

**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 5, 2011

Presiding: Arcelio Aponte, President

Secretary: Christopher D. Cerf, Acting Commissioner

PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM

ABSENT

Mr. Mark Biedron
Dr. Ronald Butcher
Ms. Claire Eckert
Mr. Joseph Fisicaro
Mr. Jack Fornaro
Ms. Edithe Fulton
Mr. Robert Haney
Dr. Ernest Lepore
Mr. Andrew Mulvihill
Mr. Ilan Plawker
Mr. Peter Simon
Dr. Dorothy Strickland

CONVENING

State Board of Education President Arcelio Aponte 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 New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act.

The 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 5, 2011, was called to order.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

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 *N.J.S.A. 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 October 5, 2011. President Aponte reconvened the open meeting at 10:30 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

SWEARING-IN CEREMONY

President Aponte introduced the Honorable Thomas M. Brown, a judge of the New Jersey Superior Court Criminal Division in Mercer County. Judge Brown administered the oath of office to new State Board member Joseph Fisicaro of Burlington County.

Mr. Fisicaro currently serves on staff of the Office of Special Education at the Burlington County Institute of Technology's Medford Campus. He previously worked for 33 years in the School District of Philadelphia as a teacher of Social Studies, Spanish and Italian. He served as a member of Lenape Regional High School District Board of Education from 1993 until his appointment to the State Board.

STUDENT SPEAKERS

Acting Commissioner Cerf acknowledged Samantha Puja, the student representative for the 2011-2012 school year, and her advisor in attendance, Madeline Timphin.

INTRODUCTIONS

Acting Commissioner Cerf said Thomas Dowd, Executive County Superintendent in Atlantic and Ocean counties, could not make the meeting as scheduled. Samuel Stewart, Executive County Superintendent in Mercer and Middlesex counties, was recognized instead.

STUDENT RECOGNITION

President Aponte stated that the format for the student recognition program has been changed to allow the board to recognize all of the students as a group.

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 September 7, 2011. Mr. Fisicaro abstained.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Legislative Committee Update

Vice President Ilan Plawker said he will be presenting to the full board at the next meeting a public relations plan prepared by staff. He said he expects the first issue that the Legislative Committee will examine is the new anti-bullying law and concerns from all levels of the education community that it is too restrictive.

Closing the Achieving Gap Task Force

President Aponte announced that the first meeting of the board's Closing the Achieving Gap Task Force was held September 29, 2011, at Educational Testing Service's Princeton headquarters. President Aponte said the 10-member panel, which includes Dr. Strickland, is charged with examining factors that contribute to the achievement gap and developing a report that provide solutions.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Teacher of the Year

Deputy Commissioner Andrew Smarick stated that Jeanne M. DelColle, a social studies teacher at the Westampton Campus of the Burlington County Institute of Technology (BCIT), was named the 2011-12 New Jersey State Teacher of the Year. He said Ms. DelColle has taught at BCIT since 2003 and previously taught world history and anthropology at Willingboro High School and American government at Memorial Junior High School in Willingboro.

Acting Commissioner Cerf, President Aponte, Vice President Plawker, Dr. Strickland and Ms. Fulton all congratulated Ms. DelColle on being chosen as the state Teacher of the Year from among the 21 County Teachers of the Year.

Representatives from the following organizations and companies presented Ms. DelColle with these items: New Jersey Education Association - a one-year lease on a new car and a \$500 clothing allowance; Educational Testing Service - a half-year sabbatical and a laptop; and the global financial institution ING - \$5,000 to help offset travel expenses.

Deputy Commissioner Smarick also stated that SMART Technologies will provide Ms. DelColle's school with her choice of SMART equipment.

Education Transformation Task Force

Chief of Staff David Hespe provided an overview of the status of the Education Transformation Task Force, which issued a preliminary report on September 12, 2011. Mr. Hespe said teams are in the process of reviewing the results from the department's technical code review and of drafting code changes, which will be presented on December 31, 2011, with the final report.

Public Testimony

President Aponte stated that today's public testimony session topic was N.J. Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC) amendments at second discussion. The members scheduled to hear testimony are Vice President Plawker, Ms. Fulton and Mr. Fornaro.

He also stated that there are no items for public testimony scheduled for November 2, 2011.

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. 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. The Wayne School District in Passaic County was certified.

***C. Student Transportation**

- Approved for publication in the *New Jersey Register* the amendments pertaining to school bus advertising at N.J.A.C. 6A:27 pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:39-31-33.

D. New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum

- Discussed amendments to the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum regulations at N.J.A.C. 6A:30 pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7-3 et seq.

WORK SESSION

Vincent Costanza from the department's Office of Early Childhood Education and Cynthia Rice and Kathleen Priestley of Advocates for Children of New Jersey (ACNJ) gave a presentation about the professional development being provided to district administrators who oversee students in preschool to grade three.

The presenters said they found that many school leaders lacked early learning knowledge or experience and that limited professional development opportunities focused on early learning exist. Therefore, the Office of Early Childhood Education and ACNJ partnered with the N.J. Principals and Supervisors Association to develop and administer four-day professional development programs for school leaders.

NEW BUSINESS

President Aponte said he was retooling a draft response to individuals who wrote State Board members about the teacher evaluation pilot program and would redistribute it to members as soon as possible.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education adjourned its October 5, 2011, public meeting at 12:50 p.m.

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