

**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 16, 2009**

**Presiding:** Josephine Hernandez, President

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

**PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM**

**ABSENT**

Mr. Arcelio Aponte  
Dr. Ronald Butcher  
Ms. Kathleen Dietz  
Ms. Edithe Fulton  
Mr. Robert Haney  
Dr. Ernest Lepore  
Ms. Florence McGinn  
Mr. Ilan Plawker  
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 was a quorum the meeting of December 16, 2009, was called to order.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**STUDENT SPEAKERS**

Commissioner Davy introduced the student guest speaker Tolani Waller, a sophomore from Orange High School (Essex County). Ms. Waller shared how her experiences in the arts and extracurricular activities at Orange High School have enhanced her academics. She also spoke of the benefit of the NJ SEEDS College Prep and Pathway to College Programs. On behalf of the

State Board, President Hernandez thanked Tolani for her comments and wished her well in the future.

## **INTRODUCTIONS**

Commissioner Davy recognized Lawrence Feinsod, Executive County Superintendent of Schools (Essex County), who represented the county superintendents.

### **Student Recognition Program**

Dr. Feinsod introduced the Leadership & Technology Team at the Fourth Avenue School in East Orange (Essex County). The State Board congratulated the students for their accomplishments in using technology to enhance their school community.

## **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 November 18, 2009.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Hernandez shared that she visited the Academic Learning Center in Passaic where she talked about the importance of maintaining rigor in the academic program.

President Hernandez announced that public testimony will be held this afternoon at 3:00 p.m. The topics are: the Evaluation of the Performance of School Districts and Educational Facilities.

## **COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS**

Commissioner Davy shared that the update on the Newark School District is complete, however, the report for Paterson School District is not yet ready. Jersey City is no longer a state operated school district and therefore, will not be included in the report. A report will be finalized by the end of next week.

Commissioner Davy announced that the Ellen Pressman Charter School in Plainfield (Union County) is relinquishing its charter at the end of the 2009-2010 school year as a result of insufficient enrollment. President Hernandez requested a report on the status of charter schools.

Commissioner Davy announced that New Jersey was recently highlighted in the New America Foundation, an early childhood white paper, which confirmed research that preschoolers are making gains that are being sustained through elementary grades.

### **Race to the Top**

Commissioner Davy announced that the department is applying for the January round of funds. The department received the support from the transition team to proceed with the application.

## **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 – Adoption Level**

- Adopted the proposal without amendments to the Interdistrict Public School Choice regulations.

### C. **Student Residency – Adoption Level**

- Adopted the proposed amendments to the student residency code. Deputy Commissioner Willa Spicer and Deborah Antanaitis, Controversies Examiner, were present to answer questions.

### D. **Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf – First Discussion**

- Discussed the proposed amendments to the code pertaining to the Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf. Assistant commissioner Barbara Gantwerk and Ron Goodwin, Interim Superintendent, presented the proposed amendments and answered questions.

### E. **Request for Name Change – Adoption Level**

- Adopted the resolution approving the name change of Clinton Town School District to Clinton-Glen Gardner School District.

### F. **Education Standards and Assessment – First Discussion**

- Discussed the proposed readoption with amendments to the standards and assessment code. Deputy commissioner Willa Spicer and Janis Jensen, director of Office of Academic Standards presented the amendments and answered questions.

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

- Approved the proposed appointments to the Special Education Advisory Council.

## **WORK SESSION**

### **Content Specific Standards Demonstration**

Janis Jensen, director of the Office of Academic Standards, Larry Coco, manager of the Office Educational Technology and Donna Fletcher-Lugo, administrative analyst, demonstrated the new webpage for 2009 Core Curriculum Content Standards.

**Career and Technology Education Course Alignment**

Willa Spicer, deputy commissioner and Marie Barry, director of the Office of Career and Technical Education, provided an update on state of career and technology education.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion duly seconded and carried the State Board of Education adjourned its December 16, 2009 public meeting at 1:25 p.m.

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