

**New Jersey State Board of Education
Minutes of the Annual Policy Meeting
Educational Testing Service
The Barn at the Chauncey Conference Center
Princeton, NJ**

October 7, 2010

Presiding: Arcelio Aponte, President

Secretary: Willa Spicer, Deputy Commissioner

PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM

Dr. Ronald Butcher
Ms. Edithe Fulton
Mr. Robert Haney
Ms. Josephine Hernandez
Mr. 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 resolution pertaining to the public session of the State Board meeting as it complies with the Open Public Meetings Act.

WHEREAS, 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, and

WHEREAS, 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, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that by adopting this resolution the State Board of Education states its intention to convene a public meeting to conduct the state's business on Thursday, October 7, 2010.

Welcome and Introduction

President Aponte welcomed everyone to the policy meeting and thanked Educational Testing Service (ETS) for their assistance with the arrangements. Walt MacDonald, COO, ETS, also welcomed the State Board members and Department staff to The Chauncey Center.

President Aponte stated that the State Board's challenge is to meaningfully move forward by showing growth and progress in public education despite knowing that in times the State Board may face controversy. He also stated that this is an opportunity for the State Board to embark upon a new plan for public education. He further stated that this blueprint will be developed by the State Board in partnership with the Department of Education and the Office of the Governor. He stated that the policy meeting will begin to form a foundation to build a much stronger system of public education reinforced with a focus on rigorous content and 21st century skills. A system that will afford our children an opportunity to pursue post secondary education and confidently enter a workforce with the skills needed to be productive.

President Aponte also read *N.J.S.A. 18A:4-10*, the statutory provision authorizing the State Board with the general supervision of public education in the State.

Identifying Priorities for Reform

During the policy meeting, State Board members and Deputy Commissioner Spicer discussed some of the educational reforms that are currently underway in the Department of Education specifically data collection, NJQSAC, school choice and charter schools, proposed testing consortia, graduation rates and educator effectiveness. Policy and regulatory areas requiring guidance from and action by the State Board were highlighted.

Richard Delisi, Dean, Graduate School of Education, Rutgers University facilitated the State Board's success in preliminarily identifying closing the achievement gap, improving communication and increasing collaboration as its priorities within the context of reviewing policy, adopting Administrative Code and confirming appointments of the Commissioner.

State Takeover District Demonstration Project

Dr. Pedro Noguera, a Peter L. Agnew Professor of Education at New York University and an urban sociologist whose scholarship and research focus on the ways in which schools are influenced by social and economic conditions in the urban environment also provided a presentation during the policy meeting about his work with the Newark Public School District. Dr. Noguera along with Dr. Lauren Wells, a Research Associate and School Reform Coordinator, spoke to the State Board about the Broader, Bolder, Approach they are leading in the Newark School District to increase student learning and improve teaching practices.

Understanding the Achievement Gap

Richard Coley, Director of the Policy Information Center, ETS provided a presentation on Understanding the Achievement Gap. The presentation focused on the correlates most impacting educational performance and how these correlates have a profound impact on student achievement.

Next Steps

The State Board will use the outcomes of the policy meeting as a foundation to begin to develop its Strategic Plan. A State Board member will participate on the testing consortia committee. A State Board member will participate on the NJQSAC review committee. The State Board will

focus on current initiatives that are demonstrating success and continue to revisit these topics overtime. The State Board will hold a follow up policy meeting in October or November.

Closing Remarks

On behalf of the State Board, President Aponte thanked all of the presenters and attendees for their participation. He also thanked the State Board staff for their planning and coordination of this year's policy meeting. He further thanked Peter Yeager and the staff at ETS for their role in assisting with the policy meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board adjourned October 7, 2010 Annual State Board Policy Meeting at 5:17 p.m.

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