

**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 4, 2010**

**Presiding:** Arcelio Aponte, President

**Secretary:** Willa Spicer, Acting Commissioner

**PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM**

Ms. Kathleen Dietz  
Mr. Robert Haney  
Ms. Josephine Hernandez  
Ms. Florence McGinn  
Mr. Ilan Plawker  
Dr. Dorothy Strickland

**ABSENT**

Dr. Ronald Butcher  
Ms. Edythe Fulton  
Dr. Ernest Lepore

**CONVENING**

Arcelio Aponte, 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 August 4, 2010 was called to order.

**CONVENING**

President Aponte 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**

## **STUDENT SPEAKERS**

Tabitha Nicodemus, the student representative for the 2010-2011 school year introduced Aiysa Wilson an incoming senior at Burlington High School. She shared her thoughts and insight on how the Arts programs influence today's youth by assisting them to become tomorrow's leaders. State Board President Arcelio Aponte welcomed Aiysa to the State Board meeting and thanked her for her comments.

## **INTRODUCTIONS**

Acting Commissioner Spicer recognized Carole K. Morris, Executive County Superintendent of Schools (Monmouth 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 July 7, 2010. State Board members Kathleen Dietz and Florence McGinn abstained.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

### **Public Testimony**

President Aponte stated that there would not be a public testimony session today as no one registered to speak.

### **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.

### **Retreat**

President Aponte stated that the State Board plans to hold a retreat in September and details about the retreat are forthcoming.

## **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

### **Introductions**

Acting Commissioner Willa Spicer introduced Andrew Smarick, who will serve as Deputy Commissioner and Jeffrey Hauger, who will serve as Director of the Office of Assessment to the State Board of Education.

### **School Improvement Grants**

Acting Commissioner Willa Spicer stated that the Department awarded \$45.3 million in federal School Improvement Grants to help fundamentally change and improve 12 of the lowest-performing schools in New Jersey. She also stated that the grant funds have been made available

from the U.S. Department of Education under its School Improvement Grant (SIG) program. She further stated that the program is designed to target funds to persistently lowest-achieving schools based on measurements such as poor scores on standardized tests and graduation rates below 60 percent. Thirty-two schools in New Jersey met the eligibility requirements. Twenty-seven submitted applications.

Acting Commissioner Spicer stated that for a school to be considered for a grant, the school district had to submit plans that required replacing ineffective principals and developing a redesigned curriculum. She also stated that schools were required to choose one of four models of reform provided by the U.S. Department of Education. She further stated that the awarded grants will be used over a three-year period.

### **Adequacy**

Acting Commissioner Willa Spicer stated that a panel of practitioners will meet on August 10, 2010, as required by the Supreme Court to look at the description of adequacy which serves as the basis for the School Funding Formula. Acting Commissioner Spicer also stated that Gene Wilhoit, executive director, Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), is heading an independent panel of 16 practitioners that include superintendents or business administrators representing school districts from each of the district factor grouping that have the highest student performance with the lowest cost. The panel will consider where and how changes or revisions might occur to the School Funding Formula.

### **Race to the Top**

Acting Commissioner Willa Spicer stated New Jersey is a semi-finalist. She stated that she along with Commissioner Schundler, Andrew Smarick, Rochelle Hendricks and Daniel Gohl, Executive Assistant of Innovation and Change from the Newark public school district will be in Washington D.C. next week to present clarifying information about the application to the reviewers.

### **Alternative High School Assessment (AHSA)**

Acting Commissioner Willa Spicer stated that the testing for the alternate high school assessment program would be completed on August 6, 2010. She also stated that the Department is analyzing the meaning of what has gone on in terms of the Alternative High School Assessment and next month will present an extensive report of recommendations and Administrative Code amendments that will produce positive changes for students and school districts in the coming years.

### **Educational Effectiveness Evaluation Committee (EEEC)**

Acting Commissioner Willa Spicer stated that applications to serve on the EEEEC are due on August 13, 2010. She also stated that the first task of the committee is to present draft recommendations to the Commissioner by January 2011 regarding the best way to measure the effectiveness of teachers and school leaders, based on defined parameters. She further stated that State Board member Dorothy Strickland has agreed to serve on the committee.

### **Algebra I Test**

Acting Commissioner Willa Spicer stated that New Jersey administered the Algebra I test this year for the first time as a pilot for all students. She also stated that New Jersey is a part of a 13 state

consortia that developed and administered this new Algebra I test. She further stated that the Department is using the cut scores that were agreed to and decided upon by all of the states involved in the consortia for this year. She stated that a 4 point scale was used for the cut score and the Department has not tried to reset the scores at this time. She also stated that the Department will present cut scores for the Algebra I test to the State Board for consideration when the test will count for all New Jersey students.

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

Adopted 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.

**RESOLUTION  
ADOPTING NEW PRAXIS II TESTS AND QUALIFYING SCORES FOR, TEACHER  
OF GERMAN, TEACHER OF FRENCH , TEACHER OF SPANISH, TEACHER OF  
BUSINESS EDUCATION, AND TEACHER OF READING**

**WHEREAS**, the State Board of Education has required that teacher certification candidates pass tests in specified disciplines in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:9-8.1, effective January 5, 2009; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Board of Education has required tests for the certificates for Teacher of German, Teacher of French, Teacher of Spanish, Teacher of Business Education, and Teacher of Reading in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:9-8.1 and N.J.A.C. 6A:9-11.10; and

**WHEREAS**, the Educational Testing Service (ETS) has recently established new tests in these subjects to replace the current Praxis II Subject Assessment tests that are in use by the department; and

