

**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**

July 11, 2012

Presiding: Ilan Plawker, Vice President

Secretary: Christopher D. Cerf, Acting Commissioner

PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM

Mr. Arcelio Aponte via conference call
Mr. Mark Beidron
Mr. Joseph Fisicaro
Mr. Jack Fornaro
Ms. Edithe Fulton
Mr. Peter Simon
Dr. Dorothy Strickland

ABSENT

Dr. Ronald Butcher
Ms. Claire Chamberlain
Mr. Robert Haney
Mr. Andrew Mulvihill
Dr. Ernest Lepore

CONVENING

State Board of Education 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 July 11, 2012, was called to order.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

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 July 11, 2012.

RECONVENING

Vice President Plawker 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

ELECTION OF STATE BOARD OFFICERS

Acting Commissioner Christopher D. Cerf, secretary to the State Board, conducted the annual election of State Board officers. Dorothy Strickland, member, State Board Nominating Committee, presented the slate of officers. On motions duly seconded and carried, the State Board members elected Arcelio Aponte as State Board President and Ilan Plawker as State Board Vice President. Both were elected for a one-year term.

Acting Commissioner Cerf congratulated the elected officers.

President Aponte expressed his gratitude to the members of the State Board for re-electing him President.

Vice President Plawker thanked his colleagues for electing him to a leadership position on the State Board of Education.

INTRODUCTIONS

Acting Commissioner Cerf acknowledged Mr. Robert Bumpus, Executive County Superintendent, Salem and Gloucester County Offices.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board members approved the minutes of the public meetings conducted on June 6, 2012 and June 13, 2012.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Public Testimony

Vice President Plawker stated that a public testimony session would not be held today or on August 1, 2012. Vice President Plawker also stated that members of the public should contact the State Board office at 609-984-6024 or through the following website <http://education.state.nj.us/sboe/reg.php> for updates.

Vice President Plawker reminded members of the public that the State Board adopted a new public testimony policy and that public testimony would begin immediately following the conclusion of the regular public business meeting.

NJ Permanent Student Representative 2012-2013

Vice President Plawker introduced Kenny Patrone the permanent student representative to the State Board for the 2012-2013 school year who introduced himself to the State Board and provided an update on the activities of the New Jersey Association of Student Councils. Vice President Plawker also recognized Ms. Elizabeth Longo, the student council advisor.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORTS

New Jersey Strategic Plan for Early Education and Care Update

Ellen Wolock, Administrator of the Division of Early Childhood Education provided an overview of New Jersey’s Strategic Plan for Early Education and Care.

Petition for Rulemaking

Acting Commissioner Cerf stated that the State Board received a petition for rulemaking from Ms. Christine Gillespie requesting that the State Board repeal the rules pertaining to the Charges Under Tenure Employees Hearing Act, set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:3, Controversies and Disputes as a result of numerous alleged violations of State, Federal and Constitutional law. The Acting Commissioner stated that the request was reviewed and it was determined that the request would be denied as it was not an appropriate subject for rulemaking.

Charter Schools Code

Acting Commissioner Cerf stated that the Department received many comments on the proposed amendments to the Charter Schools code. He also stated that the Department is preparing responses and plans to bring the amendments to the State Board for their consideration at Proposal Level at the August meeting.

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
Closter	Bergen
Demarest	Bergen
Emerson	Bergen
Moonachie	Bergen
Norwood (interim)	Bergen
Ramapo-Indian Hills	Bergen

Rochelle Park	Bergen
Upper Saddle River	Bergen
Camden Co. Vocational	Camden
Verona	Essex
Branchburg	Somerset
Bridgewater-Raritan Reg.	Somerset
Phillipsburg	Warren

***C. Interdistrict Public School Choice**

- Approved for publication in the New Jersey Register the amendments to the regulations pertaining to school choice proposed at N.J.A.C. 6A:12, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:36B-1 et seq.

WORK SESSION

There was no work session.

NEW BUSINESS

State Board members discussed concerns with the change in time for public testimony including some alternatives for compromise such as holding some public testimony sessions regionally and holding some sessions during late afternoon or at night to accommodate various work schedules. State Board member Ilan Plawker stated that a formalized schedule should be developed and brought to the State Board for consideration.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education adjourned its July 11, 2012, public meeting at 11:26 pm.

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