

**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**

December 7, 2011

Presiding: Arcelio Aponte, President

Secretary: Christopher D. Cerf, Acting Commissioner

PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM

Dr. Ronald Butcher
Ms. Claire Eckert
Mr. Joseph Fisicaro
Mr. Jack Fornaro
Ms. Edythe Fulton
Dr. Ernest Lepore
Mr. Andrew Mulvihill
Mr. Ilan Plawker
Mr. Peter Simon
Dr. Dorothy Strickland

ABSENT

Mr. Mark Biedron
Mr. Robert Haney

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 December 7, 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 December 7, 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, Martin Gurczeski.

INTRODUCTIONS

Acting Commissioner Cerf acknowledged Robert Bumpus, Executive County Superintendent for Salem and Gloucester 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 November 2, 2011. State Board members Ronald Butcher and Ernest Lepore abstained.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

New Jersey Education Association Conference (NJEA)

President Aponte stated that members of the State Board of Education participated in a panel discussion at the annual convention of the New Jersey Education Association on Thursday, November 10, 2011 in Atlantic City.

Agenda Subscribers Renewal

President Aponte stated that requests for advanced paper copies of the public meeting agenda expire on December 30 of each year. He also stated that in order to continue to receive an advanced paper copy of the agenda in 2011-2012, subscriptions will need to be renewed. He further stated that electronic subscribers will continue to receive the agenda without renewing.

President Aponte stated that anyone who is not currently a subscriber and wishes to receive and advanced copy can subscribe by contacting the State Board Office for details.

Legislative Committee Update

Vice President Plawker said he is working with Department staff to make user-friendly modifications to the new Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act.

Closing the Achievement Gap Task Force

President Aponte that the Closing the Achievement Gap Task Force held a meeting on December 1 at Educational Testing Services in Princeton. He stated that the Task Force is comprised of 10 members and is lead by Michael Nettles, Senior Vice President and Edmund W. Gordon Chair of Policy Evaluation and Research Center, Educational Testing Service (ETS).

Alignment Committee

Ernest Lepore, chair, Alignment Committee stated that the committee is working with Richard Delisi, Dean, Rutgers School of Graduate Education and NJACTE and will be presenting a report to the State Board in the next few months.

Public Testimony

President Aponte stated there are no items for public testimony scheduled for today's meeting and that the January 4, 2012 meeting would be an Open Topic session.

Dr. Ernest L. Boyer Outstanding Educator Award

President Aponte stated that the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association and the New Jersey Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development recently Honored State Board member Dorothy Strickland with the Dr. Ernest L. Boyer Outstanding Educator Award. He also stated that this award is presented annually to an educator who embodies the values and educational goals of Dr. Ernest Boyer and displays a dedication to educational excellence throughout his or her career. President Aponte presented flowers to Dr. Strickland and congratulated her on behalf of the State Board of Education.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Graduation Rate Results

Acting Commissioner Cerf stated that an update will be provided at a future State Board meeting.

Education Transformation Task Force and College and Career Readiness Task Force

David Hespe, Chief of Staff provided an update on the work of the Education Transformation Task Force and the College and Career Readiness Task Force. He stated that the Education Transformation Task Force is completing its review to eliminate over burdensome regulations and statutes and will be making recommendations in the final report due to the Department by December 31, 2011. He also stated that the task force has looked at over 1, 000 pages of regulation and has identified specific recommendations to reduce red tape in NJ's public education system and help schools streamline their operations and focus on learning.

Mr. Hespe stated that deregulation working groups comprised of department staff, leadership and external experts have reviewed every line of code and relevant statutes. He also stated that public hearings, practitioner roundtables and Department engagement meetings have taken place to provide opportunities for public input.

Mr. Hespe stated that the College and Career Readiness Task Force is a group of K-12 and higher education practitioners and business community representatives that have two main responsibilities: clearly articulating the knowledge and skills that students should master to be "college- and career-ready," and ensuring that New Jersey has the appropriate graduation requirements and high school assessments in place to evaluate the mastery of these readiness standards. He also stated that this task force is looking at ways to transition from the current system to the new system.

ESEA Waiver

Barbara Gantwerk, Assistant Commissioner, Programs and Operations; Penny MacCormack, Chief Academic Officer and Bari Erlichson, Chief Accountability Officer provided the board with an overview of the Adequate Yearly Progress determinations and a breakdown of the status of the department's application for a waiver of *No Child Left Behind* requirements including the accountability system that will identify failing schools and provide necessary supports to them.

Green Ribbon Schools

Acting Commissioner Cerf stated that the Department has applied to the United States Department of Education to participate in their Green Ribbon Schools Program. He also stated that staff will be working with other state Department's as well as interested advocacy groups to get school nominations to the federal government by March.

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.:
 - Karen Campbell as the Director of the Office of Title One; and
 - Margaret McDonald as the Director of the Office of Special Education.

***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. North Burlington County Regional in Burlington County, West Essex Regional in Essex County and Franklin Township School District in Somerset County were certified.

WORK SESSION

The State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education recognized the recipients of the following 2011 awards:

Principal of the Year

Zina Deurbig, Principal, Howell High School, Freehold Regional High School District

Blue Ribbon Schools

Lincoln Elementary School Principal: Mr. Joseph Neubert	New Providence High School Principal: Mr. Paul Casarico	Rumson-Fair Haven Regional High School Principal: Ms. Tracy Handerhan
Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 Principal: Mrs. Jennifer Cedeno	Tewksbury Elementary School Principal: Mr. Jim Miller	Thomas Jefferson Elementary School Principal: Mrs. Rosanne Zagatta
Watchung School Principal: Mr. Peter Turnamian		

Presidential Awards for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching

Deirdre Brown Secondary Mathematics Teacher from Trenton Central High School	John McAllen Secondary Mathematics Teacher from Point Pleasant Borough High School	Rebecca McClelland-Crawley Secondary Science Teacher from Perth Amboy High School
Jill M. Ross Secondary Science Teacher from Morris County School of Technology		

Superintendent of the Year

Dr. Roy R. Montesano, Superintendent, Ramsey Public School District

Milken Award

Frank Iannucci, Teacher, Math and Computer Science, West Orange High School

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education adjourned its December 7, 2011, public meeting at 12:40 p.m.

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