

**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 10, 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
Dr. Joseph Ricca
Ms. Mary Bennett
Ms. Jeanette Peña
Dr. Claudine Keenan
Mr. Ahmed Shehata

Absent

Dr. Ronald Butcher

Convening

State Board of Education President Kathy Goldenberg convened the public meeting at 9:17 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 10, 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 September 10, 2025.

Reconvening

President Goldenberg reconvened the open meeting at 10:29 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 Jeanette Peña.

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 August 6, 2025. Board members Dr. Joseph Ricca and Mrs. Mary Beth Berry abstained.

President's Reports

Public Testimony

President Goldenberg stated that for the month of September, the State Board will receive Open Topic public testimony, as well as testimony on the amendments to Chapters 9, 9A and 9B.

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.

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 importance of teens getting more sleep and the benefits of adjusting school start times later.

State Board Committee Reports

Instructional Policy Committee Meeting

Dr. Nedd Johnson, Chair of the Instructional Policy Committee, stated that the committee met on August 25, 2025, to discuss the overview of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NLSLS)

review process and the anticipated timeline for implementation. He stated in the coming months the committee will continue to meet for discussions of the seven standards content areas of Career Readiness, Life Literacies and Key Skills, Science, Computer Science and Design Thinking, Visual and Performing Arts, World Languages, Comprehensive Health and Physical Education and Social Studies with an expected adoption of the revisions during the Spring of 2026.

Acknowledgement of the 2025 National Principal of the Year

President Kathy Goldenberg congratulated Dr. Tony Cattani who has been named the 2025 National High School Principal of the Year. She stated that Dr. Cattani has served as principal of Lenape High School in Medford, Burlington County, for the past 18 years and is being honored for his exceptional leadership and contributions to student success.

Commissioner's Reports

There were no Commissioner's reports.

Items for Consideration

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

***A. Appointments**

- Approved the following appointment pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-32-35 and N.J.A.C. 6A:2-1.1 et seq.: State Board member Jeanette Peña abstained.
 - Ms. Rasheda Garcia, Superintendent, Katzenbach School for the Deaf

***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
Carlstadt-East Rutherford Regional High School District	Bergen
Fairlawn Public School District	Bergen
Haworth Public School District	Bergen
New Milford Public School District	Bergen
Northern Highlands Regional High School District	Bergen
Ramsey School District	Bergen
Ridgefield School District	Bergen
River Edge School District	Bergen
Rutherford School District	Bergen
Wallington Boro School District	Bergen
Bordentown Regional School District	Burlington
Burlington Township School District	Burlington
Delran Township School District	Burlington
Mansfield Township School District	Burlington
Northern Burlington County Regional School District	Burlington
Millburn Township School District	Essex
North Caldwell School District	Essex
Roseland School District	Essex

West Essex Regional School District	Essex
Manasquan School District	Monmouth
Denville Township K-8 School District	Morris
Madison Public School District	Morris
Mendham Township School District	Morris
Ocean County Vocational Technical School District	Ocean
Bloomington School District	Passaic
Lakeland Regional High School District	Passaic
Wayne Township Public School District	Passaic
Mannington Township School District	Salem
Salem County Special Services School District	Salem
Somerset County Vocational and Technical School District	Somerset
Somerset Hills Regional School District	Somerset
Sandyston-Walpack Consolidated School District	Sussex
Sparta Township Public School District	Sussex
Stillwater Township School District	Sussex
Lopatcong Township School District	Warren

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

- Adopted the appointments to the State Special Education Advisory Council pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:46-2 and P.L. 94-142.

Resolution to Appoint State Special Education Advisory Council Members

Whereas, N.J.S.A. 18A:46-2 states that the Commissioner shall appoint biannually, with the approval of the State Board of Education, an advisory council for special education representative of professionals in the field of special education and parents of children with disabilities; and

Whereas, N.J.S.A. 18A:46-2 defines the role of the advisory council as advising in the promulgation of rules, regulations and implementation of N.J.A.C. 6A:14 and the establishment of standards and qualifications for the professional personnel; and

Whereas, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) of 2004 requires each state education agency to have an advisory panel for special education; and

Whereas, the New Jersey Department of Education (Department) has established and maintains an advisory panel, known as the State Special Education Advisory Council (NJ- SSEAC), for the purpose of providing policy guidance with respect to special education and related services for children with disabilities in the State; and

Whereas, the advisory panel must be consistent with the IDEA, 34 CFR 300.168(b). The Advisory Council should, to the maximum extent possible, be representative of the State population, and it must be comprised of individuals involved in, or concerned with, the education of children with disabilities, including but not limited to: (i) parents of children with disabilities ages birth through 26; (ii) individuals with disabilities; (iii) A representative of the State Parent Advisory Network (SPAN) Parent Training and Information Center; (iv) teachers; (v) representatives of institutions of higher education that prepare special education and related services personnel; (vi) State and local education officials, including officials who carry out activities under subtitle B of title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. § 11431 et. seq.); (vii) Administrators

of programs for children with disabilities; (viii) representatives of other State agencies involved in the financing or delivery of related services to children with disabilities; (ix) representatives of private schools and public charter schools; (x) no less than one representative of a vocational, community, or business organization concerned with the provision of transition services to children with disabilities. (xi) representatives from the State juvenile and adult corrections agencies; and (xii) a representative from the State child welfare agency responsible for foster care; and

Whereas, a majority of the members of the panel shall be individuals with disabilities or parents of children with disabilities; and

Whereas, the advisory panel shall: (i) advise the Department of unmet needs in the education of children with disabilities within the State; (ii) comment publicly on any rules or regulations proposed by the Department regarding the education of children with disabilities; (iii) advise the Department in developing evaluations and reporting of data to the Secretary of the United States Department of Education under Part B Sec. 618 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA); (iv) advise the Department in developing corrective action plans to address findings identified in federal monitoring reports under this part of the IDEA; and (v) advise the Department in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children with disabilities; now therefore be it

Resolved, that the State Special Education Advisory Council meets the State mandate for an advisory council and the federal requirements for an advisory panel; and be it further

Resolved, that the Commissioner recommends that the following individuals be appointed to new terms for the council:

Mr. Joshua McAllister-Carlani
Ms. Kerri Walsifer
Dr. Lori López-López
Ms. Christina Battiato

Resolved, that the State Board of Education hereby approves the Commissioner's recommended appointments to the State Special Education Advisory Council for two-year terms effective September 10, 2025.

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 10, 2025, public meeting at 10:54 a.m.

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