

**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
June 4, 2025**

Presiding: Kathy Goldenberg, President

Secretary: Kevin Dehmer, Commissioner

Present Constituting a Quorum

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

Absent

Dr. Ronald Butcher
Dr. Joseph Ricca

Convening

State Board of Education President Kathy Goldenberg convened the public meeting at 9:16 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 June 4, 2025, 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 June 4, 2025.

Reconvening

President 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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board member Mary Beth Berry.

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.

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 May 7, 2025. Board member Arcelio Aponte abstained.

President's Reports

Public Testimony

President Goldenberg stated that for the month of June, the State Board will not receive public testimony as there are no educational topics for discussion.

President Goldenberg stated that for the month of July, the State Board will receive public testimony on the proposed amendments to Chapter 27, Student Transportation. President Goldenberg also stated that she along with State Board members Mary Beth Berry, Jeanette Peña Claudine Keenan would her public testimony in July.

Permanent Student Representative

President Goldenberg stated that this year's student representative to the board is Anna Paszkiewicz, a senior at Palmyra High School in Burlington County. She further stated this is Anna's last meeting as the student representative and that Anna has some final words for us.

Anna Paszkiewicz reflected on her experiences and the growth she has made throughout the past year as the 2024-2025 permanent student representative.

President Goldenberg expressed her deepest appreciation to Miss Paszkiewicz for serving as the student representative for the State Board for the past year and wished her continued academic as she enters Boston College in the fall.

Resolution in Honor of Anna Paszkiewicz, the 2024-2025 State Board Permanent Student Representative

President Goldenberg stated that the State Board and the Commissioner would like to consider a ceremonial resolution in honor of Anna Paszkiewicz, the 2024-2025 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 Anna Paszkiewicz, the 2024-2025 Permanent Student Representative to the New Jersey State Board of Education

Whereas, Anna Paszkiewicz, a student at Palmyra High School in Burlington County, has served with distinction as the student representative to the New Jersey State Board of Education (State Board) from July 2024 to June 2025; and

Whereas, Anna has steadfastly performed her duties as the State Board’s liaison to the student community and has been an admirable representative of both the New Jersey Association of Student Councils (NJASC) and Palmyra High School; and

Whereas, Anna participated in State Board meetings by making monthly presentations that were forward-thinking, well-researched, informative, and beneficial to State Board members; and

Whereas, Anna took great effort to survey her peers and school officials to inform her monthly State Board presentations, which included topics such as school cell phone policies, the use of artificial intelligence (AI), and advocacy for peer-led initiatives and other programs to address students’ mental health needs; and

Whereas, Anna further elevated the student voice by offering her insights by serving as a panelist alongside members of the State Board at the New Jersey School Boards Association’s Workshop 2024; and

Whereas, Anna has an obvious interest in, and understanding of, issues affecting her and her student peers as further demonstrated through her participation as an active member of the National Association of State Boards of Education’s High School Transformation State Network Student Advisory Council; and

Whereas, Anna’s academic career demonstrates that she is an accomplished student, and her leadership and athletic activities and community service demonstrate Anna’s valued contributions on the local and State levels; now therefore be it

Resolved, that the members of the New Jersey State Board of Education and Commissioner of Education Kevin Dehmer extend their sincere congratulations and appreciation to Anna Paszkiewicz for a job well done; and be it further

Resolved, that the New Jersey State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education acknowledge Anna Paszkiewicz’s personal and academic excellence, as well as her leadership qualities, and that they wish her continued success in all her future endeavors.

Commissioner Dehmer thanked Miss Paszkiewicz on behalf of the Department of Education and the State Board for serving as the student representative to the State Board for the past year. He stated that her commitment to the role and to ensuring the student voice is at the forefront and has been helpful to our work during the past year.

Commissioner Dehmer extended her gratitude to Anna’s advisors, Ms. Kelly Jones and Ms. Kim Martino, whose help and guidance this year have been invaluable and greatly appreciated by all at the Department.

