

**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 4, 2012

Presiding: Arcelio Aponte, President

Secretary: Christopher D. Cerf, Acting Commissioner

PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM

Dr. Ronald Butcher
Mr. Mark Biedron
Ms. Claire Chamberlain
Mr. Joseph Fiscaro
Mr. Jack Fornaro
Dr. Ernest Lepore
Mr. Ilan Plawker
Mr. Peter Simon
Dr. Dorothy Strickland

ABSENT

Ms. Edithe Fulton
Mr. Robert Haney
Mr. Andrew Mulvihill

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 January 4, 2012, 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 January 4, 2012. 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 ALLEGANCE

STUDENT SPEAKERS

Acting Commissioner Cerf acknowledged Samantha Puja, the student representative for the 2011-2012 school year, and her advisor in attendance, Martin Gurczeski. Samantha introduced Tessa Trach who spoke to the State Board about the charity Good Grief which has been chosen by the New Jersey Association of Student Councils as their state charity for the 2011-2012 school year.

INTRODUCTIONS

Acting Commissioner Cerf acknowledged Dr. Lawrence Feinsod, Executive County Superintendent for Essex County.

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 7, 2011. State Board member Mark Biedron abstained.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

School Boards Recognition Month

President Aponte introduced the School Board Recognition resolution. State Board Vice President Ilan Plawker 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

WHEREAS, the New Jersey State Board of Education, which adopts the administrative code to implement state education law, has established rigorous Core Curriculum Content Standards that set the expectations of academic achievement for 1.4 million public schoolchildren; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's locally elected and appointed boards of education play a vital role in ensuring that their local school districts meet state standards and adhere to all code provisions, with the goal of providing a world-class education to prepare all students for college and the workplace and to enable them to compete in a global economy; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's 4,800 non-partisan local board of education members are public servants who dedicate their time, without pay or benefit, to the oversight of school district operations, sound financial practices, comprehensive policies, curriculum, staffing, and the well-being and academic achievement of all students in the district; and

WHEREAS, the efforts of local boards of education, in conjunction with state education officials and local educators, have built a foundation of success that has led to New Jersey's status as a leader in student achievement, as evidenced by the National Assessment of Educational Progress scores; and

WHEREAS, the National School Boards Association and the New Jersey School Boards Association have declared January 2012 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 sincerest appreciation to local board of education members for their continued focus on the 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 school boards.

Legislative Committee Update

Vice President Plawker said he will bring together a committee of stakeholders to look at the anti-bullying guidelines to make recommendations for implementation modifications.

Closing the Achievement Gap Task Force

President Aponte that the Closing the Achievement Gap Task Force will meet again in January. He stated that the chair of the Task Force, Michael Nettles, Senior Vice President and Edmund W. Gordon Chair of Policy Evaluation and Research Center, Educational Testing Service (ETS) will provide an update to the State Board in February and/or March.

Public Testimony

President Aponte stated that today's public testimony session included New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum code changes at proposal level and open topics. The members scheduled to hear testimony are Vice President Plawker, Ms. Fulton and Mr. Fornaro.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Promise Communities

The Commissioner stated that this report would be provided at a future meeting of the State Board.

Education Transformation Task Force

David Hespe, Chief of Staff provided an update on the work of the Education Transformation Task Force. He stated that the Education Transformation Task Force completed its review and provided a report to the Governor's Office. He also stated that there would be a review by the Governor's office and a formal release of the document to the public at the conclusion of the review period.

College and Career Readiness Task Force

Mr. Hespe stated that the College and Career Readiness Task Force will present its draft report to the Commissioner next week and use the feedback from that meeting to complete their recommendations to the final report.

ESEA Waiver

Penny MacCormack, Chief Academic Officer stated that the Department and the USDOE are currently involved in conversations regarding the waiver request submitted in November. She also stated that the Department is providing clarification and should receive a final response from the USDOE in about one month.

Teacher Evaluation Pilot Program

Peter Shulman, Chief Talent Officer stated that Excellent Educators for New Jersey (EE4NJ) is an initiative to pilot a new teacher evaluation system in several LEAs in the 2011-2012 school year. He also stated that based on the recommendations of the New Jersey Educator Effectiveness Task Force Report, released in March 2011, the new evaluation system will provide meaningful, actionable feedback to teachers and school and district leaders as they strive to help all students achieve success. He further stated that the pilot districts will have the opportunity to help shape the new system from its inception and will provide critical information and guidance as the Department works toward future state-wide implementation.

Mr. Shulman stated that the Department would be receiving a status report from the pilot districts on January 15 and would present the findings to the State Board at a future board meeting.

Race to the Top 3 Application

Mamie Doyle, Special Assistant to the Deputy Commissioner stated that the Department was awarded 37.8 million dollars by the USDOE in response to its Race to the Top 3 application. She stated that 50 percent of the award would be used to support the state's plan and the other 50 percent would go to participating LEA's to spend in ways that align to the state's plan. She also stated that the main criterion for the application was that the application had to be based on the Round 2 application.

Ms. Doyle stated that the state's application included a plan to develop and implement: a model curriculum, an instructional improvement system and teacher and leader evaluation systems, and plans to increase administrative support to oversee the administration of the grant as well as additional capacity to support the volume of charter renewal and application cycles. She also stated that although the Department wanted to include funding for the Regional Achievement Centers, it was not seen by the USDOE as an allowable expense since it wasn't explicitly stated

in the Round 2 application. Therefore, the revised application included investments in evaluations and charters.

Ms. Doyle stated that the revised Round 3 application included funding for 3 grant implementation managers, 2 project managers and a communications managers and funding for 3 internal positions to support the charter renewal and application process over the course of the year.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

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

***A. Appointment**

- Approved the following appointment pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-32-35 and N.J.A.C. 6A:2-1.1 et seq.:
 - Meghan Snow as the Director of the Office of Academic Standards

***B. Certification of School Districts**

Certified for a period of three years, the following school districts recommended by the Commissioner, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-14a and b. State Board member Joseph Fisicaro recused.

Certified School District	County
Hammonton	Atlantic
Burlington Co. Vocational	Burlington
Millville	Cumberland
Essex Co. Vocational	Essex
Gloucester Co. Spec. Services	Gloucester
Franklin Twp.	Hunterdon
Perth Amboy	Middlesex
Monmouth Reg.	Monmouth
Little Egg Harbor Twp.	Ocean
Pittsgrove Twp.	Salem
Sussex-Wantage Reg	Sussex

WORK SESSION

Newark Kids Count/School Breakfast Program Reports

Cecelia Zalkind, Executive Director, Advocates for Children of New Jersey presented reports on the Newark Kids Count Report and issues surrounding school breakfast programs in school districts in New Jersey.

State Board of Education Draft Public Relations Plan

This item will be discussed at a future meeting of the State Board.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education adjourned its January 4, 2012, public meeting at 12:35 p.m.

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