

**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**

May 2, 2012

Presiding: Arcelio Aponte, President

Secretary: Andrew Smarick Acting Commissioner

PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM

Mr. Mark Beidron
Dr. Ronald Butcher
Ms. Claire Chamberlain
Mr. Joseph Fiscaro
Mr. Jack Fornaro
Ms. Edithe Fulton
Mr. Robert Haney
Dr. Ernest Lepore
Mr. Andrew Mulvihill
Mr. Ilan Plawker

ABSENT

Mr. Peter Simon
Dr. Dorothy Strickland

CONVENING

State Board of Education [President Arcelio Aponte] Vice President Ilan Plawker 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 May 2, 2012, was called to order.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

[President Aponte] Vice President Plawker 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 May 2, 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 ALLEGIANCE

INTRODUCTIONS

Acting Commissioner Smarick acknowledged Mr. Robert Gilmartin, Executive County Superintendent, Passaic and Bergen 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 April 4, 2012.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Resolution to Honor Samantha Puja

In her last address before the State Board Samantha Puja, a senior at Bayonne High School (Hudson County) and permanent student representative for the 2011-12 school year spoke about the skills and experiences she has encountered over the course of the past year as the state board student representative.

The State Board members approved the following resolution congratulating and thanking Samantha for her service and wishing her well in the coming school year:

RESOLUTION FOR SAMANTHA PUJA

WHEREAS, Samantha Puja, a student at Bayonne High School in Hudson County, has served with distinction as the student representative to the New Jersey State Board of Education from July 2011 to June 2012; and

WHEREAS, Samantha has ably executed her responsibilities as a representative of both the New Jersey Association of Student Councils and Bayonne High School; and

WHEREAS, Samantha took a leadership role with all student guests and served as the State Board liaison to the student community; and

WHEREAS, Samantha was instrumental in transforming the role of the permanent student representative by conveying thoughtful, well articulated and informative

reports on a broad range of topics important to the student community at State Board meetings; and

WHEREAS, Samantha's school career demonstrates that she has many and varied interests and is an accomplished student and an asset to the school community services and others; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the members of the New Jersey State Board of Education and the Acting Commissioner of Education, Christopher D. Cerf, extend their sincere congratulations and appreciation to Samantha Puja for a job well done; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the New Jersey State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education wish to acknowledge Samantha's commitment of time and energy as the State Board Student Representative, and that they wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

Selection of the State Board Nominating Committee

President Aponte announced the selection of the State Board Nominating Committee that will nominate the 2012-2013 State Board of Education president and vice president. Ernest Lepore will serve as chairperson, and Dorothy Strickland and Claire Chamberlain will serve as members. The nominating committee will give its report at the June State Board monthly meeting and the State Board will vote on officers at the July State Board monthly meeting.

State Board Calendar of Meeting Dates for 2012-2013

The State Board members discussed the draft monthly public meeting dates calendar for the 2012-2013 school year. The State Board plans to adopt a resolution at its June 6, 2012 monthly public business meeting regarding the annual calendar of the 2012-2013 meeting dates of the State Board of Education pursuant to *NJAC 6A:1-2.2*, *NJSA 18A:4-7* and *10:4-6 et seq.*

Public Testimony

President Aponte stated that a public testimony session would be held today at 3:00 p.m. in the first floor conference room. He also stated that today is an Open Topic public testimony session. President Aponte further stated that an Open Topic session means that members of the public may present testimony before the State Board on any educational topic of their choice.

President Aponte stated that public testimony for the June 6, 2012 State Board meeting will open on Friday, May 18, 2012 and close Friday, June 1, 2012 at noon. He also stated that topics for the June public testimony session include Interdistrict Public School Choice amendments and Charter School amendments. President Aponte further stated that information on public testimony is available by contacting the State Board office at 609-984-6024 or through the following website <http://education.state.nj.us/sboe/reg.php>

Financial Disclosure Forms

President Aponte reminded State Board members to file Financial Disclosure Forms. He stated that instructions and information related to the Financial Disclosure Documentation is available at the following website: <http://www.state.nj.us/ethics/disclosure/financial/>

Closing the Achievement Gap Task Force Public Hearings

President Aponte stated that the Closing the Achievement Gap Task Force will hold public hearings in the near future to hear from the community about Closing the Achievement Gap.

Upcoming Special Meetings of the State Board of Education

President Aponte announced the following two upcoming Special Meetings of the State Board of Education.

May 16, 2012

The State Board of Education will meet on Wednesday, May 16, 2012 to hold a special recognition ceremony to honor the School Business Administrator of the Year and to Recognize Students from across the state as part of the bi-annual Recognition Program. The meeting will begin at 10:00 am in the first floor conference room at 100 Riverview Plaza, Trenton, NJ, 08625.

June 13, 2012

The State Board of Education will meet on Wednesday, June 13, 2012 from 12:30 pm – 3:30 pm at Liberty Science Center, Jersey City, NJ. The purpose of the meeting will be to receive the annual reports from the Superintendents of the three State Operated School Districts (Newark, Jersey City and Paterson).

