

**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**

**November 14, 2012**

**Presiding:** Arcelio Aponte, President

**Secretary:** Christopher D. Cerf, Commissioner

**PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM**

Mr. Mark Beidron  
Mr. Joseph Fisicaro  
Ms. Edithe Fulton  
Dr. Ernest Lepore  
Mr. Peter Simon  
Mr. Ilan Plawker  
Dr. Dorothy Strickland

**ABSENT**

Dr. Ronald Butcher  
Ms. Claire Chamberlain  
Mr. Jack Fornaro  
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 November 14, 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 November 4, 2012.

## **RECONVENING**

President Aponte reconvened the open meeting at 10:00 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**

## **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 October 3, 2012. State Board member Ilan Plawker abstained.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

### **Public Testimony**

President Aponte stated that a public testimony session would be held following today's meeting. He also stated that the following topic is scheduled for testimony: Professional Licensure and Standards Regulations.

President Aponte stated that public testimony would be held on December 5, 2012 and that the State Board would receive comments on the Educator Effectiveness Evaluation System, Fiscal Accountability, Efficiency and Budgeting Procedures, Bilingual Education, Career and Technical Education Programs and Standards and School District Operations amendments. President Aponte 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.

### **Cancellation of the January 2, 2013 State Board meeting**

President Aponte stated that the January 2, 2013 State Board meeting will be cancelled. He also stated that the State Board will hold its monthly public business meeting on Wednesday, January 16, 2013.

## **COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS**

### **Update on the Status of Schools**

Commissioner Cerf provided an update on the status of schools in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. He stated that over the past two weeks, the Department has have been focused on helping all schools in New Jersey get back up and running. He also stated that as of today 98.8% of schools are open, up dramatically from only 40% a week ago. He further stated that for the handful of school buildings that are still unable to open, districts have a plan in place to serve all students in alternative settings.

Commissioner Cerf stated that there is still significant work to do including ensuring all displaced students are in a safe learning environment, repairing or rebuilding damaged buildings and catching up on lost instructional time. He also stated that there is a page on the DOE website

that is continuously updated to provide answers to frequently asked questions related to the storm at <http://nj.gov/education/sandy/>.

He further stated that for any families displaced by the storm that have still not returned to their school of origin or enrolled in their current district, the DOE has set up a phone hotline 609-292-2070 to help parents contact the appropriate districts and understand their options.

## **2012 NJDOE Priorities**

### **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**

- Approved the following title change and appointments pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-32-35 and N.J.A.C. 6A:2-1.1 et seq.:

##### Title Change:

- Justin Barra, Chief Policy and External Affairs Officer

##### New Appointments:

- William Haldeman, Chief of Staff;
- Susana Guerrero, Chief of Operations and Legal Affairs/Assistant Commissioner;
- Tracey Severns, Chief Academic Officer;
- Barbara Horl, Director, Office of Legislative Affairs;
- Barbara Morgan, Director, Office of Public Information;
- Kedda Williams, Director, Office of Strategic Partnerships.

#### **\*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.

<b>Certified School District/County</b>	
East Newark	Hudson

#### **\*D. Resolution to Accept Donated Funds**

- Adopted the following resolution approving the acceptance of up to \$118,000 in donated funds.

### **RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT DONATED FUNDS**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 18A:4-26 requires the approval of the New Jersey State Board of Education in order for the Commissioner of Education to accept donated funds; and

**WHEREAS**, the shared goal of the Department and State Board of Education is to ensure that all children, regardless of life circumstances, graduate from high school college and career ready; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department is pursuing a comprehensive education reform agenda aimed at supporting our struggling schools and addressing the State's persistent achievement gap; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Education is the recipient of up to \$118,800 in grant funds from The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation to identify, recruit, and subsidize a portion of the salary of two Broad Resident that began employment in August 2011 to support the work of the Department; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Education will utilize these Residents to support the work of the Chief Academic Officer and Chief Innovation Officer in a number of areas to ensure that all students in New Jersey, regardless of background, have access to a high-quality education; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the New Jersey State Board of Education approves the acceptance of the donated funds for the aforementioned specific purposes.

**\*E. Resolution to Approve the Grant for Accepted Donated Funds**

- Adopted the following resolution approving the grant for \$430,000 in accepted donated funds.

