

**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**

**December 4, 2013**

**Presiding:** Mr. Arcelio Aponte, President

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

**PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM**

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

**ABSENT**

Mr. Mark Beidron  
Ms. Claire Chamberlain

**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 December 4, 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 December 4, 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 unanimously approved the minutes of the public meeting conducted on November 13, 2013. State Board member Edithe Fulton abstained.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

### **Public Testimony**

President Aponte stated that public testimony would not be held following today's monthly public business meeting.

He also stated that registration for the January 8, 2013 public testimony session would open Friday, December 13, 2013 and close Friday, January 3, 2014. The Professional Licensure and Standards mentoring amendments are scheduled for the January 8 public testimony session.

President Aponte stated that members of the public should contact the State Board office at 609-984-6024 or check the following website <http://education.state.nj.us/sboe/reg.php> for updates.

### **State Board Agenda Subscribers Renewal**

President Aponte stated that requests for advanced paper copies of the public meeting agenda expire on December 30 of each year. He also stated that to continue to receive an advanced paper copy of the agenda in 2014, subscriptions will need to be renewed. He further stated that electronic subscribers will continue to receive the agenda without renewing.

He stated that to subscribe to receive an advanced copy of the agenda interested parties can contact the State Board office.

### **Ruthann Sheer Service Award**

President Aponte stated that State Board member Edithe Fulton was recently honored by the NJEA with the Ruthann Sheer Distinguished Service Award in recognition of her extensive service to the educational community, a record that includes serving in the roles of Past President, President, Vice president and Secretary/Treasurer of the NJEA and President of the Ocean County Council of Education Associations. Mr. Aponte congratulated Edithe on behalf of the members of the State Board.

## **December 18 Awards Ceremony**

President Aponte stated that the State Board will, for the 3rd year in a row, hold its bi-annual Awards Ceremony to honor the following award recipients on December 18:

- New Jersey NCLB Blue Ribbon Schools;
- Green Ribbon Schools
- NJ Superintendent of the Year
- NJ Principals of the Year
- Young Audiences Champion Award
- Milken Award Winner
- Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science

## **COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS**

### **2012-2013 Graduation Rate Presentation**

Justin Barra, Chief Policy and External Affairs Officer, provided a presentation on the results of the graduation rate for 2012-2013. He stated that New Jersey's high school graduation rate increased slightly from last year to 87.5 percent. He also stated that gaps remain wide between different income and ethnic groups, with the graduation rate dropping to as low as 70 percent for limited-English students and 76 percent for African-American students.

He presented information on students who haven't passed the state's current High School Proficiency Assessment and instead need to take the Alternative High School Assessment (AHSA) or file appeals. He stated that approximately 10,000 students needed either the alternative tests or the appeals process to graduate. Of those students, nearly 1,600 filed appeals, mostly because they did not pass the math portions of the graduation tests.

### **New Jersey Educator Resource Exchange**

Evan Lindhart, provided a tutorial and overview of a new free website designed to provide teachers with a substantial inventory of resources they can use in the classroom as they implement the Common Core State Standards. He stated that the New Jersey Educator Resource Exchange is the first state-level exchange in the nation that allows teachers to search for, download and contribute instructional, assessment and professional development content.

He stated that the website comes with more than 2,000 pre-loaded instructional materials. He also stated that the content includes lesson plans, videos, classroom activities, slideshows, curriculum guides, quizzes and tests. He further stated that only New Jersey educators will be able to register to access all the features. Although members of the public will be able to access the website but they will not be able to upload or rate materials.

He stated that the website allows teachers to navigate for content aligned with Common Core standards, and then rate their success in the classroom after they've used the materials. The Educator Resource Exchange website is located online at [www.njcore.org](http://www.njcore.org).

## Evaluation Pilot Advisory Committee Report

Peter Shulman, Chief Talent Officer, provided highlights of the recently released report of the Evaluation Pilot Advisory Committee. He stated that the state Evaluation Pilot Advisory Committee (EPAC) recommendations shaped the evolution of state policies – from expanding the pilots and providing a capacity-building year in SY12-13 to requiring multiple observers for all new teachers in SY13-14. He also stated that the report emphasizes the experiences and lessons learned from the second year of the teacher evaluation pilot and the 2012-13 principal evaluation pilot based on interviews, surveys, and discussions with EPAC participants and pilot district staff.

He also stated that pilot districts demonstrated that the process becomes easier with time as educators use new evaluation elements to better support educator practice and student achievement. He also stated that after training on the instrument at the beginning of the year, these districts were able to complete an average of 3.3 observations per teacher in their first year of implementation– slightly more than the number required statewide for AchieveNJ this year.

### **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:**

*\*Items scheduled for a vote are marked with an asterisk.*

#### **\*A. Appointment(s)**

- 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.

<b>Certified School District</b>	<b>County</b>
Ventnor	Atlantic
Lumberton Township	Burlington
Stratford	Camden
Logan Township	Gloucester
Hudson County Vocational	Hudson

#### **\*C. Resolution for State-Issued High School Diplomas**

- Adopted the following resolution pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:20-1.4(a) recommending three qualified providers of valid and reliable tests for the granting of state issued high school diplomas, their respective tests, and each test's initial qualifying scores.

**A RESOLUTION  
ADOPTING NEW TESTS AND QUALIFYING SCORES  
FOR STATE-ISSUED HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS**

**WHEREAS**, the State of New Jersey and the department have issued high school diplomas since 1959 under the federal General Education Development (GED) Program; and

**WHEREAS**, the GED program is no longer the sole source provider of a test which qualifies a person for a state-issued high school diploma; and

**WHEREAS**, testing costs have risen with the transition to computer-based testing; and

**WHEREAS**, test providers charge a range of fees to applicants to take the test; and

**WHEREAS**, the department has the goals of maintaining opportunities for lower cost tests and ensuring a regional distribution of testing centers; and

**WHEREAS**, to meet its goals, the department has recently conducted a Request for Qualifications in order to qualify providers of valid and reliable tests for the granting of state-issued high school diplomas; and

**WHEREAS**, the review of such proposals has found that three providers and their tests meet the department's criteria; and

**WHEREAS**, other potential providers will have the opportunity to submit proposals to the department for qualification; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Board of Education approves the department's recommendation of the three vendors listed below, their tests, and each test's initial qualifying scores; and

**WHEREAS**, the department will monitor the impact of these tests and qualifying scores on the passing rates for the state-issued high school diploma 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 qualification of its three recommended vendors based on the answers that each vendor formally provided to the Department in response to a Request for Qualifications; 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 January 1, 2014:

**RECOMMENDED QUALIFIED PASSING SCORES FOR  
HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION EQUIVALENCY TEST**

	<b>ETS - Hi-Set (High School Equivalency Test)</b>	<b>McGraw Hill – TASC (Test of Adult Secondary Completion)</b>	<b>Pearson Vue – GED (General Education Development)</b>
<b>Score Range</b>	Total Possible Score 100 Subtest Ranges = 1 - 20	Total Possible Score 100 Subtest Ranges = 1 - 20	Total Possible Score 800 Subtest Ranges = 100 - 200
<b>Language Arts - Writing</b>	9	9	Incorporated into other sections
<b>Language Reading</b>	9	9	150
<b>Social Studies</b>	9	9	150
<b>Science</b>	9	9	150
<b>Math</b>	9	9	150

Notes:

Table source: test vendor RFQ responses  
2014 GED does not require a set total score to pass

**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 December 4, 2013, public meeting at 11:48 a.m.

---

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