Butcher, Nedd Johnson and Sylvia Sylvia opposed.

**New Business**

There was no new business.

## **Adjournment**

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education adjourned its November 1, 2023, public meeting at 12:03 p.m.

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