**APPROVAL OF GRANT FOR ACCEPTED DONATED FUNDS**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 18A:4-26 requires the approval of the New Jersey State Board of Education in order for the Commissioner of Education to accept donated funds; and

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey State Board of Education approved the acceptance of the \$430,000 in donated funds from The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation on June 6, 2012; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department has completed the negotiation of a contract to officially receive those funds and has presented that contract to the State Board of Education; and

**WHEREAS**, the shared goal of the Department and State Board of Education is to ensure that all children, regardless of life circumstances, graduate from high school college and career ready; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department is pursuing a comprehensive education reform agenda aimed at supporting our struggling schools and addressing the State's persistent achievement gap; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department's Regional Achievement Centers will work directly with our State's most struggling schools to implement proven turnaround principles such as improving school climate and culture and the quality of instruction; and

**WHEREAS**, the Office of Charter Schools continues to build upon best practices in approving and renewing charters in order to ensure that all charter schools offer excellent educational opportunities to students; and

**WHEREAS**, the \$430,000 in donated funds from The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation will support the following initiatives:

- \$290,000 – *to provide world class training in the eight proven turnaround principles to Regional Achievement Center staff and leadership in Priority and Focus Schools.*
- \$140,000 – *to retain consultation and assistance in the continued improvement of the renewal and approval processes of the Office of Charter Schools.*

**WHEREAS**, the grant funds will accelerate the Department's work to support our most struggling schools and improve the quality of the State's charter schools; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the New Jersey State Board of Education accepts the terms of the grant between the Department of Education and The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation and formally accepts the donation in the amount of \$430,000 for the aforementioned specific purposes.

**\*F. Qualifying PRAXIS Scores and Adoption of New Test for School Administrators**

- Approved the following resolution to adopt Qualifying scores and a new Praxis test required to license new school administrators.

**ADOPTING A NEW TEST AND QUALIFYING SCHOOL FOR SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS**

**WHEREAS**, the State Board of Education has required that candidates for chief school administrator certification pass a test of content knowledge directly related to the functions of school administrators in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:9-12.4; and

**WHEREAS**, the Educational Testing Service (ETS) has developed a new School Superintendent Assessment for entry-level superintendents to assess knowledge respective to the job responsibilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the department has identified the new ETS School Superintendent Assessment as the most appropriate and rigorous test to assess a candidate's content knowledge respective to competent professional practice for New Jersey school administrators; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Education has determined, through standard setting studies completed in conjunction with ETS and New Jersey school administrators, that

the School Superintendent Assessment is valid and that the recommended initial qualifying score is fair and appropriate for entry level New Jersey superintendents; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Education will annually evaluate the impact of qualifying scores on the available pool of superintendents and report on 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 the new School Superintendent Assessment for entry level school administrators; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the State Board of Education hereby acknowledges and accepts the department's establishment of *a qualifying score of 160* out of a possible 200 for that assessment.

**\*G. 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.

**\*H. Interdistrict Public School Choice**

- Adopted 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.

**\*I. Charter Schools**

- Approved for publication in the *New Jersey Register* the proposed new regulations pertaining to nonpublic charter school conversion set forth at N.J.A.C. 6A:11, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:36A-4.1

**J. Professional Licensure & Standards**

- Discussed the amendments to the regulations pertaining to teacher licensure and standards proposed at N.J.A.C. 6A:9, Professional Licensure and Standards pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:1-1, 18A:4-15, 18A:6-34, 18A:6-38, 18A:26-10 and 18A:26-2.7.

**K. Bilingual Education**

- Discussed the amendments to the regulations pertaining to bilingual education proposed at N.J.A.C. 6A:15, Bilingual Education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:35-15 to 26.

**L. Career & Technical Education Programs and Standards**

- Discussed the readoption with amendments to the regulations pertaining to career and technical education proposed at N.J.A.C. 6A:19, Career and Technical Education

Programs and Standards pursuant to 20 U.S.C. §§ 2301 et seq. and N.J.S.A. 18A:4-15.

**M. School District Operations**

- Discussed the amendments to the regulations pertaining to school district operations proposed at N.J.A.C. 6A:32, School District Operations pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-15.

**WORK SESSION**

There was no work session.

**NEW BUSINESS**

State Board member Ilan Plawker stated that he would like input from other board members on developing a program for alternative sentencing for juveniles that have committed non-violent crimes.

State Board member Edithe Fulton advised board members that there is an article they should read about New Jersey's Public Schools in The Review.

State Board member Joseph Fiscaro stated that he attended the NJ School Boards Convention earlier this month. He also stated that he participated in the workshop conducted by Commissioner Cerf. He further stated that Commissioner Cerf gave a wonderful speech to the attendees.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education adjourned its November 14, 2012, public meeting at 1:05 pm.

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