

**New Jersey State Board of Education
Minutes of the Annual Policy Retreat
at 150 West State Street
Trenton, NJ**

November 5, 2008

Presiding: Josephine Hernandez, President

Secretary: Lucille E. Davy, Commissioner

PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM:

Mr. Arcelio Aponte
Ms. Kathleen A. Dietz
Ms. Edithe Fulton
Ms. Florence McGinn
Mr. Kenneth Parker

ABSENT:

Dr. Ronald Butcher
Dr. Ernest Lepore
Dr. Dorothy Strickland

CONVENING

Josephine Hernandez, president, State Board of Education, convened the retreat 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 Wednesday, November 5, 2008.

Welcome and Introduction

President Hernandez welcomed everyone to the retreat. Commissioner Davy introduced and welcomed Grant Wiggins of Grant Wiggins & Associates. Commissioner Davy stated that Dr. Wiggins would provide the State Board with a presentation on what is happening in our high schools and what changes are needed.

Secondary School Transformation

Dr. Grant Wiggins provided a presentation and led a discussion on high school redesign. The title of the presentation was High School By Design – Toward Genuine and Needed Reform in New Jersey.

Educational Priorities

Commissioner Davy identified the Department's priorities as: graduation code, revisions to the standards and assessment code, preparation of teachers, changes to No Child Left Behind legislation, reorganizing the Department in light of limited resources. Commissioner Davy listed the CORE legislation as a long term priority.

President Hernandez identified the State Board priorities as: closing the achievement gap, clarifying State Board functions, discussing the relationship and communication between the Department and the State Board, and enhancing communication with external stakeholders to share the success and vitality of the Department's work.

Next Steps

President Hernandez asked State Board members to complete the retreat evaluation and to consider another meeting date to complete the discussion of the State Board's strategic plan, aligning State Board priorities, the work of the subcommittees and setting the State Board's goals.

Closing Remarks

On behalf of the State Board, President Hernandez thanked Grant Wiggins for his participation. She also thanked the State Board staff for their planning and coordination of this year's retreat.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board adjourned the November 5, 2008 Annual State Board Policy Retreat at 3:55 p.m.

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