

**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**

March 7, 2012

Presiding: Arcelio Aponte, President

Secretary: Christopher D. Cerf, Acting Commissioner

PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM

Mr. Mark Beidron
Ms. Edithe Fulton
Mr. Joseph Fisicaro
Mr. Jack Fornaro
Mr. Robert Haney (via conference call)
Mr. Andrew Mulvihill
Mr. Ilan Plawker
Mr. Peter Simon
Dr. Dorothy Strickland

ABSENT

Dr. Ronald Butcher
Ms. Claire Chamberlain
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 March 7, 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 March 7, 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

INTRODUCTIONS

Acting Commissioner Cerf acknowledged Dr. Samuel Stewart, Executive County Superintendent for Mercer and Middlesex 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 February 1, 2012. State Board member Robert Haney abstained.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Student Representative

President Aponte acknowledged Samantha Puja, the student representative for the 2011-2012 school year, and her advisor in attendance, Martin Gurczeski. Samantha stated that New Jersey students elected 9 new State Officers for the 2012 school year, including the new State Board of Education Student Representative. She also stated that the 2011 board will be presenting a large donation to the state charity in April at our annual student convention at Six Flags Great Adventure.

Ms. Puja stated that seniors throughout the state are either anxiously awaiting college acceptance letters, or anxiously waiting to receive financial aid packages and juniors are taking the HSPA this week. She also stated that many grammar school students celebrated their 100th day of school in February, and National Read Across America Day on March 2nd, in honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday.

Ms. Puja stated that her local Board of Education recently had their annual meeting on next year's budget. She also stated that students rallied outside of the meeting, bringing student concerns to the board's attention: the poor conditions of our text books, our desperation for air conditioning during the hotter months, our need for a more updated library, etc. She further stated that a group of students (with the help of the Probability and Statistics class) conducted a survey on the importance of text books in our school, hoping that they could instill upon the Board that the quality of a student's learning materials affects that his or her ability to learn.

Ms. Puja stated that the survey revealed how important students believe the quality of their books is, and how frustrating learning can be with damaged materials. She also stated that the survey showed that a majority of students would prefer to utilize online books, as opposed to hard cover books.

Legislative/Administrative Code Committee

Vice President Plawker stated that the Anti-bullying Rights bill is currently being revisited to address the recent decision made by the Council on local Mandates.

Public Testimony

President Aponte stated public testimony would not be held today as no one signed up to testify about the Student Transportation code. He also stated that there are no items scheduled for public testimony on April 4. He further stated that members of the public should check the State Board's website or contact the State Board office for updates.

Meeting of the State Board of Career and Technical Education

President Aponte stated that the State Board will meet as the State Board of Career and Technical Education on Wednesday, March 21, 2012 at the Passaic County Technical Institute in Wayne, NJ. He also stated that during the meeting the State Board will learn about the Programs of Study at PCTI and statewide initiatives to move those programs forward. He further stated that the State Board will discuss Career and Technical Education as a student achievement driver and learn how the Common Core has impacted Career and Technical Education.

President Aponte stated that the State Board will hear from students and business partners specifically learning how CTE programs are working with business partners.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Urban Hope Act

Christopher Emigholz, director, Office of Legislative Services provided a summary of the Urban Hope Act. He stated that the Urban Hope Act is legislation that attempts to expand education options in failing schools and urban school districts and provide students with access to educational opportunities. He also stated that the new law allows three districts Camden, Newark, and Trenton to partner with one or more nonprofits to construct as many as four "renaissance schools" in each district. He further stated that the nonprofits must have experience operating schools in low-achieving districts and commit to both building a new school and offering a rigorous academic program designed to prepare every student for college, career, and beyond.

Mr. Emigholz stated that the Urban Hope program is designed to target students with the greatest needs. He also stated that the program could involve after school programs or extracurricular activities, longer school days or years. He further stated that the focus in the schools will be about getting results in the classroom through greater freedom and flexibility to adapt to the unique needs of students.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

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

***A. Commissioner**

- Adopted the organizational structure for the State Department of Education at N.J.A.C. 6A:2-1.1 et seq., pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-3(1).

