

**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**

January 5, 2011

Presiding: Arcelio Aponte, President

Secretary: Rochelle Hendricks, Acting Commissioner

PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM

ABSENT

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

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 January 5, 2011 was called to order.

CONVENING

President Aponte reconvened the public meeting at 10:25 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 stated that Tabitha Nicodemus, the student representative for the 2010-2011 school year would not be in attendance today as she is attending the Winter Convention hosted by the New Jersey Association for Student Councils.

INTRODUCTIONS

Acting Commissioner Hendricks recognized Carmen Centuolo, Executive County Superintendent of Schools (Union County), who represented the executive county superintendents.

STUDENT RECOGNITION

The State Board recognized the Schuyler Xavier Davis (Union 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 Schuyler for his outstanding accomplishments in academic programs, leadership abilities and contributions to the community.

On behalf of the State Board, President Aponte congratulated Schuyler on his achievements.

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 December 1, 2010. State Board member Josephine Hernandez abstained.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Public Testimony

President Aponte stated that the public testimony session will be held at 3:00 p.m. The topic for consideration will be the Student Transportation code. Additionally, he stated that the public testimony session will also be an open topic session. He also stated that state board members Ernest Lepore and Ilan Plawker will hear public testimony.

School Board's Recognition Month

President Aponte introduced the School Board Recognition resolution. State Board Vice President Ronald Butcher read the resolution which was approved by the State Board. Raymond Wiss, President of the New Jersey School Boards Association, thanked the State Board for the recognition.

RESOLUTION FOR SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH 2011

WHEREAS, the New Jersey State Board of Education has instituted rigorous Core Curriculum Content Standards that 1.38 million public schoolchildren in New Jersey must attain; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey’s boards of education are charged with the duty to provide students with the skills and resources necessary to achieve state standards, so they may compete in a global economy upon graduation; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey’s nearly 4,800 local board of education members are non-partisan public servants who dedicate their time, without remuneration, to provide oversight of school district operations, sound finances, and comprehensive policies that affect curriculum and staffing; and

WHEREAS, every board of education member undergoes, by law, extensive training in the areas of effective governance, ethics, curriculum, budgeting, policy, labor relations and education law; and

WHEREAS, the efforts of local boards of education, in partnership with stakeholders ranging from parents to teachers to state education officials, have fostered a public school system that has contributed to New Jersey’s status as a leader in academic benchmarks, such as elementary and middle school scores on the National Assessment of Educational Progress, and college preparation through Advanced Placement offerings; and

WHEREAS, the National School Boards Association and the New Jersey School Boards Association have declared January 2011 to be School Board Recognition Month; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the New Jersey State Board of Education recognizes the contributions of our state’s local boards of education to the academic success of its public school students and expresses its sincere appreciation to local board of education members for their efforts to ensure the well-being and educational achievement of children throughout New Jersey; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the New Jersey State Board of Education encourages qualified New Jersey citizens to consider serving as members on their local boards of education.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

Blue Ribbon Schools

Acting Commissioner Hendricks and State Board President Arcelio Aponte congratulated New Jersey’s ten Blue Ribbon Schools for 2010-2011. The Blue Ribbon Schools program is an initiative of the United States Department of Education to recognize outstanding public and private schools. During the state and national review process, each school must successfully satisfy certain conditions such as challenging standards and curriculum, effective teaching and active learning and professional growth and collaboration.

The following New Jersey Blue Ribbon Schools were selected by the United States Department of Education.

Fort Lee School No. 3 Fort Lee	Grant School Ridgefield Park
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Gray Charter School Newark	Joseph Kushner Hebrew Academy Livingston
Lynn Crest Elementary School Colonia	Ocean Gate Elementary School Ocean Gate
Martin Luther King Elementary School Edison	Roosevelt Elementary School North Arlington
North Star Academy Charter School of Newark Newark	Saint Ann School Lawrenceville

State Summaries Test

Dr. Jeffrey Hauger, Director of the Office of Student Learning Assessments provided a summary of the state achievement test scores. He stated that the mathematics scores showed small increases in the early years, but scores declined in grades seven and eight. He also stated that results showed decreases in performance from 2009-2010 for grades three through seven in language arts literacy, but the results were similar or increased when compared to the base year 2008. He further stated that the science results demonstrated an increase in performance in grade four with no change in performance for grade eight.

Dr. Hauger stated that the results also indicated that no gender gaps exist in the areas of Mathematics and Science. However racial/ethnic and economic status achievement gaps exist in Language Arts Literacy, Mathematics and Science.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

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

***A. Appointments**

- Approved the appointment of Christopher Cerf as the Assistant Commissioner of the Division of Academic Standards, Curriculum and Assessments pursuant to NJSA 18A:4-32-35 and N.J.A.C. 6A:2.

***B. Certification of School Districts**

- Certified for a period of three years, those school districts recommended by the Commissioner, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-14a and b.

***C. Professional Licensure and Standards**

- Adopted the amendments to the licensure code for reciprocity for out-of-state certificates at N.J.A.C. 6A:9-8.8, 11.20, 12.4, 12.5, 12.8 and 13.72.

***D. Professional Licensure and Standards (Two- Year Transcripts)**

- Tabled consideration to approve this proposal for publication in the New Jersey Register until a future board meeting.

E. Student Transportation

- Discussed the amendments pertaining to the Student Transportation regulations at N.J.A.C. 6A:27, pursuant to P.L.2010, c.65, the School Choice Law and P.L.2010, c.69, the Educational Stability Law.

F. Professional Licensure and Standards

- Discussed the amendments to the Professional Licensure and Standards regulations pertaining to certification for state operated superintendents and districts in need of improvement 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.

WORK SESSION

NJ Family and Community Relations

Norris Clark, Director, Office of Parental Information provided an overview work of the office stating that his unit assists New Jersey families with questions and concerns pertaining to their educational rights and responsibilities, opportunities and options. He stated that the work of the unit is focused on improving customer responsiveness, building better communications and raising community support.

NJ Standards Measurement and Resource for Teaching (NJ SMART) Demonstration

Bari Erlichson, Director, Office of Educational Data provided a demonstration of the NJ SMART data base. She stated that this system simplifies data reporting requirements, and increases administrative efficiency through the use of technology. She demonstrated how school districts populate the data into the system and how they can access assessment reports that will allow easy monitoring and comparison of critical performance measures.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly seconded and carried the State Board of Education adjourned its January 5, 2011 public meeting at 3:25 p.m.

Christopher Cerf, Acting Commissioner
Acting Secretary, State Board of Education