

**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**

November 3, 2010

Presiding: Arcelio Aponte, President

Secretary: Rochelle Hendricks, Acting Commissioner

PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM

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

ABSENT

Mr. Robert Haney

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 November 3, 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

Acting Commissioner Hendricks recognized Tabitha Nicodemus, the student representative for the 2010-2011 school year.

INTRODUCTIONS

Acting Commissioner Hendricks recognized Gerald Vernotica, Executive County Superintendent of Schools (Hunterdon County), who represented the executive county superintendents.

STUDENT RECOGNITION

The State Board recognized the Daniel Carpenter (Hunterdon 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 Daniel for his outstanding accomplishments in academic programs, leadership abilities and contributions to the community.

On behalf of the State Board, President Aponte congratulated Daniel on his 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 October 6, 2010 and the policy retreat conducted on October 7, 2010.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Public Testimony

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

Retreat/Policy Follow-Up Meeting

President Aponte stated that the State Board held a policy follow up meeting on Wednesday, October 27, 2010, from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm here at the Department of Education. He stated that Richard Delisi again served as the facilitator of the policy follow-up meeting.

President Aponte asked State Board Vice President Ronald Butcher to provide a summary of the discussion. Vice President Butcher stated that the State Board is focused on three broad areas: Closing the Achievement Gap; Communications and Collaboration and Family and Community Involvement. He also stated that the State Board and the Department would be discussing and implementing strategies within the context of Communications and Collaboration and Family and Communication to assist in Closing the Achievement Gap.

The following strategies were identified under Communications and Collaboration.

- Increase the dialogue between the State Board and the Department through daily updates from the Department and ensuring that policy and Administrative Code presentations relate to the State Board Strategic Plan.
- Increase dialogue between the State Board and other stakeholders such as the Legislature, state education associations and advocates.
- Include State Board member participation on the Biology test recommendations committee and the Common Core testing consortia committee.
- The State Board and the Commissioner will develop a joint approach to dealing with legislative issues relative to NJQSAC.
- Schedule State Board member orientation sessions with Department staff.

The following strategies were identified under Family and Community Involvement.

- Staying informed about the evolution of NJSMART, Choice and Charter Schools, High School Graduation Requirements and the Alternate High School Assessment.

Other initiatives discussed include Teacher Preparation and Effectiveness and the availability of and accessibility to technology in the classrooms.

State Board member Florence McGinn also provided an update on the Testing Consortia Committee that is currently meeting to decide which of the two testing consortia New Jersey will ultimately choose to join.

President Aponte stated that the State Board discussed a number of complex issues at the retreat that will require additional follow up. President Aponte stated that the State Board Office would schedule some follow up sessions to further discuss these issues.

Teacher Education Effectiveness Task Force

President Aponte wished Brian Zychowsky, chair of the Teacher Education Effectiveness Task Force and the Task Force members luck in their work and stated that the State Board looks forward to receiving the recommendations.

NJEA Convention

President Aponte stated that some members of the State Board of Education would participate in a panel discussion at the annual convention of the New Jersey Education Association on Thursday, November 4, 2010 in Atlantic City.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Principals of the Year

Acting Commissioner Hendricks stated that the two principals were named Principals of the Year. She also stated that the honored principals are Dr. Patricia Pfeil, principal at Franklin Borough Elementary School in Franklin, Somerset County; and Dr. Dora Kontogiannis, principal of the Tenafly High School in Tenafly, Bergen County.

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

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)

Acting Commissioner Hendricks stated that the Department will not provide a report today and hoped to have information to share within a few days.

Monitoring of School Districts

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

There were no appointments.

B. Special Education

- Approved the reappointment to the State Special Education Advisory Council pursuant N.J.S.A. 18A:46-2 and *P.L.* 94-142.

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTMENT TO THE STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:46-2 requires that the Commissioner shall appoint biannually an advisory council for special education with the approval of the State Board which will consist of not fewer than seven nor more than 15 members representative of professionals in the field of special education and parents of children with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:46-2 defines the role of the advisory council as advising in the promulgation of rules, regulations and implementation of N.J.A.C. 6A:14 and the establishment of standards and qualifications for professional personnel and further provides that the council members shall serve without remuneration; and

WHEREAS, the reauthorized Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) of 2004 requires each state education agency to have an advisory panel for special education; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Education has established and maintains an advisory panel, known as the State Special Education Advisory Council, for the purpose of providing policy guidance with respect to special education and related services for children with disabilities in the State; and

