

**New Jersey State Board of Education
Minutes of the Retreat Meeting
Educational Testing Service
The Mallard Room at the Chauncey Conference Center
Princeton, NJ**

June 1 and 2, 2011

Presiding: Arcelio Aponte, President

Secretary: Christopher D. Cerf, Acting Commissioner

PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM

Ms. Claire Eckert
Mr. Jack Fornaro
Mr. Robert Haney
Dr. Ernest Lepore
Mr. Andrew Mulvihill
Mr. Ilan Plawker
Mr. Peter Simon
Dr. Dorothy Strickland

ABSENT

Dr. Ronald Butcher
Ms. Edithe Fulton

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 retreat meeting of June 1, 2011 was called to order.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

[Vice] President Aponte then read the resolution pertaining to the executive session of the State Board meeting as it complies with the Open Public Meetings Act.

WHEREAS, in order to protect the personal privacy and to avoid situations wherein the public interest might be disserved, the Open Public Meetings Act permits public bodies to exclude the public from that portion of a meeting at which certain matters are discussed, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that consistent with the provision of *NJSA 10:4-12(b)*, the State Board of Education will now adjourn to executive session to discuss personnel and legal issues.

The State Board immediately adjourned to executive session on June 1, 2011 at 1:30 p.m. President Aponte reconvened the open meeting at 3:30 p.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.

CONVENING

President Aponte reconvened the public meeting at 3:30 p.m. on June 1, 2011 and immediately requested a motion to recess the public meeting until 8:45 a.m. on June 2, 2011 in The Mallard Room at the Chauncey Conference Center at Educational Testing Service, Princeton, NJ.

RECONVENING

President Aponte reconvened the open meeting at 3:30 p.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.

Welcome and Introduction

President Aponte welcomed everyone to the policy meeting and thanked Educational Testing Service (ETS) for their assistance with the arrangements. Steve Lazar, Vice-President of Student and Teacher Programs, ETS, also welcomed the State Board members and Department staff to The Chauncey Center.

Closing the Achievement Gap Task Force

Michael Nettles, Senior Vice President and the Edmund W. Gordon Chair of Educational Testing Service's Policy Evaluation and Research Center (PERC) presented for discussion the plan for the work of the State Board's Task Force on Closing the Achievement Gap.

The Roles and Responsibilities of State Boards of Education

Brenda Welburn, Executive Director, National Association of State Board's of Education facilitated a discussion of the State Board's guiding and operational principles.

Next Steps

The Commissioner will review the State Board's guiding and operational principles and provide recommended changes to the Board for their consideration at its July meeting. State Board committees will be aligned to the guiding and operational principles. State Board members will draft a response to the Teacher Educator Effectiveness Task Force Interim Report. The State Board will become more proactively involved with the Legislature in regard to education bills.

The State Board will develop public policy statements regarding the State Board's principles included below and beliefs about education in New Jersey.

The New Jersey State Board of Education provide(s) leadership to achieve excellence in New Jersey public education and engage(s) legislators, school administrators, teachers, students, parents, and other stakeholders in formulating policies that enhance education, empower families, and broaden opportunities for students.

In pursuit of this mission, the Board is guided by established principles that are reflected in its work and in its actions.

- The New Jersey State Board puts children first in its decisions and actions.
- The State Board believes all children deserve both the opportunity and the access to a high quality education, pre-k through college, which will lead to their ability to earn a sustainable living.
- The State Board believes public education must provide all students with a world class challenging curriculum and the analytical skills to sustain them in a global economy.
- The State Board believes highly qualified educators are essential to student achievement and all students should be taught by good teachers.
- The State Board believes administrator and administrative actions should be focused on all students being successful.
- The State Board believes the state should leverage its resources to achieve the goals of providing a high quality education to every student.
- The State Board believes school choice is a component of a quality education system.
- The State Board believes parents should be empowered to support the education of their children.

In order to foster these principles, the Board will:

- Operate to ensure its actions are driven by its beliefs.
- Advocate for a supportive educational environment for all students.
- Ensure highly competent teachers will be available to all students and support measures to improve teacher effectiveness, including changes to tenure and assessments tied to student learning.
- Insist that ever classroom provide quality instruction that builds the necessary skills for student achievement.
- Streamline, eradicate or simplify regulatory burdens placed on schools, and hold them accountability for their results.
- Work in collaboration with diverse constituencies with a goal of all students success.
- Use the Board committee structure to align its work to its beliefs.
- Wage war against obstructionists to student success.

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 the staff at ETS for their role in assisting with the retreat meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly seconded and carried the State Board of Education adjourned its June 2, 2011 meeting at 3:10 p.m.

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