

**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**

April 2, 2014

Presiding: Mr. Joseph Fisicaro, Vice President

Secretary: David C. Hespe, Acting Commissioner

PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM

Mr. Mark Beidron
Dr. Ronald Butcher
Ms. Edithe Fulton
Mr. Jack Fornaro
Mr. Andrew Mulvihill
Mr. Peter Simon
Dr. Dorothy Strickland

ABSENT

Mr. Arcelio Aponte
Ms. Claire Chamberlain
Dr. Ernest Lepore

CONVENING

State Board of Education Vice President Joseph Fisicaro 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 April 2, 2014, was called to order.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Vice President Fisicaro 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 April 2, 2014.

RECONVENING

Vice President Fiscaro 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 March 5, 2014.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Public Testimony

Vice President Fiscaro stated that public testimony would be held following today's monthly public business meeting. He also stated that the Charter School amendments are scheduled for the public testimony session.

He also stated that registration for the May 7, 2014 public testimony session would open Friday, April 18, 2014 and close Friday, May 2, 2014.

Vice President Fiscaro 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.

Permanent Student Representative Report

Vice President Fiscaro introduced Caitlin Slate the permanent student representative to the State Board for the 2013-2014 school year and her advisor Ms. Christine Henry. Caitlin spoke about the value and importance of school librarians. Caitlin also introduced the 2014-2015 permanent student representative Russell Bauer, a junior from Seneca High School in the Lenape Regional High School District. Russell will begin his term in July.

Resolution to Recognize April 2014 as School Library Month

Vice President Fiscaro presented a resolution to recognize April 2014 as School Library Month. On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board approved the following resolution read by State Board member Ronald Butcher:

Resolution to Recognize April 2014 as School Library Month

WHEREAS, the quest for knowledge and achievement by students is stimulated and developed through the use of educational resources and instruction provided by school library programs that are staffed by professional certified school librarians; and

WHEREAS, school library programs provide the means for students to gain cultural understandings and enhance global communication skills in a digital environment; and

WHEREAS, school library programs teach the skills of effectively locating and ethically using information through traditional resources and new technologies to provide literature appreciation activities and to guide and encourage informational and recreational reading to every student; and

WHEREAS, the school library program helps students find texts on any topic of interest across a range of complexity, so they are engaged in something they are interested in at a level that is challenging for them; and

WHEREAS, school librarians teach students to inquire, think critically, draw conclusions, make informed decisions, and create and share knowledge in preparation for college and the workplace; and

WHEREAS, it is both fitting and proper that special recognition be given to school library programs and the role of certified school librarians in education throughout the state of New Jersey; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the New Jersey State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education recognize April 2014 as School Library Month in New Jersey.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

There were no Commissioner's reports.

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**

- There were no districts for certification.

***C. Religious Holiday Calendar Resolution**

- Adopted the amended resolution pertaining to the annual calendar of religious holidays for the 2013-2014 school year as established at N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.3(j), pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:36-14-16.

The List of Religious Holidays Permitting Student Absence from School

WHEREAS, according to N.J.S.A. 18A:36-14 through 16 and N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.3(j), regarding student absence from school because of religious holidays, the Commissioner of Education, with the approval of the State Board of Education, is charged with the responsibility of prescribing such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of the law; and

WHEREAS, the law provides that:

1. Any student absent from school because of a religious holiday may not be deprived of any award or of eligibility or opportunity to compete for any award because of such absence;
2. Students who miss a test or examination because of absence on a religious holiday must be given the right to take an alternate test or examination;
3. To be entitled to the privileges set forth above, the student must present a written excuse signed by a parent or person standing in place of a parent;
4. Any absence because of a religious holiday must be recorded in the school register or in any group or class attendance record as an excused absence;
5. Such absence must not be recorded on any transcript or application or employment form or on any similar form; and
6. The Commissioner, with the approval of the State Board of Education, is required to:

(a) prescribe such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this act; and

(b) prepare a list of religious holidays on which it shall be mandatory to excuse a student. The list, however, is to be a minimum list. Boards of education, at their discretion, may add other days to the list for the schools of their districts; and

WHEREAS, the district board of education has the right to add any bona fide religious holiday to the list for its own schools; now therefore be it,

RESOLVED that the State Board of Education adopts the following list of religious holidays for the 2014-2015 school year:

