

**New Jersey State Board of Education
Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting
at the Rutgers University Paul Robeson Cultural Center
Newark, NJ**

October 15, 2008

Presiding: Josephine Hernandez, President

Secretary: Lucille E. Davy, Commissioner

PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM

Mr. Arcelio Aponte
Ms. Debra Casha
Ms. Edithe Fulton
Dr. Ernest Lepore
Ms. Florence McGinn
Dr. Dorothy Strickland

ABSENT

Ms. Kathleen Deitz
Mr. Kenneth Parker
Dr. Ronald K. Butcher

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 October 15, 2008.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board members approved with corrections the minutes of the public meeting conducted on September 17, 2008.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

Teacher of the Year

The State Board recognized Jeanne Muzi as the Teacher of the Year. On behalf of the State Board, President Hernandez congratulated Mrs. Muzi on her achievement.

Monitoring School Districts

Superintendent Charles Epps of Jersey City provided highlights of changes made to Jersey City's high school which support the State Board's vision to redesign secondary education. Superintendent Clifford Janey of Newark shared his past experiences in transforming secondary schools and closing the achievement gap and his hopes for Newark's transformation.

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 (Second Discussion)

- Assistant commissioner Jay Doolan addressed issues raised by State Board members regarding flexibility in math and civics course offerings; concerns regarding English Language Learners and gifted students; and the need to clearly define what skills are required for Algebra 1 and other math courses.

NEW BUSINESS

State Board member Debra Casha submitted her letter of resignation.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly seconded and carried the State Board of Education adjourned its October 15, 2008 public meeting at 5:16 p.m.

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