

**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**

April 15, 2009

Presiding: Josephine Hernandez, President

Secretary: Lucille E. Davy, Commissioner

PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM

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

ABSENT

Dr. Ronald Butcher
Ms. Edithe Fulton

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 April 15, 2009.

INTRODUCTIONS

Commissioner Davy recognized Peggy Nicolosi, Executive County Superintendent of Schools (Camden County), who represented the county superintendents.

Student Recognition Program

The State Board recognized Caitlin Piserchia, a senior at the Haddonfield Memorial High School (Camden 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 their school, community, family or other groups. The State Board recognized Caitlin for her humanitarian endeavors.

On behalf of the State Board, President Hernandez congratulated Caitlin on her achievements.

STUDENT SPEAKERS

Jen Luck, a senior at South Brunswick High School (Middlesex County), discussed the importance of developing strong character. She stated that leaders must have strong character to motivate others to set goals and achieve those goals. She stated that the peer leadership program at her high school which is designed to assist freshmen in the transition into high school is an equal benefit to the seniors who participate because the program gives the seniors the opportunity to demonstrate skills such as team-building and communication. She stated that the experience also boosts their self-confidence.

President Hernandez thanked Jen for her comments.

PRESIDENT'S REPORTS

President Hernandez shared her experiences gained during her recent trip to Serbia sponsored by the Civics and Law-Related Education Program at Rutgers University. President Hernandez and two fellow educators visited elementary schools, secondary schools, the University of Belgrade and the teachers' college. The Serbian teachers who were part of the civics program called Project Citizen were teaching the students about the democratic process. President Hernandez stated the teachers understood that the children were a suitable starting point to develop democracy.

President Hernandez announced that public testimony was scheduled for 3:00 p.m. and the topic was high school graduation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board members approved the minutes of the public meeting conducted on March 18, 2009 and the special meeting held on April 2, 2009. State Board members Ernest Lepore, Dorothy Strickland and President Hernandez abstained from voting on the minutes of the April 2, 2009 special meeting.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

NJ Middle Schools to Watch

Commissioner Davy, along with Assistant Commissioner Rochelle Hendricks announced the four new middle schools that have been selected as middle schools to watch for this school year. They are: Dwight D. Eisenhower Middle School (Camden County), Holland Township School (Hunterdon County), Memorial Middle School (Burlington County), and Roosevelt Middle School (Essex County). These four schools will be honored at a celebration at Kean University on April 20, 2009 and at a national Schools To Watch Conference in June in Washington, D.C.

Goldman Sachs Award

Commissioner Davy announced that she and President Hernandez attended a ceremony on March 25, 2009, to receive the Goldman Sachs Foundation state prize for excellence in international education. The prizes consisting of a plaque and \$25,000, were in recognition of their efforts to integrate international knowledge, skills and perspective into the revised 2009 Core Curriculum Content Standards in support of student achievement within the context of globalization. Commissioner Davy thanked State Board member Kathy Dietz and Janis Jensen, director of the Office of Academic Standards and 21st Century Skills for their work in this area.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Commissioner Davy shared that the department will soon be providing to districts the amounts they will receive through a federal grant for IDEA and Title 1. This is in addition to their regular award amount. The department will also provide guidance and suggestions on how the districts might use the funding. They must apply for the funds through a streamlined grant process. Sessions on how to apply for the grants for use of the funds beyond the summer will be held in June. The state's website will track and report how the districts spend the funds. The department will also provide guidance on the use of the \$25 million for preschool expansion.

Upcoming Webinars with Katie Haycock

Kati Haycock's presentation at the December 2008 State Board meeting will be available during a series of webinars. District personnel will be invited to participate in the webinars to engage in a discussion with Ms. Haycock about the need to provide opportunities for all children to leave high school prepared for the future.

Budget Hearings

Commissioner Davy shared that the Assembly and Senate budget hearings for the department are scheduled for April 29 and 30, 2009.

Appointment of Paterson Superintendent

Commissioner Davy stated that Dr. Evans, who the State Board previously approved as the new Paterson superintendent, completed the state certification process and is now a certified superintendent. His contract is being negotiated and it is expected that he will start on May 1, 2009.

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. **School Ethics**

- Approved the adoption of the regulations with amendments to N.J.A.C. 6A:28.

C. **Adult Education**

- Approved the proposed code for publication in the *New Jersey Register*.

D. **Interdistrict Public School Choice**

- Rochelle Hendricks, assistant commissioner of the Division of District and School Improvement and Anne Casale, coordinator, provided an overview of the program.

E. **Student Residency**

- Gerald Vernotica, assistant commissioner of field services, and Pam Castellanos, Executive Assistant, provided information regarding the proposed re-adoption of N.J.A.C 6A:22.

F. **Professional Teaching Standards Board**

- Approved the following resolution approving the appointment of a new member to fulfill a two-year term.

RESOLUTION

PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS BOARD APPOINTMENT

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education has adopted regulations that require professional development for all active teachers and education services personnel; and

WHEREAS, the regulations establish the creation of a Professional Teaching Standards Board to ensure that required continuing education experiences are challenging and meaningful to teachers and relevant to the tasks of enabling students to achieve the Core Curriculum Content Standards; and

WHEREAS, members of the Professional Teaching Standards Board are appointed by the Commissioner of Education with the approval of the State Board of Education pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9-15.3(b)1; and

WHEREAS, one representative of teachers from the Professional Teaching Standards Board has resigned and a new member will be asked to serve; and,

WHEREAS, the Commissioner, after consulting with members of the New Jersey Education Association has recommended the appointment of Ms. Heidi Olson; and

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education hereby approves the appointment of Ms. Heidi Olson to the Professional Teaching Standards Board for a two-year term beginning April 15, 2009 and ending December 31, 2010.

WORK SESSION

Special Review Assessment Update

Willa Spicer, deputy commissioner, Jay Doolan, assistant commissioner of the Division of Educational Standards and Programs and Timothy Peters, director of the Office of State Assessments provided an update on the information gathered from the survey of all districts that had more than 10% of its students taking the SRA for graduation.

NEW BUSINESS

President Hernandez reminded state board members that the retreat will be held on May 20, 2009 after the regular public session.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly seconded and carried the State Board of Education adjourned its April 15, 2009 public meeting at 2:34 p.m.

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