WHEREAS, the advisory panel consists of members, that are representative of the state population and are composed of individuals involved in, or concerned with, the education of children with disabilities, including: (i) parents of children with disabilities; (ii) individuals with disabilities; (iii) teachers; (iv) representatives of institutions of higher education that prepare special education and related services personnel; (v) state and local education officials; (vi) administrators of programs for children with disabilities; (vii) representatives of other state agencies involved in the financing or delivery of related services to children with disabilities; (viii) representatives of private schools and public charter schools; (ix) at least one representative of a vocational, community, or business organization concerned with the provision of transition services to children with disabilities; and (x) representatives from the state juvenile and adult corrections agencies; and

WHEREAS, a majority of the members of the panel shall be individuals with disabilities or parents of children with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the advisory panel shall: (i) advise the department of unmet needs within the state in the education of children with disabilities; (ii) comment publicly on any rules or regulations proposed by the department regarding the education of children with disabilities; (iii) advise the department in developing evaluations and reporting on data to the Secretary of the United States Department of Education under Part B Sec. 618 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; (iv) advise the department in developing corrective action plans to address findings identified in federal monitoring reports under this part; and (v) advise the department in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children with disabilities; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the State Special Education Advisory Council meets the state mandate for an advisory council and the federal requirements for an advisory panel; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Acting Commissioner recommends that Dr. Tracy Amerman be reappointed for a two-year term effective November 3, 2010.

C. Professional Licensure and Standards (Two- Year Transcripts)

Adopted the amendments pertaining to the professional licensure and standards code pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9 permitting direct acceptance of credits from two-year, regionally accredited colleges.

D. Adult Education Programs

Adopted the amendments at 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.

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.

WORK SESSION

Charter Schools

Andrew Smarick, Special Assistant to the Commissioner, Kenneth Figgs, Manager, Office of Charter Schools and Carly Bolger, Assistant to the Commissioner, provided a presentation on the status of Charter Schools.

Mr. Smarick stated that the establishment of charter schools as part of this State's program of public education can assist in promoting comprehensive educational reform by providing a mechanism for the implementation of a variety of educational approaches which may not be available in the traditional public school classroom. He also stated that charter schools offer the potential to improve pupil learning; increase for students and parents the educational choices available when selecting the learning environment which they feel may be the most appropriate; encourage the use of different and innovative learning methods; establish a new form of accountability for schools; require the measurement of learning outcomes; make the school the unit for educational improvement; and establish new professional opportunities for teachers.

Mr. Smarick stated that in offering choice options all New Jersey families will have access to great public schools, parents, teachers and communities will be empowered to create new public schools. He also stated that New Jersey's charter schools are completely compatible with the principles of public education. Mr. Smarick further stated that New Jersey currently has 73 charter schools and that 25,976 students in total are enrolled in charter schools.

Mr. Smarick stated that Governor Christie's education reform agenda is aimed at increasing quality and choice in New Jersey's public schools through the following means:

- Increase access to facilities for charter schools
- Facilitate conversion of low-performing District schools to charters
- Promote collaboration between charter schools and district schools
- Allow for greater innovation within the chartering
- Multiple authorizers

Mr. Smarick stated that the Department is partnering with the National Association of Charter School Authorizers to implement best practices. He also stated that the Department is supporting the expansion and replication of successful charter schools and looking to attract charter operators with a track record of success

The Acting Commissioner stated that she will provide a timeline for getting the State Board the additional data they requested shortly.

Year 1 Evaluation of the Personalized Student Learning Plan Pilot

Marie Barry, Director of the Office of Career and Technical Education, Dr. Charyl Yarbrough and Laurie Harrington from the John J. Heldrich Center for Workforce Development at Rutgers provided a presentation on the evaluation report. Dr. Yarbrough shared some highlights from the evaluation report of the first year of the Personalized Student Learning Plan pilot program. The pilot program began on July 1, 2009, with 16 schools, and will end on June 30, 2011.

NEW BUSINESS

President Arcelio Aponte stated that State Board member Kathleen Dietz submitted her resignation. He requested that a resolution acknowledging Ms. Dietz's tenure be presented for the adoption at the December monthly public meeting of the State Board.

State Board member Edythe Fulton asked if there is a section on the Department website to highlight the accomplishments of New Jersey's public schools.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly seconded and carried the State Board of Education adjourned its November 3, 2010 public meeting at 2:40 p.m.

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