**WHEREAS**, the department has reviewed national standard-setting studies for the German, French, and Spanish tests to determine the validity of and the theoretically appropriate qualifying score for those tests, and whereas the department has participated in national standard-setting studies for the Business Education and Reading tests to determine the validity of and the theoretically appropriate qualifying score for those tests; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Board of Education approves the department's selection of the respective Praxis II tests and initial qualifying scores for those certificates; and

**WHEREAS**, the department will monitor the impact of these tests and qualifying scores on the passing rates for each subject area and will report any problems with the same to the State Board of Education; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the State Board of Education hereby supports the department's selection of these five Praxis II Subject Assessment tests; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the State Board of Education hereby acknowledges and accepts the department's establishment of the following qualifying scores effective October 1, 2010:

<b>Praxis II Test</b>	<b>Qualifying Score</b>
Teacher of German	163
Teacher of French	162
Teacher of Spanish	168
Teacher of Business Education	154
Teacher of Reading	159

**C. State Board of Examiners**

Adopted the resolution approving the reappointments to the State Board of Examiners in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:6-34 and 35.

**RESOLUTION  
STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-38, the State Board of Examiners is responsible for issuing, revoking and suspending educational certificates under rules prescribed by the State Board of Education; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-34, members of the State Board of Examiners are appointed by the Commissioner of Education with the approval of the State Board of Education; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commissioner, after consulting with members of the education community, has recommended the appointment of four new members and the reappointment of three current members to the Board; and

**WHEREAS**, the persons whom the Commissioner has recommended have established reputations for distinguished service; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the State Board of Education hereby approves the appointment of the following persons to full terms on the State Board of Examiners, which terms shall run from September 15, 2010 through September 14, 2012:

Dr. Susan Cole, President, Montclair State University

Kristen Hennessy, Teacher, Brielle School District

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the State Board of Education hereby approves the appointment of the following person to an unexpired term on the State Board of Examiners, which term shall run from September 15, 2010 through September 14, 2011:

Danielle DeCangi, Teacher, University Heights Charter School, Newark

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the State Board of Education hereby approves the reappointment of the following persons to full terms on the State Board of Examiners, which terms shall run from September 15, 2010 through September 14, 2012:

JoAnn Gales, Teacher, Mt. Holly School District

Dr. Christopher Nagy, High School Principal, Upper Freehold Regional School District

Gloria Tunstall, Elementary School Principal, Trenton School District

**D. Interim Biology End of Course Test Cut Scores**

Adopted the resolution setting cut scores for the Biology Competency test.

**RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH SCORE STANDARDS FOR  
THE NEW JERSEY BIOLOGY COMPETENCY TEST**

**WHEREAS**, the goal of public schools is to provide all students with a thorough and efficient education as defined by the *Core Curriculum Content Standards* so they may function politically, economically, and socially in our democratic society; and

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Biology Competency Test is provided for assessing student progress toward mastery of essential knowledge and skills; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1(b) requires State Board of Education approval of student performance levels for statewide assessments as specified for district certification; and

**WHEREAS**, the established levels of proficiency are partially proficient, proficient and advanced proficient; and

**WHEREAS**, the established scale score standards for the New Jersey Biology Competency Test are 200 for the proficient level and 250 for the advanced proficient level; and

**WHEREAS**, the total raw scores points possible are 78; 24 of which are aligned to the performance assessment; 54 of which are aligned to selected response items; and

**WHEREAS**, the corresponding raw cut scores recommended by the Commissioner of Education for the New Jersey Biology Competency Test are as follows:

41 for the proficient level  
58 for the advanced proficient level

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the cut scores recommended by the Commissioner of Education for the New Jersey Biology Competency Test shall apply to the 2010 administration and be the basis for reporting scores for future administrations, until such time as the Board shall adopt new performance standards for this assessment.

## **WORK SESSION**

### **Math Common Core Standards**

Sandra Alberti, director, Math and Science Education stated that the Department, with the help of the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) conducted an item by item analysis of the national Common Core Standards to New Jersey's Curriculum Content Standards in Mathematics. She also stated that one conclusion of this comparison showed that all of the Common Core Standards are in New Jersey standards. She further stated that the Fordham Foundation recently released a report comparing each state's current standards to the Common Core Standards which suggested that NJ would be much better off adopting the Common Core Standards. In addition, she stated that the high school standards were not originally designed to be college ready standards like the Common Core so 40 percent of the standards are new expectations for students.

Ms. Alberti stated that the focus is now on the implementation timeline. With the adoption of the Common Core, there are significant changes in grade level expectations. Therefore, implementation for math will be phased in beginning with the youngest students.

Ms. Alberti stated that thirty-five states have now adopted the Common Core Standards. She also stated that frameworks, curriculum and implementation guidelines are being developed to assist teachers in preparing students to meet the expectations set forth in the standards.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

State Board member Josephine Hernandez stated that she would like the State Board to discuss the high rates of teen pregnancy. In particular Ms. Hernandez would like information on the implementation of a sexual education curriculum and program in across New Jersey's school districts. Ms. Hernandez also requested an update on the Comprehensive Health Grant.

State Board member Dorothy Strickland shared her concern about a report stating that New Jersey intends to eliminate funding for early childhood education. Ms. Strickland stated she is particularly concerned in light of the strides that New Jersey has made in the area of preschool education and the vast amount of research that demonstrate the lasting effects of a high quality preschool program on young children.

State Board member Ilan Plawker stated that he attended the new board member institute sponsored by the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE). He stated that communication with the legislature was stressed by NASBE as being critical to the implementation of state education initiatives.

State Board member Robert Haney requested an orientation session for new board members. He also stated that he would like to visit some schools in Monmouth County in the fall.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion duly seconded and carried the State Board of Education adjourned its August 4, 2010 public meeting at 12:45 p.m.

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Rochelle Hendricks, Acting Commissioner  
Secretary, State Board of Education