

**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**

December 17, 2008

Presiding: Josephine Hernandez, President

Secretary: Lucille E. Davy, Commissioner

PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM

Mr. Arcelio Aponte
Ms. Kathleen Dietz
Ms. Edithe Fulton
Mr. Robert Haney
Dr. Ernest Lepore
Ms. Florence McGinn
Dr. Dorothy Strickland

ABSENT

Dr. Ronald 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 December 17, 2008.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Hernandez 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 issues.

The State Board immediately adjourned to executive session.

RECONVENING

President Hernandez 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.

STUDENT SPEAKERS

Jen Luck, the 2008 State Board student representative and a senior from South Brunswick High School (Middlesex County) welcomed Khalid Ways, a senior at Camden High School (Camden County) who is the senior class president, inducted into the National Honor Society and is on the Honor Roll at Camden High School. Khalid spoke about the quality of the education environment in Camden and the negative impact the decaying school facilities are having upon the students.

INTRODUCTIONS

Commissioner Davy recognized Trudy Doyle, Somerset County Executive County Superintendent of Schools, who represented the county superintendents.

Student Recognition Program

The State Board recognized the students of the Creative Arts Program Midland Adult Student Productions at the Somerset County Vocational & Technical School (Somerset 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 the students for their community service and sensitivity in performing with adult actors with developmental disabilities.

On behalf of the State Board, President Hernandez and State Board member Kathleen Dietz congratulated the students for their commitment, kindness and unselfish service.

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 November 19, 2008. State Board members Dorothy Strickland, Kathleen Dietz, Ernest Lepore, Robert Haney, and Florence McGinn abstained.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Hernandez presented a resolution to former State Board member Debra Eckhert-Casha which was duly seconded and unanimously approved by the State Board. Mrs. Casha was recognized for her commitment and contributions to the State Board. Mrs. Casha thanked the State Board and the audience for the recognition.

President Hernandez stated that there was no public testimony scheduled for the afternoon. The next public testimony session will be in January 2009.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

Partnership for 21st Century Skills

Commissioner Davy announced that New Jersey is now one of nine states that has been accepted into a partnership with the consortium of Partnership for 21st Century Skills group. The Partnership for 21st Century supports a college and work-related curriculum in all content areas by including an emphasis on 21st century skill competencies that includes creativity and innovation skills, critical thinking and problem-solving skills, communication and collaboration skills and information, media and technology skills. The Commissioner stated New Jersey will benefit from the expertise, technical assistance and resources offered by the partnership including opportunities for collaboration with other states and organizations.

Monitoring of School Districts

Commissioner Davy stated that a little over 200 school districts have completed their self assessments and have scheduled appointments with their county offices to review their assessments. Results will be provided to the State Board in a few months once final determinations have been made regarding the districts' standing on the continuum of performance.

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. Business Services

- Assistant Commissioner, division of finance, Katherine Attwood and Beth Brooks, director of the Office of Fiscal Policy and Planning provided an update of the recodification process stating that staff from the division of finance met with various educational stakeholders, such as the county special services schools council and county vocational schools regarding the proposed changes to the tuition code. Division staff also met with charter schools' representatives regarding the proposed changes to the charter school section of this code. These meetings resulted in a

request that the proposed transition of moving from an estimated tuition rate to a certified tuition rate be delayed until 2010-2011. This request will be reviewed and any change will be reflected at the proposal level.

C. High School Graduation Amendments

- Commissioner Davy provided a status report on the numerous committees and groups working on varied elements of the high school transformation. Deputy Commissioner Willa Spicer, Assistant Commissioner Jay Doolan and staff answered questions about the proposed changes. State Board members requested more time to review and discuss the proposals for better clarification. A conference call will be held in the first week of January with the code committee and DOE staff to further discuss the proposals.

WORK SESSION

Commissioner Davy introduced Kati Haycock, President of Education Trust. Ms. Haycock provided a presentation on the status of student achievement nationwide and provided recommendations for closing the student achievement gap.

NEW BUSINESS

President Hernandez announced that Ken Parker has resigned from the State Board for personal and professional reasons. She stated that he will be missed.

President Hernandez discussed the proposed committee list and asked for feedback from the State Board members regarding the committee selections.

President Hernandez asked State Board members to check their schedules to select a date to continue the retreat.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly seconded and carried the State Board of Education adjourned its December 17, 2008 public meeting at 3:51 p.m.

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