

**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  
September 4, 2024**

**Presiding:** Kathy Goldenberg, President

**Secretary:** Kevin Dehmer, Acting Commissioner

**Present Constituting A Quorum**

Dr. Ronald Butcher  
Mr. Jack Fornaro  
Ms. Mary Beth Berry  
Ms. Elaine Bobrove  
Dr. Nedd Johnson  
Ms. Mary Bennett  
Ms. Jeanette Peña  
Dr. Claudine Keenan  
Mr. Ahmed Shehata

**Absent**

Mr. Arcelio Aponte  
Dr. Joseph Ricca

**Convening**

State Board of Education President Kathy Goldenberg convened the public meeting at 9:14 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 September 4, 2024, 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 September 4, 2024.

### **Reconvening**

President Kathy Goldenberg reconvened the open meeting at 10:32 am 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 State Board member Ahmed Shehata.

### **Welcome**

President Goldenberg 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.

### **Welcome New State Board Member Ahmed Shehata**

President Goldenberg stated that Ahmed Shehata is joining us for the first time in his new role as State Board member. She stated Mr. Shehata resides in Union County and is Assistant Superintendent of Business, Clifton Public Schools. She further stated his term expires in 2029. President Goldenberg stated Mr. Shehata brings a great deal of knowledge and experience to this board, and she looks forward to his contributions.

### **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 August 7, 2024. State Board members Jeanette Peña, Ronald Butcher and Ahmed Shehata abstained.

### **President's Reports**

#### **Public Testimony**

President Goldenberg stated that for the month of September, the State Board of Education will hear Open Topic Public Testimony meaning that registered members of the public may offer public testimony on any educational topic of choice.

President Goldenberg stated that for the month of October there are no educational topics for discussion.

#### **Permanent Student Representative**

President Goldenberg introduced the State Board of Education's permanent student representative, Miss Anna Paszkiewicz. Miss Paszkiewicz is a rising senior at Palmyra High School in Burlington County.

Miss Paszkiewicz stated that she would like to shine a light on the 2024 New Jersey Association of Student Councils (NJASC) state charity, Ava’s Choice. She stated this charity raises awareness of a rare genetic disease called Usher’s syndrome, which impairs hearing, sight and sometimes balance. She further stated various ways students get involved with NJASC’s annual charity.

**State Board Committee Reports**

**Policy Committee**

Elaine Bobrove, chair of the Policy committee, stated the Policy committee met on August 21, 2024. to receive an update on the re adoption of Chapter 12, Interdistrict Public School Choice, which is on today’s agenda at adoption level. She stated the Department also presented to the committee proposed changes to the Instruction and Program indicators for the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum or NJQSAC. Ms. Bobrove stated she would like to thank Acting Commissioner Dehmer and his staff for being responsive to the State Board’s concerns about the point values for some of the Instruction and Program indicators and for proposing additional changes. She further stated that since we will be discussing both rulemakings later in the agenda, she will forgo the rest of my report.

**National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Election**

President Goldenberg stated that the elections for the President Elect of the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) will take place at the annual business meeting during NASBE’s conference this October in Louisville, KY. President Goldenberg stated that she may serve as the State delegate to the conference this year and will submit the selection by proxy. She further stated that the candidate for President Elect is Byron Ernest from Indiana. The State Board took a voice vote in support of the candidate. New Jersey will vote for Byron Ernest for Chair-elect of the Board of Directors.

**Commissioner’s Reports**

There were no Commissioner’s reports.

**Items for Consideration**

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

**\*A. Appointments**

- There were 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.

<b>Districts</b>	<b>County</b>
Port Republic School District	Atlantic
Demarest School District	Bergen
Emerson Public School District	Bergen
Franklin Lakes School District	Bergen
Mahwah Township Public School District	Bergen
Northern Valley Regional High School District	Bergen
Pascack Valley Regional High School District	Bergen

Saddle River School District	Bergen
Cinnaminson Township School District	Burlington
Verona Public School District	Essex
West Orange Public Schools	Essex
East Greenwich Township School District	Gloucester

**\*C. Resolution to Approve the Appointments to the State Special Education Advisory Council**

- Adopted the resolution approving the acceptance of donated fund, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-26.

**Resolution to Accept Donated Funds**

**Whereas**, N.J.S.A. 18A:4-26 requires the approval of the New Jersey State Board of Education in order for the Acting Commissioner of Education to accept donated funds; and

**Whereas**, the New Jersey Department of Education, Marie H Katzenbach School for the Deaf is the recipient of donated funds from two separate and distinct sources; and

**Whereas**, these funds are provided to the Department of Education, Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf to use for student activity funds, which are for the sole use of supporting student activities such as field trips, yearbooks, and student clubs; and

**Whereas**, a donation in the amount of \$20,000 was made by Valerie Amendolaro; and

**Whereas**, a donation in the amount of \$500.00 was made by Ocean County Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery LLC; now therefore be it

**Resolved**, that the New Jersey State Board of Education approves the acceptance of the donated funds to the aforementioned specified purposes.

