

**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
October 8, 2025**

Presiding: Kathy Goldenberg, President

Secretary: Kevin Dehmer, Commissioner

Present Constituting a Quorum

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

Absent

Dr. Ronald Butcher
Dr. Joseph Ricca
Mr. Ahmed Shehata

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 October 8, 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 October 8, 2025.

Reconvening

President Goldenberg reconvened the open meeting at 10:07 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 State Board member Mary Bennett.

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 September 10, 2025.

President's Reports

Public Testimony

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

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

Permanent Student Representative

President Goldenberg stated that this year's student representative to the board is Kailynn DuRose, a junior at East Brunswick High School in Middlesex County, and that her advisor is Bonnie Benkard.

Miss DuRose spoke about the differences between traditional and block scheduling in high school and the benefits to a block schedule.

State Board Committee Reports

Instructional Policy Committee Meeting

Dr. Nedd Johnson, Chair of the Instructional Policy Committee, stated that the committee met on September 15, 2025, to discuss the readoption with amendments of Chapter 8, Standards and Assessments. Dr. Johnson stated that he would forego his report as the topic was on the meeting's agenda at adoption level.

Introduction of Maude Dahme

President Goldenberg introduced Maude Dahme, a former President of the New Jersey State Board of Education who was present during the meeting.

National Association of State Boards of Education Delegate Election and Ballot for Resolution on Proposed Bylaws Change

President Goldenberg stated that the elections for the Chair-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 Austin, TX. 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 unless the State Board objects, and as there is only one candidate for each open position, Ms. Shoener will submit New Jersey's votes for Chair-Elect of the Board of Directors as Fern Desjardin of Maine, New Jersey's vote for Secretary-Treasurer as Matt Donaldson of (Georgia), and New Jersey's vote for Northeastern Area Director as Nisha Lodhavia of Delaware, along with the ballot supporting the proposed changes to the NASBE Bylaws to NASBE by October 13, 2025.

Petition for Rulemaking – Rosemary Catton

President Goldenberg stated that the State Board received a petition for rulemaking from Rosemary Catton on May 5, 2025. She stated the petitioner requested amendments to Chapter 9B to allow holders of a multistate registered professional nurse license issued by a state board of nursing that participates in the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) to qualify for a substitute school nurse/non-instructional credential or an educational services certificate with a school nurse endorsement. She further stated that, at the August State Board meeting, she announced that she and Commissioner Dehmer determined that an additional 90 days was needed to deliberate to allow time for consultation with the New Jersey Board of Nursing. President Goldenberg stated those issues have been thoroughly discussed and it has been determined that the best course of action is to approve the petitioner's requested amendments with additional necessary changes at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-14.4. She stated the Department will be discussing the amendments at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7.5, 14.3 and 14.4 later today during Items for Consideration at Item D. She further stated that, in order to meet the OAL and State Board requirements for timely processing of rules related to approved petitions, the State Board will be expediting this rulemaking and moving to Proposal Level next month. President Goldenberg stated she strongly encourages interested parties to submit written testimony comments on the proposed rules and reminded everyone that in-person public testimony will be received in January 2026.

Commissioner's Reports

Presentation of the 2025-2026 New Jersey State Teacher of the Year

Dr. Jorden Schiff, Acting Assistant Commissioner, Division of Teaching and Learning Services, introduced Ms. Gillian Ober, an English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher at Freehold Intermediate School in Freehold Borough School District, as the 2025-2026 New Jersey State Teacher of the Year.

Representatives from the following organizations celebrated Ms. Ober with a presentation of these items for a one year term: New Jersey Education Association (NJEA) - a car equipped with EZ Pass, complimentary access to all NJEA major workshops and training opportunities, \$1,500 clothing allowance, media training and communications support, and a trip to Washington, DC, to meet with other State Teachers of the Year; and Educational Testing Service – \$50,000 in funding for the New Jersey State Teacher of the Year's salary and benefits during her six-month sabbatical.

President Goldenberg requested and the State Board members approved a 10 minute recess following the conclusion of the presentation.

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.

District	County
Atlantic County Special Services School District	Atlantic
Linwood City School District	Atlantic
Cresskill Public School District	Bergen
River Vale Public School District	Bergen
Burlington County Special Services School District	Burlington
West Cape May School District	Cape May
Caldwell-West School District	Essex
Glen Ridge Public School District	Essex
Gloucester County Vocational-Technical School District	Gloucester
Harrison Township School District	Gloucester
Washington Township School District	Gloucester
West Deptford Township School District	Gloucester
Weehawken Public School District	Hudson
Delaware Valley Regional High School District	Hunterdon
East Amwell Township School District	Hunterdon
Hunterdon Central Regional High School District	Hunterdon
Mercer County Special Services School District	Mercer

East Brunswick Township School District	Middlesex
Metuchen Public School District	Middlesex
North Brunswick Township School District	Middlesex
Sayreville School District	Middlesex
South Brunswick School District	Middlesex
Fair Haven School District	Monmouth
Freehold Regional High School District	Monmouth
Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District	Monmouth
Township of Ocean School District	Monmouth
Red Bank Regional School District	Monmouth
Rumson Borough School District	Monmouth
Shore Regional High School District	Monmouth
Spring Lake Borough School District	Monmouth
Upper Freehold Regional School District	Monmouth
Harding Township School District	Morris
Morris Hills Regional School District	Morris
Parsippany-Troy Hills Township School District	Morris
Rockaway Borough School District	Morris
West Morris Regional High School District	Morris
Island Heights School District	Ocean
Jackson Township School District	Ocean
Bernards Township School District	Somerset
Vernon Township School District	Sussex
Clark Township Public School District	Union
Kenilworth School District	Union
Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District	Union
Township of Union School District	Union

***C. Standards and Assessments**

- Adopted the readoption with amendments to Chapter 8, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-10 through 14, 18A:7C-1 et seq., 18A:7E-2 through 5, 18A:35-4.2 and 4.7, 18A:59-5 and 18A:4-15.

D. State Board of Examiners and Certification

- Discussed the amendments to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7.5, 14.3, and 14.4 to add a valid multistate registered professional nurse license issued by the licensing board of a state that is a member of the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) as an option for the required professional license, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-15 and 18A:40-3.6, 3.7, 3.8, and 3.9; and N.J.A.C. 1:30-4.2(a)3.

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 October 8, 2025, public meeting at 12:07 p.m.

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