

**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**

**February 12, 2014**

**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

**ABSENT**

Mr. Mark Beidron  
Ms. Claire Chamberlain  
Mr. Peter Simon

**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 February 12, 2014, 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 February 12, 2014.

**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**

## **INTRODUCTIONS**

Commissioner Cerf recognized Joseph Zarra, Interim Executive County Superintendent of Schools (Essex County), who represented the executive county superintendents.

## **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 December 4, 2013 and January 8, 2014.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

### **Commissioner's Resignation**

President Aponte acknowledged the pending resignation of Christopher D. Cerf, Commissioner of Education. He stated that Commissioner Cerf provided great leadership to the Department and school districts while maintaining a keen focus on New Jersey's most vulnerable students. On behalf of the State Board, President Aponte wished Christopher D. Cerf well in his new position.

### **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 March 5, 2014 public testimony session would open Friday, February 14, 2014 and close Friday, February 28, 2014. The Education for Homeless Students and Students in State Facilities amendments are scheduled for the March 5 public testimony session. He also stated that March 5, 2014 is an Open Topic public testimony opportunity. He further stated that Open Topic means that members of the public may provide comment on any educational topic of their choice.

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 Committee**

President Aponte stated that State Board members Mark Biedron, Peter Simon, Dorothy Strickland and Edithe Fulton would take on the role of reviewing the State Board Bylaws and the State Board Rulemaking chapters of code in anticipation of presenting amendments to the full board for readoption. He stated that Mr. Biedron would be the lead person in this initiative. He further stated that the Bylaws need to be presented to the full board for adoption on or before April 2, 2014 and the State Board Rulemaking chapter must be presented at First Discussion on May 7, 2014.

President Aponte stated that Diane Shoener, Director of the State Board Office would send the committee the information and schedule a conference call or meeting to discuss any amendments to the chapters.

### **Resolution in Support of the Common Core State Standards**

Approved the resolution in support of and commitment to the Common Core State Standards, pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18A:4-15*, *N.J.A.C. 6A:8-2.1(a)* and pursuant to P. L. 1990, c. 52, P. L. 1991, c. 3 and P. L. 1991, c. 62. State Board member Edithe Fulton abstained.

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AND COMMITMENT TO THE COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS**

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey State Board of Education adopted rigorous Common Core State Standards on June 19, 2010, and adopted rigorous Core Curriculum Content Standards and associated cumulative progress indicators in January 2008, which established the basis for local curricula and instruction for all students, the Statewide assessment system, and the evaluation of district boards of education; and

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey State Board of Education is empowered, pursuant to P. L. 1990, c. 52, P. L. 1991, c. 3 and P. L. 1991, c. 62., with the authority to establish the State's educational goals and standards; and

**WHEREAS**, along with the adoption of the standards, the New Jersey State Board of Education directed school districts to align their curricula for all students with the K-12 standards in mathematics, language arts literacy, social studies, science, visual and performing arts, health and physical education, world languages, technology, and 21<sup>st</sup> century life and careers; and

**WHEREAS**, the standards and accompanying indicators serve as the basis for State or local assessments deemed appropriate by the State Board of Education and the Department of Education; and

**WHEREAS**, the standards define the knowledge and skills students should acquire within their K-12 education careers to graduate high school with the ability to succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing academic college courses and in workforce training programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Common Core State Standards are deemed to be internationally benchmarked high standards that provide students with a clear year-to-year progression to ensure New Jersey students graduate high school ready for college and career and endowed with the critical thinking skills required of all graduates in the 21<sup>st</sup> century; and

**WHEREAS**, district boards of education shall fully comply with this directive and shall implement all State standards, align their curricula to the standards, and ensure all students learn and are assessed as required by federal law, according to the standards, including Common Core aligned assessments; and, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, the New Jersey State Board of Education hereby reaffirms its commitment to the implementation of the adopted Core Curriculum Content Standards, including the Common Core State Standards; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the New Jersey State Board of Education reminds district boards of education of their obligation to implement all Core Curriculum Content Standards, including the Common Core State Standards, and to ensure students meet the expectations and proficiency standards as measured by current and future State and local assessments.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS**

**Assembly Higher Education Committee Update**

Dr. Bari Erlichson, Assistant Commissioner/Chief Performance Officer provided an update to the State Board about remarks that she recently made to the Assembly Higher Education Committee on the Department's efforts to align K-12 education with the work of the state's post secondary partners; to discuss the intersections of the Core Curriculum Content Standards; our efforts to implement the Standards and the new state-wide or PARCC assessments.

