

**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**

July 15, 2009

Presiding: Josephine Hernandez, President

Secretary: Lucille E. Davy, Commissioner

PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM

Mr. Arcelio Aponte
Dr. Ronald Butcher
Ms. Kathleen Deitz
Ms. Edithe Fulton
Mr. Robert Haney
Dr. Ernest Lepore
Ms. Florence McGinn
Mr. Ilan Plawker

ABSENT

Dr. Dorothy Strickland

CONVENING

Josephine Hernandez, president, State Board of Education, convened the public meeting at 10:20 a.m. with the reading of the statement pertaining to the public session of the State Board meeting as it complies with the Open Public Meetings Act.

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.

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.

And seeing there is a quorum this meeting of July 15, 2009, will come to order.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGANCE

STUDENT SPEAKERS

Commissioner Davy introduced Devon McRimmon, the new student representative for the 2009-2010 school year. Devon is a junior at J.P. Stevens High School (Middlesex County). Devon expressed his excitement at being the new student representative. He stated he plans to bring in student speakers from a variety of schools so a diverse population of students has the opportunity to speak before the State Board. He also commended the State Board on its accomplishments.

President Hernandez welcomed Devon and expressed support for his plan.

ELECTION OF STATE BOARD OFFICERS

Robert Haney, a member of the Nominating Committee, presented the slate of candidates for election: Josephine Hernandez for President and Arcelio Aponte for Vice President. There were no nominations from the floor. The election was uncontested and the slate passed unanimously.

President Hernandez and Vice President Aponte thanked the members for their support and expressed pleasure in working together in the upcoming year.

INTRODUCTIONS

Commissioner Davy recognized Timothy Brennan, Acting Executive County Superintendent of Schools (Hudson County), who represented the county superintendents.

Student Recognition Program

Commissioner Davy announced there was no student recognition during the summer months. Student recognition will resume in the fall.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

Common Core Standards Project

Commissioner Davy reported that the end of high school standards should be completed by the end of this month. These standards will be presented to the State Board in August.

Monitoring School Districts

Commissioner Davy stated that a separate set of district performance requirements are being established for special services districts. These will be shared with the State Board in the future. In addition, based upon a request from the charter schools, a separate set of these requirements is being created for charter schools. Finally, Commissioner Davy shared that she is establishing a committee to review the current charter school approval process to determine if a shorter process is warranted.

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 June 17, 2009. Kathleen Dietz abstained from the vote.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Legislative Committee Report

Ilan Plawker reported that he met with Assemblyman Joseph Cryan and would like to include in a future work session a discussion regarding the possibility of reinstating the State Board's authority to hear appeals on a limited basis.

General Report

President Hernandez announced that there will be public testimony today at 3:00 p.m. and the topic is Controversies and Disputes.

President Hernandez asked if there were any other issues State Board members would like to discuss. Ronald Butcher stated that he would like a follow up discussion on issues raised during the State Board retreat, specifically, teacher licensing, preparation, NCATE, and a northeast state board coalition. President Hernandez stated she would like to discuss committee structure, board goals and a strategic plan.

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. Interdistrict Public School Choice

- Approved the proposal to readopt the regulations without amendments related to the interdistrict public school choice program. Assistant commissioner Rochelle Hendricks explained that this readoption will maintain the current program and allows time to reflect on changes that may be made in the future.

C. Student Residency

- Approved the proposal to readopt with amendments and recodify the regulations related to student residency.

D. Student Transportation

- Discussed the amendments to the regulations related to student transportation. Assistant Commission Katie Attwood and Jerry Ford, director of the office of student transportation and shared services, answered questions and provided an update on the feedback received from the executive county superintendents.

E. State Board of Examiners

- Approved the resolution to reappoint Terrence Crowley, Dr. Carlos Hernandez, Derek Jess, Thomas MacGregor, Dr. Patricia McGeehan, Dr. Mary Jane McNally and Peter Tirri to the State Board of Examiners for two year terms. In addition, Robert Higgins,

director of the office of licensure and credentials, provided a summary of the number of the legal cases before the State Board of Examiners.

F. **NJ ASK Grade 3-4 Math and LAL Standard Setting**

- Adopted the resolution to establish score standards for the NJ ASK Grade 3-4 math and language arts literacy. Willa Spicer, deputy commissioner and Timothy Peters, director of the office of state assessments provided a presentation on the proposed standards and cut scores.

G. **Alternate Proficiency Assessment (APA) Standard Setting**

- Adopted the resolution to establish score standards for the APA. Deputy commissioner Willa Spicer, Barbara Gantwerk, assistant commissioner for special education, and Timothy Peters, director of the office of state assessments, provided an overview of the standard and cut scores for proficient and advanced proficient for grades 3 through 8 and grade 11.

WORK SESSION

- Deputy commissioner Spicer provided an update on the high school redesign project, including updates on the Partnership for 21st Century Skills Council, assessment issues, adolescent literacy, stem conference scheduled for October, math pilot tests, career and technical education development of courses, personalized learning plans, 21st century skills subcommittee, arts task force and leadership using professional learning communities. Deputy commissioner Spicer shared that there will be an outreach effort to parents statewide to close the information gap.
- State Board member Ron Butcher asked for a future discussion on parental roles and responsibilities for child growth and development. State Board member Florence McGinn recommended that this discussion be held in conjunction with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Whole Child Whole Community initiative.

NEW BUSINESS

President Hernandez requested that the department website be listed on all materials that are distributed to the public.

President Hernandez wished former Assistant to the Commissioner Erika Leak well as she leaves the department. Ms. Leak worked with the State Board office for many years and did an excellent job.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly seconded and carried the State Board of Education adjourned its July 15, 2009 public meeting at 2:01 p.m.

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