

**New Jersey State Board of Education
Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting
in the Conference Room on the First Floor,
100 River View Executive Plaza
Trenton, NJ**

July 16, 2008

Presiding: Josephine Hernandez, President

Secretary: Lucille E. Davy, Commissioner

PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM

Mr. Arcelio Aponte
Dr. Ronald Butcher
Ms. Debra Casha
Ms. Kathleen A. Dietz
Ms. Edythe Fulton
Dr. Ernest Lepore
Ms. Florence McGinn
Dr. Dorothy Strickland

ABSENT

Mr. Kenneth Parker

CONVENING

Ronald Butcher, president, State Board of Education, convened the public meeting with the reading of the resolution pertaining to the public session of the State Board meeting as it complies with the Open Public Meetings Act.

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act was enacted to insure 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, and

WHEREAS, 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, 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, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that by adopting this resolution the State Board of Education states its intention to convene a public meeting to conduct the state's business on July 16, 2008.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Butcher 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 of Education will now adjourn to executive session to discuss personnel and legal matters.

The State Board immediately adjourned to executive session to discuss personnel and legal issues.

RECONVENING

President Butcher reconvened the public meeting 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.

ELECTION OF STATE BOARD OFFICERS

Commissioner Lucille E. Davy, secretary to the State Board, conducted the annual election of State Board officers. Debra Casha, chair, State Board Nominating Committee, presented the slate of officers. On motions duly seconded and carried, the State Board members elected Josephine Hernandez as State Board President and Arcelio Aponte as State Board Vice President. Both were elected for a one-year term.

Commissioner Davy congratulated the elected officers.

Ronald Butcher congratulated Ms. Hernandez and Mr. Aponte on their election as State Board President and Vice President, respectively. President Hernandez thanked Dr. Butcher for his leadership and mentorship and the State Board members for their support and confidence. Vice President Aponte congratulated President Hernandez on her appointment and thanked Dr. Butcher for this leadership and guidance over the past year.

INTRODUCTIONS

Commissioner Davy recognized Aaron Graham, Executive County Superintendent of Schools for Bergen County, who represented the county superintendents.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board members approved the minutes of the meeting conducted on June 12, 2008, June 18, 2008, and June 27, 2008. Kathleen Dietz and Debra Casha abstained from voting on the minutes of the meeting conducted on June 12, 2008. Debra Casha made a correction to the minutes of the June 18, 2008 meeting. Florence McGinn abstained from voting on the minutes of the June 12, 2008 meeting.

PRESIDENT'S REPORTS

President Hernandez had no report at this time.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

Monitoring of School Districts

Commissioner Davy stated that the department staff is working on clarifications and modifications to the District Performance Review (DPR) to make it easier for districts to complete the self-assessment required for the Quality Single Accountability Continuum, or QSAC. These changes will be brought to the State Board for review at an upcoming meeting.

Beginning next month, 200 school districts will begin the QSAC monitoring process.

N.J.A.C. 6A:13A. Elements of High Quality Preschool Programs - Update

Commissioner Davy stated that these were emergency regulations promulgated to implement preschool expansion and will apply to districts throughout the state, not just to the districts formerly known as Abbott districts.

N.J.A.C. 6A:23A. Fiscal Accountability, Efficiency and Budgeting Procedures - Update

Commissioner Davy stated that these regulations were promulgated to implement legislation for CORE and school funding. These regulations also provide guidance to school districts on the efficient use of school funding.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

On motions duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education took the following action:

A. Appointments

- Approved the appointment of Gerald Vernotica as Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Field Services.

B. Standards Setting: NJ Assessment of Skills and Knowledge – Grades 5 through 8

- Adopted the resolution to establish the proficiency scores for the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJASK) for grades 5 thru 8 pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1(b)*. Kathleen Dietz opposed.

RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH SCORE STANDARDS FOR NEW JERSEY ASSESSMENT OF SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE (NJ ASK) GRADES 5 THROUGH 8, MATHEMATICS AND LANGUAGE ARTS LITERACY

WHEREAS, the goal of public schools is to provide all students with a thorough and efficient education as defined by the *Core Curriculum Content Standards* so they may function politically, economically, and socially in our democratic society; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJ ASK) is provided for assessing student progress toward mastery of essential knowledge and skills; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1(b) requires State Board of Education approval of student performance levels for statewide assessments in those grades as specified for district certification; and

WHEREAS, the established levels of proficiency are partially proficient, proficient and advanced proficient; and

WHEREAS, the established scale score standards for NJ ASK grades 5 through 8 are 200 for the proficient level and 250 for the advanced proficient level; and

WHEREAS, the corresponding raw cut scores recommended by the Commissioner of Education for the NJ ASK 5-8 tests for mathematics and language arts literacy are as follows:

Grade 5 mathematics: **25** for the proficient level; **40** for the advanced proficient level;

Grade 6 mathematics: **25** for the proficient level; **41** for the advanced proficient level;

Grade 7 mathematics: **27** for the proficient level; **42** for the advanced proficient level;

Grade 8 mathematics: **29** for the proficient level; **43** for the advanced proficient level;

Grade 5 language arts literacy: **40** for the proficient level; **57.5** for the advanced proficient level;

Grade 6 language arts literacy: **41.5** for the proficient level; **59** for the advanced proficient level;

Grade 7 language arts literacy: **39** for the proficient level; **55** for the advanced proficient level;

Grade 8 language arts literacy: **42.5** for the proficient level; **60** for the advanced proficient level;

Grade 5 language arts literacy Spanish-language version: **40** for the proficient level; **57.5** for the advanced proficient level;

Grade 6 language arts literacy Spanish-language version: **41.5** for the proficient level; **59** for the advanced proficient level;

Grade 7 language arts literacy Spanish-language version: **39** for the proficient level; **55** for the advanced proficient level;

Grade 8 language arts literacy Spanish-language version: **42.5** for the proficient level; **60** for the advanced proficient level; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, the cut scores recommended by the Commissioner of Education for the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge for grades 5 through 8 in mathematics and language arts literacy shall apply to the 2008 administration and be the basis for reporting scores for any future administrations of the tests.

C. Professional Licensure and Standards

- Approved for publication in the *New Jersey Register* the readoption with amendments of the regulations pertaining to teacher licensure and standards proposed at *N.J.A.C.* 6A:9, Professional Licensure and Standards pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 18A:1-1, 18A:4-15, 18A:6-34, 18A:6-38, 18A:26-10 and 18A:26-2.7.

D. School Ethics Commission

- Discussed the readoption with amendments of the School Ethics regulations proposed at *N.J.A.C.* 6A:28 pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 18A:12-34.

ITEM FOR DISCUSSION

Preschool Quality Review

Jacqueline Jones, assistant commissioner, Division of Early Childhood Education, and Ellen Wolock, director, Office of Preschool Education, gave an update on the progress of the preschool expansion initiative.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly seconded and carried the State Board of Education adjourned its July 16, 2008 public meeting at 3:15 p.m.

Lucille E. Davy, Commissioner
Secretary, State Board of Education