***B. Appointments**

- There were no appointments.

***C. Certification of School Districts**

- Certified for a period of three years, the following school district recommended by the Commissioner, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-14a and b.

Certified School District	County
Egg Harbor City	Atlantic
Greater Egg Harbor Regional	Atlantic
Greenwich Township	Cumberland
Woodbury	Gloucester
Ewing Township	Mercer
Hamilton Township	Mercer
Mercer County Vocational	Mercer
Middlesex County Vocational	Middlesex
South Plainfield	Middlesex
Mount Olive	Morris
Roxbury	Morris
Passaic County Vocational	Passaic
Hamburg	Sussex
Vernon Township	Sussex
Allamuchy Township	Warren

***D. Religious Holiday Calendar Resolution**

- Approved the following resolution pertaining to the annual calendar of religious holidays for the 2012-2013 school year.

**RESOLUTION
THE LIST OF RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS PERMITTING PUPIL ABSENCE FROM
SCHOOL**

WHEREAS, according to N.J.S.A. 18A:36-14 through 16 and N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.3(j), regarding student absence from school because of religious holidays, the Commissioner of Education, with the approval of the State Board of Education, is charged with the responsibility of prescribing such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of the law; and

WHEREAS, the law provides that:

1. Any student absent from school because of a religious holiday may not be deprived of any award or of eligibility or opportunity to compete for any award because of such absence;

2. Students who miss a test or examination because of absence on a religious holiday must be given the right to take an alternate test or examination;
3. To be entitled to the privileges set forth above, the student must present a written excuse signed by a parent or person standing in place of a parent;
4. Any absence because of a religious holiday must be recorded in the school register or in any group or class attendance record as an excused absence;
5. Such absence must not be recorded on any transcript or application or employment form or on any similar form; and

6. The Commissioner, with the approval of the State Board of Education, is required to:

(a) prescribe such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this act; and

(b) prepare a list of religious holidays on which it shall be mandatory to excuse a pupil. The list, however, is to be a minimum list. Boards of education, at their discretion, may add other days to the list for the schools of their districts; and

WHEREAS, the district board of education has the right to add any bona fide religious holiday to the list for its own schools; now therefore be it,

RESOLVED that the State Board of Education adopts the following list of religious holidays for the 2012-2013 school year:

2012-2013 School-Year	Observance
July 2012	
July 9	Martyrdom of the Bab (Baha'i)
July 3	Asalha Puja Day (Buddhist)
July 4	Lailat al Bara'ah (Islam)
July 13-16	Ulambana/Oban (Buddhist)
July 20	Ramadan begins (Islam)
July 29	Tisha B' Av (Jewish)
August 2012	
August 1	Fast in Honor of the Holy Mother of Lord Jesus (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
August 1	Lammas (Christian and Wicca)
August 2	Raksha Bandhan (Hindu)
August 6	Transfiguration of the Lord (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
August 10	Krishna Janmashtami (Hindu)
August 14	Laylat as-Qadr (Islam)
August 15	Dormition of the Theotokos (Eastern Orthodox Christian)

