

**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**

**November 19, 2008**

**Presiding:** Josephine Hernandez, President

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

**PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM**

Mr. Arcelio Aponte  
Dr. Ronald K. Butcher  
Ms. Edithe Fulton (via telephone)  
Dr. Dorothy Strickland  
Mr. Robert P. Haney

**ABSENT**

Ms. Kathleen Dietz  
Dr. Ernest Lepore  
Ms. Florence McGinn  
Mr. Kenneth Parker

**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 November 19, 2008.

**SWEARING-IN STATE BOARD MEMBER**

President Hernandez introduced Robert Haney who was sworn in by Superior Court Judge Gerald Council. Mr. Haney's wife, Colleen, held the Bible. Mr. Haney is from Monmouth County. President Hernandez welcomed Mr. Haney to the State Board.

In his remarks, Mr. Haney thanked Governor Corzine for the appointment and the public for the opportunity to serve in this capacity. President Hernandez welcomed Mr. Haney to the State Board.

## **STUDENT SPEAKERS**

Jen Luck, the 2008 State Board student representative and a senior from South Brunswick High School (Middlesex County) welcomed Zariah Maynor, a senior at South Brunswick High School (Middlesex County). Zariah spoke about the importance of developing strong character for student leadership.

President Hernandez thanked Zariah for her comments and affirmed the importance of strong leadership that will motivate and drive others toward a common goal.

## **INTRODUCTIONS**

Commissioner Davy recognized Terrence Crowley, Cape May County Executive County Superintendent of Schools, who represented the county superintendents.

### **Student Recognition Program**

The State Board recognized Matthew Schiff, a senior at Wildwood High School (Atlantic County) as a part of its monthly recognition program designed to honor a student or a group of students who have made a significant contribution to school, community, family or other groups. The State Board recognized Matthew for his academic and extracurricular activities.

On behalf of the State Board, President Hernandez congratulated Matthew on his achievements.

## **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 October 15, 2008 and November 5, 2008. State Board members Robert Haney and Ronald Butcher abstained from voting on the minutes of the October 15, 2008 meeting. Robert Haney, Ronald Butcher and Dorothy Strickland abstained from voting on the November 5, 2008 minutes.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORTS**

President Hernandez reported on the State Board retreat held on November 5, 2008 and shared that an additional meeting is needed to complete the work that was started. A lengthy discussion was held on the proposed high school reform. A presentation was given by Grant Wiggins that covered different aspects of the reform and he presented a variety of outlooks on education.

President Hernandez expressed interest in reorganizing the subcommittees so the subcommittees reflect the goals and objectives for this year. President Hernandez shared that she attended the American Youth Council Forum in Sacramento, California along with other department staff. The topic of the forum was infusing Career and Technical Education into high school redesign. The group visited two schools that had successfully incorporated career and technical education programs into the high school program.

President Hernandez encouraged State Board members to review two publications included in the NASBE packet entitled "Learning to Work and Working to Learn" and "Beginning in the Middle". President Hernandez stated that these publications may be helpful as the State Board

moves forward with the high school reform.

President Hernandez also shared that public testimony would be held at 3:00 pm. The topic for discussion is high school graduation requirements.

## **COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS**

### **Principals of the Year**

Commissioner Davy recognized two principals for successfully providing high quality learning opportunities for their students. This year's recipients are Effie Jenkins Smith, principal of Washington Avenue Elementary School in Pleasantville and Rodney Logan, principal of Ewing High School in Ewing. The award is given by the NJ Principals' and Supervisors' Association.

### **AYP Determinations**

Commissioner Davy stated that the State Board should have received copies of the letters distributed to school districts regarding AYP determinations for the 2007-08 school year. School districts have 40 days to appeal the determination. A public release of this information will be scheduled for next month. Generally, a little over 70% of the school districts achieved AYP.

### **Special Review Assessment**

Commissioner Davy reported that the department is compiling information regarding the number of school districts having more than 10% of their students take the SRA for graduation. These districts must submit data analysis and a plan on how they will reduce the use of SRA. These plans are due in mid-December. The State Board will receive a report and recommendations once all the information is collected and analyzed.

### **Monitoring of School Districts**

Commissioner Davy presented an update on the status of monitoring school districts via the Quality Single Accountability Continuum (QSAC). She stated that school districts are continuing in the process of completing their self assessments. Other districts are preparing corrective action plans which will be reviewed by the department.

## **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. State Special Education Advisory Council**

- Adopted the resolution appointing Dr. Tracy Amerman to the Advisory Council.

**C. Professional Licensure and Standards**

- Adopted the proposed amendments to the regulations pertaining to teacher licensure and standards proposed at N.J.A.C. 6A:9.

**D. School Ethics Commission**

- Adopted the proposed readoption with amendments of the School Ethics Commission code at N.J.A.C. 6A:28.

**E. Business Services**

- Kathleen Attwood, assistant commissioner, Yut'se Thomas, director of Office of School Funding and Beth Brooks, director of the Office of Fiscal Policy and Planning presented an overview of the code changes and recodification.

**WORK SESSION**

**Secondary School Transformation**

Commissioner Davy introduced Dennis Bone, CEO of Verizon. Mr. Bone provided his support for a more rigorous high school curriculum, particularly in math and science. He sees potential employees who cannot pass Verizon's entrance exam because of poor math skills. Mr. Bone stated that he believes there is a sense of urgency in making these changes.

**F. High School Graduation Amendment**

- Jay Doolan, assistant commissioner, Janis Jensen, director of the Office of Academic Standards and Marie Barry, director of the Office of Career and Technical Education reviewed what steps the department has taken to date in the reform process and summarized the proposed code changes.

**NEW BUSINESS**

President Hernandez reminded the State Board members that a follow-up retreat meeting is needed. Potential dates will be determined.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion duly seconded and carried the State Board of Education adjourned its November 19, 2008 public meeting at 2:59 p.m.

---

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