Report of the State Board Nominating Committee

Ms. Mary Bennett, chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the committee’s nominations for the 2025-2026 school year: Mrs. Kathy Goldenberg for president and Dr. Nedd Johnson for vice president. The vote will occur next month. State Board members Ms. Jeanette Peña and Dr. Claudine Keenan also served on the committee.

State Board Committee Reports

Administrative Policy Committee Meeting

Elaine Bobrove, chair of the Administrative Policy Committee, stated that the committee met on May 29, 2025, to discuss PRAXIS II Resolution, Revised Tests and Qualifying Scores. She stated PRAXIS are a group of tests given to those to assess prospective Instructors (Teachers) as to their ability to teach in different fields. She further stated ETS is an organization that sets cut scores that are satisfactory to the majority of States so that Instruction is uniform among the majority of States and over time, some skills are automatic and no need to be specifically included while others need to be added. Ms. Bobrove stated In PRAXIS II, three domains are addressed; Technology and Engineering Education; Family and Consumer Science; and Social Studies. She stated that today the Department of Education will be discussing this more fully before it is voted on.

Commissioner’s Reports

Annual Report of the State Operated School District of Camden

Commissioner Dehmer welcomed State Superintendent Katrina McCombs, who provided the annual report on Camden City School District growth and progress and the plan to continue to move the district forward.

Superintendent McCombs introduced her executive leadership team, and the board of education members present prior to making her presentation on the status of student achievement, facilities and operations of the district.

Items for Consideration

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

***A. Commissioner**

- Adopted the amendments to the organizational rules for the State Department of Education at N.J.A.C. 6A:2-1.1 et seq., pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-3(1).

***B. Appointments**

- There were no appointments.

***C. 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.

Allendale Public School District	Bergen
Dumont Public School District	Bergen
Glen Rock Public School District	Bergen
Hillsdale School District	Bergen
Bloomsbury Borough School District	Hunterdon
Spring Lake Heights School District	Monmouth

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

- Adopted the following resolution establishing the annual calendar of 2025-2026 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
Annual Calendar of State Board Meeting/Public Testimony 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 it

Resolved, that the State Board establishes the following dates for its monthly business meetings and public testimony sessions for the 2025-2026 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 2025-2026

July 2	November 5	March 4
August 6	December 3	April 8
September 10	January 7	May 6
October 8	February 4	June 3

*** Open Topic Testimony Sessions 2025-2026**

*September 10	*January 7	*May 6
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**** Alternate Board Meeting Dates in the Event of Snow Cancellations**

****December 10 **January 14 **February 11 **March 11**

Notice of changes in the above will be made in compliance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act.

***E. Resolution to Accept Donated Funds**

- Adopted the resolution approving acceptance of donated funds.

Resolution to Accept Donated Funds

Whereas, the New Jersey Department of Education, Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf is the recipient of a donation from Lions Club of Warren Township; and

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, a donation in the amount of \$1,750 was made by Lions Club of Warren Township. These funds are provided 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; now therefore be it

Resolved, that the New Jersey State Board of Education approves the acceptance of the donated funds for the aforementioned specified purpose.

***F. Professional Standards: New Jersey Educator Preparation Programs; and State Board of Examiners and Certification**

- Approved for publication in the *New Jersey Register* the proposed amendments at N.J.A.C. 6A:9, Professional Standards, N.J.A.C. 6A:9A, New Jersey Educator Preparation Programs, and N.J.A.C. 6A:9B, State Board of Examiners and Certification, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:26-2.23, 2.24, 2.26, 2.31, 2.32, 35, and 36; and P.L. 2024, c. 26.

G. Resolution to Adopt New PRAXIS Tests and Qualifying Scores for Technology and Engineering Education, Family and Consumer Science and Social Studies

- Discussed new PRAXIS tests and qualifying scores for Technology and Engineering Education, Family and Consumer Science and Social Studies, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.2(a)4 and 6A:9B-8.3(a)4.

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 June 4, 2025, public meeting at 12:20 p.m.

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