August 15	Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Christian)
August 19-21	Eid al Fitr (Islam)
September 2012	
September 1	Ecclesiastical Year begins (Orthodox Christian)
September 7	His Holiness Sakya Trizin's Birthday (Buddhist)
September 8	Nativity of Mary (Christian)
September 14	The Elevation of the Holy Cross (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
September 17	Feast of Trumpets (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
September 17-18	Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)
September 19	Ganesha Chaturthi (Hindu)
September 21	Nativity of the Theotokos (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
September 22	Mabon (Wicca)
September 26	Yom Kippur (Jewish)
September 26	Day of Atonement (Christian, Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
October 2012	
October 1-7	Sukkot (Jewish); Feast of Tabernacles (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
October 8	Shemini Atzeret (Jewish)
October 8	Last Great Day (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
October 16-23	Navaratri (Hindu)
October 20	Birth of B'ab (Baha'i)
October 20	Installation of the Scriptures as Guru Granth (Sikh)
October 24 *	Hajj Day (Islam)
October 24 **	Duserra (Hindu)
October 26-29	Eid al Adha (Islam)
November 2012	
November 1	All Saints' Day (Christian)
November 1	Samhain-Beltane (Wicca)
November 2	All Souls' Day (Christian)
November 12	Birth of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)
November 13	Diwali [Deepavali] (Hindu, Jain and Sikh)
November 15	Al Hijra – 1 st Muharram (Islam)
November 15	Advent/Nativity Fast begins (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
November 21	The Presentation of the Theotokos to the Temple (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
November 24	Guru Tegh Bahadur Martyrdom (Sikh)
November 26	Day of Covenant (Baha'i)
November 28	Guru Nanak Dev Sahib Birthday (Sikh)
November 28	Ascension of 'Abdu'l Baha (Baha'i)

December 2012	
December 2	First Sunday of Advent (Christian)
December 8	Bodhi Day (Buddhist)
December 8	Immaculate Conception (Christian)
December 9-16	Hanukkah (Jewish)
December 21	Yule (Wicca and Christian)
December 25	Christmas (Christian)
December 25	The Nativity of Christ (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
December 26	Zarathosht Diso (Zoroastrian)
January 2013	
January 1	Gantan-sai (Shinto)
January 5	Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh Sahib (Sikh)
January 6	Epiphany (Christian)
January 6	Feast of Theophany (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
January 6	Nativity of Christ (Armenian Orthodox)
January 6	Feast of Epiphany (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
January 7	Feast of the Nativity (Orthodox Christian)
January 13	Maghi (Sikh)
January 14	Makar Sankranti (Hindu)
January 15	World Religion Day (Baha'i)
January 24 *	Mawlid an Nabi (Islam)
January 26	Tu B'shvat (Jewish)

February 2013	
February 2	The Presentation of Our Lord to the Temple (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
February 2	Imbolic-Candlemas (Wicca and Christian)
February 10	Chinese New Year (Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist)
February 12	Shrove Tuesday (Christian)
February 13	Ash Wednesday (Christian)
February 14	Nirvana Day (Buddhist)
February 15	Vasant Panchami (Hindu)
February 24	Purim (Jewish)
February 26 through March 1	Intercalary Days (Baha'i)
March 2013	
March 10	Maha Shivaratri (Hindu)
March 13	L. Ron Hubbard's Birthday (Church of Scientology)
March 18	Clean Monday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
March 20	Ostara (Wicca)
March 21	Narouz (Zoroastrian)
March 21	Naw Ruz (Baha'i)
March 25	The Annunciation/The Annunciation of the Virgin Mary (Eastern Orthodox Christian; Christian)
March 25	Passover (Philadelphia Church of God)
March 26	Khordad Sal (Zoroastrian)

March 26	First Day of Unleavened Bread (Church of God)
March 26-April 1	Days of Unleavened Bread (Philadelphia Church of God)
March 26-April 2	Pesach (Jewish)
March 27	Lord's Evening Meal (Christian, Jehovah's Witness)
March 28	Holy Thursday (Christian, Eastern Orthodox Christian)
March 28*	Hola Mohalla (Sikh)
March 29	Good Friday (Christian)
March 31	Easter (Christian)
April 2013	
April 1	Last Day of Unleavened Bread (Church of God)
April 1	Easter Monday (Christian)
April 11	Chandramana Yugadi (Hindu)
April 14	Baisakhi (Sikh)
April 14 *	Souramana Yugadi (Hindu)
April 15	Yom Ha' Azmout (Jewish)
April 20	Rami Navami (Hindu)
April 21	First Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
April 23	Lazarus Saturday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 24	Palm Sunday (Christian/Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 25	Hanuman Jayanti (Hindu)
April 25	The 11 th Panchen Lama's Birthday (Buddhist)
April 25	Mahavir Jayanti (Jain)
April 25-28	Theravadin New Year (Buddhist)
April 27	Holi (Hindu)
April 28	Lag B'Omer (Jewish)
April 29	Ninth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
May 2013	
May 1	Beltane (Wicca)
May 2	Twelfth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
May 3	Holy Friday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
May 5	Pascha (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
May 15-16	Shavuot (Jewish)
May 17	Buddha's Birthday (Buddhist)
May 19	Pentecost (Christian, Eastern Orthodox Christian, Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
May 23	Declaration of the Bab (Baha'i)
May 25	Buddha Day – Visakha Puja (Buddhist)
May 29	Ascension of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)
June 2013	
June 5	Lailat al Miraj (Islam)
June 13	Ascension of Our Lord (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
June 16	Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Sahib (Sikh)

