

**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**

**August 19, 2009**

**Presiding:** Josephine Hernandez, President

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

**PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM**

Ms. Kathleen Deitz  
Mr. Robert Haney  
Dr. Ernest Lepore  
Mr. Ilan Plawker  
Dr. Dorothy Strickland

**ABSENT**

Mr. Arcelio Aponte  
Dr. Ronald Butcher  
Ms. Edithe Fulton  
Ms. Florence McGinn

**CONVENING**

Josephine Hernandez, president, State Board of Education, convened the public meeting at 10:18 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 August 19, 2009, will come to order.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**STUDENT SPEAKERS**

There was no student speaker.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

Commissioner Davy recognized Rosalie S. Lamonte, Executive County Superintendent of Schools (Sussex 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.

### **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 July 15, 2009. Ernest Lepore and Dorothy Strickland abstained from the vote.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Hernandez announced that the state board will be working on following up on the retreat to establish the strategic plan and board goals. In addition, President Hernandez will be establishing the committees for the year.

### **COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS**

#### **H1N1 Summit**

Commissioner Davy reported that the department has organized a swine flu summit in preparation for the anticipated viral outbreak when schools reopen. The summit will focus on how to prevent the spread of the virus, inform parents to keep children home if they are symptomatic, provide information regarding the anticipated vaccine and its dissemination, and develop plans of action in the event schools have to close. Local school district officials, health officials, television and cable personnel and others have been invited.

#### **Common Core Update**

Commissioner Davy reported that the National Governor's Association released a draft of the expectations for graduation in math and language arts. Each state had 2 weeks to respond. A final draft that incorporated the comments from the states was to be released this month, however, there has been a delay. It is anticipated that this draft will be released in time for the September's State Board meeting. The draft will be reviewed by a validation panel that has not yet been named. Commissioner Davy stated she was pleased to see that the math expectations on the initial draft closely matched New Jersey's math requirements.

#### **Highly Qualified Teachers**

Deputy commissioner Willa Spicer, Cathy Pine, director of Professional Standards, Licensing and Higher Education Collaboration, and Carol Albritton, teacher quality coordinator, presented the results of the highly qualified teacher survey. The survey is required by the federal government and only speaks to the credentials of the teachers, not the effectiveness of instruction. The results reveal that 99.7% of New Jersey's teachers are deemed to be highly qualified in the subjects they teach. In addition, the survey revealed that the gap between the number of classes taught by highly qualified teachers in high poverty and low poverty schools has narrowed to .08% from 10% five years ago.

## **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. **Controversies and Disputes**

- Approved the proposal to readopt the regulations with amendments related to the Controversies and Disputes regulations.

### C. **Adult Education**

- Adopted the proposal amendments to raise the GED fees.

### D. **CCCS/Social Studies Standards**

- Discussed the resolution to adopt the core Curriculum Content Standards for social studies standards. Deputy commissioner Willa Spicer, Janis Jensen, director of the Office of Academic Standards and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills, Beverly Plein, content specialist in special education and 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and Stephanie Wilson on behalf of the Amistad Commission, provided an overview of the standards.

### E. **Charter Schools**

- Discussed the amendments to provide an early action approval process for Charter School applications. Deputy commissioner Willa Spicer, assistant commissioner Rochelle Hendricks and Ken Figgs, manager of the Office of Charter Schools, provided a history of charter schools in New Jersey and an overview of the proposed amendments.

### F. **State Board of Examiners**

- Adopted the resolution approving the reappointment of Dr. Dawood Y. Farahi, president of Kean University to the State Board of Examiners to fill the unexpired term of the president of a state college.

## **WORK SESSION**

- The State Board agreed to hold off on the discussion of teachers and merit pay until a date in the future.
- State Board member Ilan Plawker led a discussion on restoring limited authority to hear appeals to the State Board. Mr. Plawker proposed that the State Board have the authority to hear cases that impact educational policy. State Board members Dorothy

Strickland and Kathleen Dietz expressed their views on the benefits and value of having the authority to hear cases. President Hernandez also expressed her views on the benefits of the process and proposed a pilot plan in which the State Board legal committee could review the decisions that are posted on the department website and advise the full State Board of cases that have an impact on educational policy. The full State Board would then discuss the cases and the potential impact. This could be done as a pilot for a year and would not require a change in legislation. Ms. Dietz recommended that the legal committee be resurrected for the purpose of investigating the issue further and making a proposal to the full State Board. State Board member Robert Haney commented that the State Board should have a deeper discussion on how to understand and impact educational policy.

Clarification is needed regarding whether the legislation that eliminated the State Board's authority to hear cases sunsets in the coming year or whether new legislation is needed to reinstate this authority.

- President Hernandez asked for volunteers for the legal committee and for the State Board members to email her with their committee interests.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

State Board member Ilan Plawker stated that he met with the Director of Admission at The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) who expressed an interest in gathering information regarding her concerns that the pool of students who apply to college could be higher if the high school drop out rate were not so high, especially in urban schools. The TCNJ Director would like to present this information to the State Board. State Board members suggested that she submit her information to the State Board.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion duly seconded and carried the State Board of Education adjourned its August 19, 2009 public meeting at 2:01 p.m.

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