

**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 2, 2011

Presiding: Arcelio Aponte, President

Secretary: Christopher D. Cerf, Acting Commissioner

PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM

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

ABSENT

Mr. Robert Haney
Dr. Ernest Lepore

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 November 2, 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 November 2, 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

STUDENT SPEAKERS

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

Samantha Puja gave a presentation about the importance of technology in today's schools.

INTRODUCTIONS

Acting Commissioner Cerf acknowledged Rosalie Lamonte, Executive County Superintendent for Sussex and Warren counties.

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 October 5, 2011.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

NASBE Northeast Area Director

President Aponte acknowledged the Vice President Plawker was elected to the board of directors of the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) from the Northeast region. Vice President Plawker's two-year term will begin in January 2012.

Legislative Committee Update

Vice President Plawker said he has received negative feedback about the implementation of the new Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act. He said he has begun examining ways to address the concerns raised.

Literacy Education Committee Update

Dr. Strickland provided a written update about the activities of the Literacy Education Committee.

Closing the Achievement Gap Task Force

President Aponte announced that the next meeting of the Closing the Achievement Gap Task Force will be held December 1 at Educational Testing Services in Princeton.

Alignment Committee

President Aponte announced that Mr. Simon has been appointed to the Alignment Committee.

Public Testimony

President Aponte stated there are no items for public testimony scheduled for today's meeting or for December 7, 2011.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

***NCLB* Waiver**

Acting Commissioner Cerf stated that he had hoped to be able to provide the board with a breakdown of the status of the department's application for a waiver of *No Child Left Behind* requirements, but the document still is still part of policy discussions. He said the federal government has asked states to identify the lowest-performing 5 percent of schools and schools under-serving subgroups of students. He also said the department is crafting an accountability system that will identify failing schools and provide necessary supports to them.

Regional Achievement Centers

Acting Commissioner Cerf provided a brief overview of the newly created Regional Achievement Centers (RACs). There will be seven RACs established around the state to help support student outcomes in all of the state's schools, including those with the lowest achievement levels.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

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

***A. Appointments**

- Approved the following appointments pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-32-35 and N.J.A.C. 6A:2-1.1 et seq.:
 - Penny MacCormack as the Chief Academic Officer/Assistant Commissioner of the Division of Standards, Assessment and Curriculum;
 - Peter Shulman as the Chief Talent Officer/Assistant Commissioner of the Division of Teacher and Leader Effectiveness.

***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. Hasbrouck Heights School District in Bergen County, Millburn School District in Essex County and Clinton-Glen Gardner School District in Hunterdon County were certified.

*C. **New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum**

- Approved for publication in the *New Jersey Register* 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

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Biedron requested that the department consider taking part in the federal Green Ribbon School competition, which recognizes schools that promote the environment and student health.

Vice President Plawker again mentioned the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights. President Aponte said the board could embrace two paths – any changes to current regulations that would foster a better understanding of the law and a resolution to the N.J. Legislature with suggestions on how to change the law.

Mr. Mulvihill suggested that the board examine changing the time of its public testimony sessions to immediately after the public session. President Aponte said staff would present alternatives for the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education adjourned its November 2, 2011, public meeting at 11:50 p.m.

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