

**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**

**September 17, 2008**

**Presiding:** Josephine Hernandez, President

**Secretary:** Lucille E. Davy, Commissioner

**PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM**

Mr. Arcelio Aponte  
Dr. Ronald K. Butcher  
Ms. Debra Casha  
Ms. Edithe Fulton  
Dr. Ernest Lepore  
Ms. Florence McGinn  
Mr. Kenneth Parker  
Dr. Dorothy Strickland

**ABSENT**

Ms. Kathleen Deitz

**CONVENING**

Josephine Hernandez, 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 September 17, 2008.

**STUDENT SPEAKERS**

Jen Luck, the 2007 State Board student representative and a senior from South Brunswick High School (Middlesex County) gave her first presentation as the student representative. Jen expressed her excitement at being included in the discussion of secondary school reform. As a student in secondary school, she stated has first hand knowledge of the issues and concerns challenging students today.

On behalf of the State Board, President Hernandez welcomed Jen as the new State Board student representative. President Hernandez stated that she looked forward to Jen's participation in upcoming State Board meetings.

## **INTRODUCTIONS**

Commissioner Davy recognized Dr. Patrick Piegari, Executive County Superintendent of Schools for Middlesex County, who represented the county superintendents.

### **Student Recognition Program**

There was no student recognition this month.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS**

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board members approved the minutes of the public meetings conducted on August 20, 2008. State Board members Debra Casha and Edithe Fulton abstained from voting on the minutes.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORTS**

President Hernandez spoke of her visit to Turkey this past summer. She stated that she and the members of her tour group stayed with Turkish families and gave the families copies of the U.S. Constitution as gifts. In her remarks, President Hernandez stated that the visit increased her appreciation for the Pledge of Allegiance, the value of the U.S. educational system and the opportunities provided to our students.

President Hernandez stated that the September public testimony will be held at 3:00 p.m. The topics for consideration will be Professional Licensure and Standards, School Ethics Commission and Open Topic.

President Hernandez also stated that the State Board is planning a retreat that is tentatively scheduled for November. More information is to come.

## **COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS**

### **Resolution to Declare October the Month of the Young Adolescent**

Commissioner Davy presented the resolution which is an international collaboration between education, health and youth-oriented organizations focused on the transitional needs of youth between the ages of 10 and 15. The resolution challenges schools, parents, businesses and communities to work together to support students during these critical years between childhood and adulthood. On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education approved the resolution.

### **Monitoring of School Districts**

Commissioner Davy stated that three regional meetings were held last week to meet with the representatives from the approximately 200 districts that will undergo the QSAC monitoring

process this year. Commissioner Davy, deputy commissioner Willa Spicer and assistant commissioner Gerry Vernotica explained the process and the revised QSAC indicators.

Commissioner Davy also reported to the State Board members that the travel requirements were summarized in a memo as requested and was included in their folders.

### **Secondary Education Reform**

Commissioner Davy stated that the task is to transform secondary schools not merely change graduation requirements. She stated further that the transformation initiative is to ensure every child has access to a rigorous educational program and curriculum that will prepare him or her to participate in the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy regardless of whether he or she enters college or the workforce. Commissioner Davy explained that the initiative is for grades six through 12 and is a matter of equity which mandates that all children, regardless of where they live, must have the same set of high expectations and have access to the same educational opportunities that will prepare them for the future.

Commissioner Davy introduced Dr. Ken Ender, president of Cumberland County College who endorsed the idea of redesigning the high school curriculum so that students are better prepared for college. Dr. Ender presented three students who shared their experiences and challenges in graduating with a high school diploma but not being prepared for college and why having a rigorous curriculum for all secondary school students is necessary.

On behalf of the State Board President Hernandez thanked the students for sharing their stories and congratulated them on their fortitude and courage and encouraged them to continue their education.

### **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:**

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

#### **A. Appointments**

- There were no appointments.

#### **B. High School Graduation Amendments**

Deputy Commissioner Willa Spicer, Marie Barry, director of office of career and technical education, and Sandra Alberti, director of math and science presented the vision of redesigning the high school curriculum, including the structure of the high school, its culture and the classroom.

### **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

- Englewood Report - Assistant commissioner Rochelle Hendricks and Richard Segall, superintendent of the Englewood School District, provided an update on the progress made by the Englewood Public School District in addressing racial isolation and educational quality at the Dwight Morrow High School.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

State Board member Debra Casha stated that this might be her final state board meeting as her replacement has been nominated. She thanked the State Board members for seven enjoyable years.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion duly seconded and carried the State Board of Education adjourned its September 17, 2008 public meeting at 3:10 p.m.

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