

**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**

**October 6, 2010**

**Presiding:** Arcelio Aponte, President

**Secretary:** Rochelle Hendricks, Acting Commissioner

**PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM**

Dr. Ronald Butcher  
Ms. Edythe Fulton  
Mr. Robert Haney  
Ms. Josephine Hernandez  
Dr. Ernest Lepore  
Ms. Florence McGinn  
Mr. Ilan Plawker  
Dr. Dorothy Strickland

**ABSENT**

Ms. Kathleen Dietz

**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 October 6, 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 Priyankah Shah a senior at Passaic High School in Passaic County. She shared her thoughts about the advances in urban education as a representative of the educational system of Passaic School District. State Board President Arcelio Aponte welcomed Priyankah to the State Board meeting and thanked her for her comments.

## **INTRODUCTIONS**

Acting Commissioner Hendricks recognized Terrance Crowley, Executive County Superintendent of Schools (Cape May County), who represented the executive county superintendents.

## **STUDENT RECOGNITION**

The State Board recognized the Future Farmers of America (FFA) Constitutional Officers Cape May County Technical School (Cape May County), as a part of its monthly recognition program designed to honor a student or a group of students who have made a significant contribution to school, community, family or other groups. The State Board recognized the FFA Constitutional Officers for their outstanding accomplishments in academic programs, leadership abilities and their contributions to the community and the environment.

On behalf of the State Board, President Aponte congratulated the FFA Constitutional Officers on their achievements.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS**

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board members unanimously approved the minutes of the public meeting conducted on September 1, 2010.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

### **Announcements**

#### **Closing the Achievement Gap**

President Aponte acknowledged a report recently released by the Schott Foundation that recognized New Jersey's leadership in Closing the Achievement Gap. President Aponte stated that New Jersey is headed in the right direction with regard to closing or eliminating the achievement gaps for the most vulnerable students.

#### **Condolences**

President Aponte offered a message of sympathy on behalf of the State Board to the family of Tyler Clemente and the Rutgers Community.

#### **Public Testimony**

President Aponte stated that the public testimony session scheduled for today is cancelled as no one registered to speak.

## **Retreat/Policy Meeting**

President Aponte stated that the State Board will hold a policy meeting on Thursday, October 7, 2010, from 8:45 am to 5:15 pm in the Barn located at the Chauncey Center at Educational Testing Service (ETS). He also stated that the meeting will focus on reform priorities for the coming year and an examination of the state board's role in supporting the reform initiatives. He further stated that Dr. Pedro Noguera and Dr. Lauren Wells will update the State Board on the Broader, Bolder Approach to school reform currently underway in Newark. President Aponte stated that Richard Coley, the Director of the Policy Information Center at ETS will provide a presentation about Understanding the Achievement Gap.

## **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

### **Teacher of the Year**

Acting Commissioner Hendricks stated that Danielle M. Kovach, a special education teacher at Hopatcong School District in Sussex County, was named the 2010-11 New Jersey State Teacher of the Year. She also stated that Mrs. Kovach, who is in her 11th year of teaching in the Hopatcong School District, is a third grade special education teacher at Hopatcong's Tulsa Trail Elementary School. She has taught nine years at Tulsa Trail – five years as a general education teacher and began her career in the fall of 1997 as an in-class special education support teacher in Hopatcong's Durban Avenue Elementary School.

Acting Commissioner Hendricks also stated that as State Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Kovach will receive a half-year sabbatical, sponsored by the Educational Testing Service, and a new car provided by the New Jersey Education Association while SMART Technologies will provide a SMART Board. Acting Commissioner Hendricks also stated that the global financial institution ING is a new sponsor for 2010-11. The company will provide \$5,000 to help offset travel expenses during Kovach's term as Teacher of the Year. Acting Commissioner Hendricks further stated that the 2010-2011 State Teacher of the Year was selected from the list of County Teachers of the Year.

On behalf of the State Board of Education, President Aponte congratulated the Teacher of the Year.

### **Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)**

Acting Commissioner Hendricks stated that the Department will not provide a report today.

## **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:**

On motions duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education took the following action:

### **A. Appointments**

Approved the appointments pursuant to NJSA 18A:4-32-35 and N.J.A.C. 6A:2.

- Approved the appointment of Jeffrey Hauger as Director of the Office of Student Learning Assessments.

**B. Special Education**

Adopted the amendments to the Special Education Code to implement new federal requirements regarding revocation of consent by parents of students with disabilities pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 18A:46-1 et seq.

**C. Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf**

Adopted the readoption with amendments of the Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf regulations at *N.J.A.C.* 6A:21 pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 18A:1-1, 18A:4-15, 18A:6-10 et seq., 18A:39-1, 18A:46-1 et seq., 18A:60-2 through 60-3 and 18A:61-1 et seq.

**D. Regulatory Equivalency & Waiver**

Adopted the readoption with amendments of the Regulatory Equivalency and Waiver regulations at *N.J.A.C.* 6A:5, pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 18A:4-15.

**E. Adult Education Programs**

Discussed the readoption and recodification with amendments of *N.J.A.C.* 6:30, pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 18A:1-1, 18A:4-15, 18A:7C-1 et seq., 18A:27-2, 18A:48-1, 18A:49-1 through 8, 18A:50-12, 13, and 14, and the Adult Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1201 et seq.

**F. Professional Licensure and Standards**

Discussed the amendments to the Professional Licensure and Standards regulations at *N.J.A.C.* 6A:9 pertaining to persons assigned to work with interscholastic swimming and diving programs, substitute teachers, elementary school with subject matter specialization certification, and speech language specialists certification pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 18A:1-1, 18A:4-15, 18A:6-34, 18A:6-38, 18A:26-10 and 18A:26-2.7.

**G. State Board of Examiners**

This item was withdrawn.

**WORK SESSION**

**Biology Test Recommendations**

Sandra Alberti, Director, Office of Mathematics and Science Education stated that at the request of the State Board a meeting was convened to focus specifically on interventions and alternative assessments for students who are not proficient after the first assessment administration. She stated that along with Department staff and State Board member Ilan Plawker, four biology teachers/supervisors, and a representative from the NJ Aquatic Marine Science Academy participated in the meeting. She further stated that the committee discussed a proposal whereby the standard assessment (aligned to five big concepts) will be analyzed by the school staff. The

specific areas in which the students are not proficient will be identified. Ms. Alberti stated that on line tutorial modules would also be developed for each big concept. The Department would offer an online alternative assessment which will be comprised of both multiple choice and open-ended items. In broad terms these assessments will require the equivalent content and skills, but focus on engaging students in the real-world applications of biology. These assessments would be taken online, and then distributed for scoring.

Ms. Alberti stated that the group plans to meet again within a month along with the online provider to begin specifically crafting the modules.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

State Board members discussed the merits of membership in the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE).

State Board member Josephine Hernandez requested a report on the status of teen pregnancies in the state.

State Board president Arcelio Aponte stated that Richard Delisi, Dean of the Graduate School of Education at Rutgers University will serve as facilitator of the 2010 Annual Retreat of the State Board of Education. He also stated that he would like the work of the state board going forward to reflect the theme “Empower, Educate and Employ”.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion duly seconded and carried the State Board of Education adjourned its September 1, 2010 public meeting at 3:45 p.m.

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Rochelle Hendricks, Acting Commissioner  
Acting Secretary, State Board of Education