June 21	Litha (Wicca)
June 23	Pentecost (Eastern Orthodox Christian)

*Approximate date based on lunar calendar.

** *Disclaimer: New Jersey Department of Education has made every attempt to ensure the accuracy of the dates. The information has been verified through the use of various sources and some dates may vary due to the lunar, Gregorian and Julian calendars.*

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

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

***F. State Board of Examiners Resolution**

- Adopted the resolution approving the appointment to the State Board of Examiners in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:6-34 and 35.

RESOLUTION

STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-38, the State Board of Examiners is responsible for issuing, revoking and suspending educational certificates under rules prescribed by the State Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-34, members of the State Board of Examiners are appointed by the Commissioner of Education with the approval of the State Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, the Acting Commissioner, after consulting with members of the education community, has recommended the appointment of a new member to the Board; and

WHEREAS, the person whom the Acting Commissioner has recommended has established a reputation for distinguished service; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the State Board of Education hereby approves the appointment of the following person to fill the unexpired term of the Superintendent of a Type II School District on the State Board of Examiners, which term shall expire on September 14, 2012:

Dr. Timothy J. Purnell
Superintendent of Schools, Somerville School District

G. New K-5 Praxis Tests and Respective Cut Scores Resolution

- Discussed the new tests and recommended qualifying scores for the K-5 Praxis tests required for initial New Jersey teacher licensure pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9-8.1(a)6.

**A RESOLUTION
ADOPTING NEW PRAXIS II TESTS AND QUALIFYING SCORES
FOR TEACHER OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GRADES K-5**

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education has required that teacher certification candidates pass tests in specified disciplines in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:9-8.1, effective January 5, 2009; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education has required tests for the endorsement for Teacher of Elementary School Grades K-5 in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:9-8.1; and

WHEREAS, the Educational Testing Service (ETS) has recently established a new test for this endorsement to replace the current Praxis II Subject Assessment test that is use by the department; and

WHEREAS, the new test for this endorsement consists of four separately scored subtests assessing content knowledge in reading and language arts, mathematics, social studies, and science for elementary school teachers; and

WHEREAS, the department has participated in national standard-setting studies for the K-5 test to determine the validity of and the theoretically appropriate qualifying scores for the subtests; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education approves the department's selection of the respective Praxis II test and initial subtest qualifying scores for the K-5 endorsement; and

WHEREAS, the department will monitor the impact of these tests and qualifying scores on the passing rates for each subject area and will report any problems with the same to the State Board of Education; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the State Board of Education hereby supports the department's selection of this Praxis II Subject Assessment test; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the State Board of Education hereby acknowledges and accepts the department's establishment of the following subtest qualifying scores effective September 1, 2012:

Praxis II Test	Qualifying Score
Teacher of Elementary School Grades K-5	
Reading and Language Arts Subtest	165
Mathematics Subtest	164
Social Studies Subtest	155
Science Subtest	159

WORK SESSION

There was no work session.

NEW BUSINESS

President Aponte stated that he would have an update from the Closing the Achievement Gap Task Force at the April meeting.

State Board member Mark Biedron thanked the Acting Commissioner and Department staff for opting into the Green Ribbon Schools program.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education adjourned its March 7, 2012, public meeting at 11:53 a.m.

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