

**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 7, 2010

Presiding: Arcelio Aponte, President

Secretary: Bret Schundler, Commissioner

PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM

Dr. Ronald Butcher
Mr. Robert Haney
Ms. Josephine Hernandez
Mr. Ilan Plawker
Dr. Dorothy Strickland

ABSENT

Ms. Kathleen Dietz
Ms. Edithe Fulton
Dr. Ernest Lepore
Ms. Florence McGinn

CONVENING

Josephine Hernandez, President, State Board of Education, convened the public meeting 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 July 7, 2010 was called to order.

CONVENING

President Hernandez reconvened the public meeting at 10:00 a.m. 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ELECTION OF STATE BOARD OFFICERS

Commissioner Bret Schundler, secretary to the State Board, conducted the annual election of State Board officers. Dorothy Strickland, chair, State Board Nominating Committee, presented the slate of officers. On motions duly seconded and carried, the State Board members elected Arcelio Aponte as State Board President and Ronald Butcher as State Board Vice President. Both were elected for a one-year term.

Commissioner Schundler congratulated the elected officers.

Josephine Hernandez congratulated Mr. Aponte and Dr. Butcher on their election as State Board President and Vice President, respectively. President Aponte thanked Ms. Hernandez for her leadership and mentorship and the State Board members for their support and confidence.

President Aponte expressed his gratitude to the members of the State Board for electing him President. He stated that he looks forward to working with the State Board, the Commissioner and the Department leadership to provide all students with a thorough and efficient education; prepare students for success in school and life; and work in an economy driven by information, knowledge and innovation aligned with 21st century learning skills.

President Aponte highlighted a few of New Jersey's recent accomplishments such as the adoption of the Common Core State Standards in Mathematics and Language Arts Literacy and the restructuring of the high school graduation requirements. He also noted that New Jersey's National Assessment of Education Progress scores are among the highest in the nation.

President Aponte further stated that although New Jersey has a lot to be proud of, he would like to see the Department and the State Board:

- maintain focus and efforts to close the academic achievement gap while substantially raising the achievement level;
- confront the schools that are dealing with high dropout rates and help them implement corrective action plans that address the problem;
- graduate students from high school ready for work or college; and
- turn around our most struggling schools and districts.

STUDENT SPEAKERS

Commissioner Schundler introduced Tabitha Nicodemus, the new student representative for the 2010-2011 school year. Tabitha will be a senior at Rancocas Valley Regional High School (Burlington County) in September. Tabitha expressed her excitement at being the new student representative.

President Aponte welcomed Tabitha to the State Board as the 2010-2011 student representative.

INTRODUCTIONS

Commissioner Schundler recognized Bruce Greenfield, Executive County Superintendent of Schools (Ocean County), who represented the executive county superintendents.

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 16, 2010 as amended below.

Dorothy Strickland, chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the slate of candidates as: Arcelio Aponte for president and Ronald Butcher for vice president. The vote will occur next month. State Board members Robert Haney and [Edithe Fulton] Florence McGinn were also on the committee.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Public Testimony

President Aponte stated that there would not be a public testimony session today.

Committees

President Aponte stated that in the coming weeks, he would review the State Board's current committee structure and make appointments to State Board committees based on the interests of State Board members.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Monitoring of Schools Districts Annual Report

Deputy Commissioner Willa Spicer and Pam Castellanos, Executive Assistant, provided the annual report of the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC) for the 2009-2010 school year. Deputy Commissioner Spicer stated that 215 school districts completed the process which began with a self-assessment. She also stated that the executive county superintendents verified the school districts' work from November 2009 to March 2010. She further stated that approximately 73 percent of these school districts have been categorized as high performing school districts based on having achieved 80 percent of the weighted indicators in each of the five District Performance Review (DPR) areas: instruction and program, fiscal management, operations, personnel and governance.

Deputy Commissioner Spicer stated that the remaining school districts that were not categorized as high performing have begun the school district improvement planning process and will be scheduled for an interim progress review by the executive county superintendents, following approval of their school district improvement plans.

Alternative High School Assessment (AHSA)

Deputy Commissioner Willa Spicer stated that the Department is close to having all of the documentation for the automatic review of test scores completed. She stated that the students who have not yet been able to submit evidence of reading, writing and mathematics at the level required for a New Jersey diploma will be able to participate in an online tutorial. She also said that many school districts will arrange meetings of these students at their respective schools or the students will work on their own providing a new opportunity to pass the AHSA in August.

Deputy Commissioner Spicer stated that the Department is going to take a more analytical look at the results, communicate with the school districts about the educational programs that lead to these results and review the entire process from the first administration of the HSPA to the final decisions on graduation. She also stated that the solutions to the problems faced this year are not with the test. The answers rest with the K-12 school system and the ability of the local school to provide intervention for students who are having difficulty when they enter 9th grade.

Effectiveness Reform Committee Report

Deputy Commissioner Willa Spicer and Jessani Gordon provided information on the Education Effectiveness Evaluation Committee (EEEC). Deputy Commissioner Spicer stated that this committee is currently being formed to provide recommendations on the best way to measure the effectiveness of teachers and school leaders using defined parameters. She also stated that the committee will make recommendations on the best methods for implementation and will include broad stakeholder representation to ensure input is considered from those they represent.

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. **Standards & Assessments**

Approved for publication in the *New Jersey Register* the proposed renewal of rules at N.J.A.C. 6A:8, Standards & Assessment code pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-10 through 14, N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-49, 18A:7C, 18A:7E-2 through 5, 18A:7F-46, 18A:35-4.2, 18A:35-4.7, and 18A:59-5.

C. **New Praxis II Tests and Qualifying Scores Teachers**

Discussed the resolution to adopt new tests and recommended qualifying scores for the Praxis tests required for initial New Jersey teacher licensure pursuant to *NJAC* 6A:9-8.1(a)6.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly seconded and carried the State Board of Education adjourned its July 7, 2010 public meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Bret Schundler, Commissioner
Secretary, State Board of Education