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

Graduation Rate Results

Bari Erlichson, Chief Accountability Officer, provided a presentation that explained the new method for calculating the high school graduation rate using the new federally mandated methodology for the 2011 cohort of students. She stated that this new methodology, called the “four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate,” is required of every state in the country and presents a more complete, accurate and transparent way of calculating the high school graduation rate.

Ms. Erlichson stated that under the new system, districts will be responsible for tracking student-level enrollment data using the statewide data system NJSMART, including students that transfer out of the school and that register in another New Jersey school or another state, students who emigrate out of the country, and any student deaths for the four years of each class of students, beginning in the 9th grade. If a district is able to provide documentation for one of these changes, these figures will be subtracted appropriately from the total size of the cohort as an entering 9th grade class. The size of the graduating class will then be divided by this figure.

NJSMART

Bari Erlichson, Chief Accountability Officer, provided a presentation on the new NJ SMART data systems developments. Ms. Erlichson identified ways that the new developments will eliminate redundancies, streamline internal data collections, and promote easy and secure access to education data thereby increasing capacity and functionality to schools.

ESEA Flexibility Request

Bari Erlichson, Chief Accountability Officer, provided a presentation on the progress of implementation on ESEA Flexibility request.

College and Career Readiness Task Force Report

Penny MacCormack, Chief Academic Officer, provided a presentation that highlighted recommendations, contained in the recently released College and Career Readiness Task Force, Report. She stated that the Task Force found that the current high school tests – the High School Proficiency Exam (HSPA) and Alternative High School Assessment (AHSA) – are not aligned to the CCSS and therefore are not the right assessments to measure college and career readiness. As a result, students who are able to pass HSPA are often still in need of remediation in college. She also stated that New Jersey will transition away from the current high school assessments – High School Proficiency Exam (HSPA) and Alternative High School Assessment (AHSA) – to a new series of end-of-course assessments that measure student readiness at each grade level. These new measures will provide a powerful tool for schools to identify students in need and target individual supports to put them on track for high school graduation

Ms. MacCormack stated that the Task Force recommended that New Jersey migrate to end-of-course exams in high school that will measure college and career readiness in each grade and each subject which would give educators a powerful tool to identify early on students who require assistance and the specific areas in which help is needed.

Ms. MacCormack stated that the New Jersey will transition to the new assessments over several years in order to give both students and schools a chance to adapt to the new assessments. She also stated that students currently in high school will continue to take the HSPA and AHSA for graduation to maintain continuity for students and schools. She further stated that students in grades 5 through 8 will pilot the new assessments but graduate based on a robust transcript while the state adapts to the new assessments. Students currently in 4th grade will be the first cohort to graduate based on the new end-of-course assessments.

Ms. MacCormack stated that the Department of Education will develop and administer end-of-course assessments in science and social studies and that New Jersey will migrate to the new PARCC end-of-course assessments to replace the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJASK) in 2014.

Ms. MacCormack stated that over the next several years, the Department of Education will work to identify both the number of end-of-course assessments required for graduation and the passing scores for each assessment over several years of administration.

Charter Schools Update

Amy Ruck, Interim Director, Office of Charter Schools, provided a presentation on charter schools that included information on demographics, the charter school application cycles, urban charter school performance, and an overview of the work of the Office of Charter Schools.

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, the following school districts recommended by the Commissioner, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-14a and b.

Certified School District	County
Hamilton Twp.	Atlantic
Northfield	Atlantic
Port Republic	Atlantic
Upper Twp.	Cape May
Clinton Twp.	Hunterdon
Flemington-Raritan	Hunterdon
Atlantic Highlands	Monmouth
Belmar	Monmouth
Bradley Beach	Monmouth
Farmingdale	Monmouth
Freehold Twp.	Monmouth
Millstone Twp.	Monmouth
Monmouth Beach	Monmouth
Monmouth Co. Voc.	Monmouth
Sea Girt	Monmouth
East Hanover Twp.	Morris
Montville Twp.	Morris
Green Brook Twp.	Somerset
Warren Twp.	Somerset
Watchung Hills Reg.	Somerset
New Providence	Union
Warren Co Spec. Serv.	Warren

***C. Student Transportation**

- Adopted the amendments pertaining to school bus advertising at N.J.A.C. 6A:27, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:39-31-33. State Board members Ronald Butcher, Edith Fulton and Mark Biedron abstained.

D. Interdistrict Public School Choice

- Discussed the amendments pertaining to school choice proposed at N.J.A.C. 6A:12, pursuant to N.J.S.A 18A:36B-1 et seq.

E. Charter Schools

- Discussed the amendments pertaining to Charter Schools proposed at N.J.A.C. 6A:11, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:36A-1 et seq., specifically N.J.S.A. 18A:36A-18.

WORK SESSION

There was no work session.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education adjourned its May 2, 2012, public meeting at 3:19 pm.

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