**\*D. Resolution to Amend the New Jersey State Board of Education Public Testimony Procedures**

- Adopted the resolution amending public testimony procedures.

**Resolution to Amend State Board of Education  
Public Comment and Open Topic Public Testimony Procedures**

**Whereas**, the New Jersey State Board of Education recognizes its responsibility as the entity authorized to enact statewide policy governing the supervision and control of public education in this State; and

**Whereas**, within that responsibility, it is the State Board’s duty to make its statewide policy enactments, including those pertaining to rulemaking, subject to comment from the public; and

**Whereas**, the Administrative Procedure Act requires that the State Board receive public comment on a rulemaking during the formal comment period; and

**Whereas**, in addition to accepting written public comment on rulemaking, the State Board previously established a process for accepting oral public comment on rulemaking from the public; and

**Whereas**, the State Board also has established a process for scheduling three open topic public testimony opportunities each year; and

**Whereas**, that policy implementing a process to allow for oral public comment on rulemaking and to schedule separate open topic public testimony sessions before the State Board was originally adopted on September 2, 1987; and revised on June 6, 2012, and March 6, 2013; and

**Whereas**, the State Board has currently deemed it necessary to reconsider its policy for oral public comment on rulemaking and open topic public testimony sessions; now therefore be it

**Resolved**, that the members of the New Jersey State Board of Education amend its oral public comment and open topic public testimony procedures policy so that it may begin an estimated 30 minutes following the conclusion of the regular public business meeting agenda rather than at 2:00 pm; and be it further

**Resolved**, that the members of the New Jersey State Board of Education further amend its oral public comment and open topic public testimony procedures policy and remove the previously established two-hour time limit; and be it further

**Resolved**, that this policy will take effect immediately beginning with the first public testimony session following adoption of this resolution.

**\*E. Resolution to Approve Appointments to the State Board of Examiners**

- Adopted the resolution approving the appointment(s) and reappointments to the State Board of Examiners in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:6-34 and 35.

**Resolution to Approve Appointments to the State Board of Examiners**

**Whereas**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-38, the State Board of Examiners is responsible for issuing, revoking and suspending educational certificates under rules prescribed by the State Board of Education; and

**Whereas**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-34, members of the State Board of Examiners are appointed by the Acting Commissioner of Education with the approval of the State Board of Education; and

**Whereas**, the Acting Commissioner, after consulting with members of the education community, has recommended the reappointments of five members to the Board of Examiners and six new appointments; and

**Whereas**, the persons whom the Acting Commissioner has recommended have established a reputation for distinguished service in their profession; now therefore be it

**Resolved**, the State Board of Education hereby approves the reappointments and appointments of the following persons, whose terms expire September 2026:

**Reappointments**

- Mr. Derek Jess, School Business Administrator, Summit School District
- Ms. Kristen Ludman, Teacher, Pemberton School District
- Ms. Dayna Desiderio Orlak, Teacher, Waldwick School District
- Ms. Melissa Pearce, Interim Executive County Superintendent, Hudson County Office of Education
- Dr. Thelma Ramsey, Elementary Principal, East Orange School District

**New appointments**

- Dr. Jordan Schiff, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Teaching and Learning Services
- Mr. Robert Ford, Superintendent Type II, Somerdale Park School District
- Ms. Michelle McGreivey, Librarian, Hoboken School District
- Mr. Kevin Pfister, High School Principal, Hawthorne School District
- Dr. Carmela Somershoe, Superintendent Type I, Ventnor School District
- Ms. Gargi Adhikari, Teacher, Readington Twp. School District

**\*F. Interdistrict Public School Choice**

- Adopted the reoption with amendments repeals, and new rules at N.J.A.C. 6A:12, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:36B-14 through 24.

**\*G. Evaluation of the Performance of School Districts**

- Approved for publication in the *New Jersey Register*, the reoption with amendments pertaining to the monitoring and evaluation of school districts, set forth in chapter 30, Evaluation of the Performance of School Districts pursuant to P.L. 2005, c. 235, P.L. 2007, c. 16, and N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-1 et seq.

**Work Session**

There was no work session.

**New Business**

There was no new business.

**Adjournment**

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education adjourned its September 4, 2024, public meeting at 11:50 p.m.

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Kevin Dehmer, Acting Commissioner  
Acting Secretary, N.J. State Board of Education