

**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 16, 2013**

**Presiding:** Arcelio Aponte, President

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

**PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM**

Dr. Ronald Butcher  
Mr. Joseph Fiscaro  
Mr. Jack Fornaro  
Ms. Edithe Fulton  
Mr. Robert Haney  
Dr. Ernest Lepore  
Mr. Andrew Mulvihill  
Mr. Peter Simon  
Dr. Dorothy Strickland

**ABSENT**

Mr. Mark Beidron  
Ms. Claire Chamberlain  
Mr. Ilan Plawker

**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 16, 2013, 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 16, 2013.

### **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 ALLEGIANCE**

### **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 5, 2012. State Board member Ernest Lepore abstained.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

#### **Tragic Events at Sandy Hook Elementary School**

President Aponte stated that he personally and formally reached out to the Connecticut State Board of Education President, Allan Taylor; Connecticut Commissioner of Education, Stefan Pryor; and Superintendent of Newtown Public Schools, Janet Robinson to offer messages of support and sympathy on behalf of the State Board of Education in light of the tragedy that took place at Sandy Hook Elementary School on December 14, 2012.

#### **Permanent Student Representative Report**

President Aponte stated that the permanent student representative, Kenny Patrone, would not be joining the board meeting today due to the weather conditions.

#### **Public Testimony**

President Aponte stated that a public testimony session would be held following today's meeting. He also stated that the following topics are scheduled for testimony: Student Transportation, Charter School (Non Public School Conversion) regulations and Open Topic. He further stated that Open Topic means that members of the public may present testimony before the State Board on any educational topic of their choice.

President Aponte stated that State Board members Peter Simon, Ernest Lepore, Edithe Fulton, and Jack Fornaro would hear public testimony.

President Aponte stated that no public testimony would be held on February 6, 2013 because no topics were scheduled. 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.

## **School Board Recognition Month**

President Aponte introduced the School Board Recognition resolution. State Board member Ronald Butcher read the resolution which was approved by the State Board. Joseph Bulina, President of the New Jersey School Boards Association and Larry Feinsod, Executive Director of the New Jersey School Boards Association both 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 standards through its promulgation of the state Core Curriculum Content Standards and its adoption of the nationally-endorsed Common Core State Standards, both of which set the expectations of academic achievement for nearly 1.4 million public school children; 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 an outstanding 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 2013 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.

### **COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS**

#### **School Security Update**

Anthony Bland, coordinator of school preparedness and emergency planning provided an overview of the current school security measures such as the submittal of school safety and

security plans, lock down drills and shooting drills that are required of NJ school districts. He also provided information on new security inspections and safety training scheduled for this year.

### **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**

- There were no school districts to be certified.

#### **\*C. Bilingual Education**

- Approved for publication in the *New Jersey Register* the amendments to the regulations pertaining to teacher licensure and standards proposed at N.J.A.C. 6A:15, Bilingual Education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:35-15 to 26.

#### **\*E. Career & Technical Education Programs and Standards**

- Approved for publication in the *New Jersey Register* 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.

#### **\*F. School District Operations**

- Approved for publication in the *New Jersey Register* 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.

#### **G. Student Transportation**

- Discussed the readoption with amendments to the regulations pertaining to student transportation proposed at N.J.A.C. 6A:27, Student Transportation pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:39-21.

### **WORK SESSION**

There was no work session

### **NEW BUSINESS**

State Board President Aponte stated that State Board member Ilan Plawker had intended to join the meeting today but was not feeling well and would resume attendance soon.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education adjourned its January 16, 2013, public meeting at 11:38 pm.

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