## **School Performance Reports**

Dr. Bari Erlichson, Assistant Commissioner/Chief Performance Officer provided an overview of the recently released School Performance reports. She stated that the School Performance reports identify school strengths and weaknesses on key performance indicators so local stakeholders can set goals for improvement. She also stated that the 2013 reports reflect changes made from feedback received after the release of the 2012 reports. She further stated that the 2013 reports include more data such as ACT, IB and course taking in Visual and Performing Arts.

She stated that the 2013 School Performance reports also use NJSMART course collection to characterize participation in Visual and Performing Arts, align Algebra I indicators to the implementation of Common Core, present postsecondary enrollment by the 2- and 4-year, refine dual enrollment indicators in NJSMART for 2013-14, and continue to communicate the weakness of HSPA as a measure of student readiness for college and career.

## **Core Curriculum Content Standards (CCCS) Update**

Dr. Tracey Severns, Chief Academic Officer stated that the five-year review of the state's Core Curriculum Content Standards is underway. She also stated that the Department is putting together advisory panels to recommend modifications to the CCCS. She further stated that the Department would provide a draft document to the State Board members for review at their June 4, 2014 public meeting.

Dr. Severns stated that public hearings would be conducted on the Commissioner's recommendations at dates, times, and locations announced in the New Jersey Register.

## **Median Student Growth Percentiles (mSGP) Report**

Timothy Matheney, Director, Office of Evaluation, provided a presentation to the State Board on Median Student Growth Percentiles (mSGP). He stated that on February 4, 2014, the Department provided secure district access to 2012-13 median Student Growth Percentile (mSGP) data for all qualifying teachers. He also stated that this data does not have any consequences for this year's evaluation as it describes student growth from last school year. He further stated that the information is being provided primarily to help districts and the Department examine the data quality, consider related professional development opportunities, and prepare for the distribution of the first official mSGP scores (for 2013-14) next year when they will count for 30% of qualifying teachers' evaluations.

Mr. Matheney stated that district leaders were provided access to a summary of all teacher mSGP scores, as well as individual reports for each teacher indicating his/her 2012-13 mSGP. He also stated that school principals and supervisors were asked to share the confidential reports with each teacher with the goal of connecting the mSGP to elements of the teacher's practice and to professional learning opportunities. He further provided background on the use of growth measures, a detailed explanation of the calculation of mSGP scores and how they convert to evaluation scores, and suggestions for sharing the data and using it to inform professional growth.

## **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:**

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

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

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

- Susan Martz, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Student and Field Services
- Paula White, Director, School Improvement
- Nancy Curry, Director, Office of Student Support Services

**\*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>
Galloway Township	Atlantic
Westampton Township	Burlington
Magnolia	Camden
Downe Township	Cumberland
Nutley	Essex
East Brunswick	Middlesex
South Brunswick	Middlesex
Eatontown	Monmouth
Union Beach	Monmouth
Morris	Morris
Winfield Township	Union
Harmony Township	Warren

**\*C. Disability Rights of New Jersey Settlement Agreement**

- Approved the settlement agreement reached in the matter of Disability Rights New Jersey et al. v. New Jersey Department of Education, et al.

**\*D. Bilingual Education**

- Adopted 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.

**\*E. Programs to Support Student Development**

- Adopted the proposed re Adoption with amendments pertaining to student services proposed at N.J.A.C. 6A:16, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2A:4A; N.J.S.A. 2A:170; N.J.S.A. 2C:12; N.J.S.A. 2C:33; N.J.S.A. 2C:35; N.J.S.A. 2C:36; N.J.S.A. 2C:39; N.J.S.A. 9:6; N.J.S.A. 9:16; N.J.S.A. 18A:4; N.J.S.A. 18A:6; N.J.S.A. 18A:17; N.J.S.A. 18A:23; N.J.S.A. 18A:25; N.J.S.A. 18A:36; N.J.S.A. 18A:37; N.J.S.A. 18A:38; N.J.S.A. 18A:40; N.J.S.A. 18A:40A; N.J.S.A. 18A:46; N.J.S.A. 24:21; IDEA; Section 504; N.J.A.C. 8:57.

**F. Education for Homeless Children and Students in State Facilities**

- Discussed the amendments to the regulations pertaining to educational services for students who are homeless or in State facilities pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7B; N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1.d and 19.

## **WORK SESSION**

There was no work session.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

State Board member Edythe Fulton shared testimony provided by NJEA President, Wendell Steinhauer on February 10, 2014 at the Assembly Education Committee. She asked the State Board Office to forward it to all members of the board.

State Board member Joseph Fiscaro stated that he had visited Salem County Technical Schools earlier in the day. He acknowledged the students and staff of Salem County Technical School for the wonderful tour and their hospitality.

State Board President Arcelio Aponte acknowledged February as Black History Month.

State Board members congratulated Commissioner Cerf and wished him well in his future pursuits.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education adjourned its February 12, 2014, public meeting at 3:12 p.m.

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