2014-2015 School-Year	Observance
July 2014	
July 9	Martyrdom of the Bab (Baha'i)
July 13	Asalha Puja Day (Buddhist)
July 13-15	Ulambana/Obon (Buddhist)
July 24	Laylat as-Qadr (Islam)
July 29-31	Eid al Fitr (Islam)
August 2014	
August 1	Fast in Honor of the Holy Mother of Lord Jesus (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
August 1	Lammas (Christian and Wicca)
August 5	Tisha B'Av (Jewish)
August 6	Transfiguration of the Lord (Eastern Orthodox Christian)

August 10	Raksha Bandhan (Hindu)
August 15	Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Christian) Dormition of the Theotokos (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
August 17	Krishna Janmashtami (Hindu)
[August 28]	[Dormition of the Theotokos (Eastern Orthodox Christian)]
August 29	Ganesha Chaturthi (Hindu)
September 2014	
September 1	Ecclesiastical Year begins (Orthodox Christian)
September 7	His Holiness Sakya Trizin's Birthday (Buddhist)
September 8	Nativity of Mary (Christian) Nativity of the Theotokos (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
September 14	The Elevation of the Holy Cross (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
[September 21]	[Nativity of the Theotokos (Eastern Orthodox Christian)]
September 22	Mabon (Wicca)
September 24-26	Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)
September 25-26	Feast of Trumpets (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
September 26 and 27	Simcat Torah (Jewish)
October 2014	
October 3-4	Yom Kippur (Jewish)
October 4	Day of Atonement (Christian, Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
October 5-13	Navaratri (Hindu)
October 9-15	Sukkot (Jewish); Feast of Tabernacles (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
October 14 *	Hajj Day (Islam)
October 14 **	Duserra (Hindu)
October 15-18	Eid al Adha (Islam)
October 16	Last Great Day (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
October 16	Shemini Atzeret (Jewish)
October 17	Simcat Torah (Jewish)
October 20	Birth of B'ab (Baha'i)
October 20	Installation of the Scriptures as Guru Granth (Sikh)
October 23	Diwali [Deepavali] (Hindu, Jain and Sikh)
October 25	Al Hijra – 1 st Muharram (Islam)
November 2014	
November 1	All Saints' Day (Christian)
November 1	Samhain-Beltane (Wicca)
November 2	All Souls' Day (Christian)
November 12	Birth of Baha' u'llah (Baha'i)
November 15	Advent/Nativity Fast begins (Eastern Orthodox Christian)

November 17	Guru Nanak Dev Sahib Birthday (Sikh)
November 21	The Presentation of the Theotokos to the Temple (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
November 24	Guru Tegh Bahadur Martyrdom (Sikh)
November 26	Day of Covenant (Baha'i)
November 28	Ascension of 'Abdu'l Baha (Baha'i)
[November 30]	[Advent/Nativity Fast begins (Eastern Orthodox Christian)]
December 2014	
December 1	First Sunday of Advent (Christian)
December 8	Bodhi Day (Buddhist)
December 8	Immaculate Conception (Christian)
December 17-24	Hanukkah (Jewish)
December 21	Yule (Wicca and Christian)
December 25	Christmas (Christian)
December 25	The Nativity of Christ (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
December 26	Zarathosht Diso (Zoroastrian)
January 2015	
January 1	Gantan-sai (Shinto)
January 3*	Mawlid an Nabi (Islam)
January 5	Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh Sahib (Sikh)
January 6	Feast of Epiphany (Christian and Eastern Orthodox Christian)
January 6	Feast of Theophany (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
January 6	Nativity of Christ (Armenian Orthodox)
January 7	Feast of the Nativity (Orthodox Christian)
January 13	Maghi (Sikh)
January 14	Makar Sankranti (Hindu)
February 2015	
February 2	The Presentation of Our Lord to the Temple (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
February 2	Imbolic-Candlemas (Wicca and Christian)
February 4	Vasant Panchami (Hindu)
February 4	Tu B'shvat (Jewish)
February 15	Nirvana Day (Buddhist)
February 17	Shrove Tuesday (Christian)
February 17	Maha Shivaratri (Hindu)
February 18	Ash Wednesday (Christian)
February 19	Chinese New Year (Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist)
February 19	World Religion Day (Baha'i)
February 23	Clean Monday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
February 26 through March 1	Intercalary Days (Baha'i)
March 2015	
March 5	Purim (Jewish)
March 6*	Hola Mohalla (Sikh)
March 6	Holi (Hindu)

March 18	L. Ron Hubbard's Birthday (Church of Scientology)
March 20	Ostara (Wicca)
March 21	Narouz (Zoroastrian)
March 21	Naw Ruz (Baha'i)
March 21	Chandramana Yugadi (Hindu)
March 25	The Annunciation/The Annunciation of the Virgin Mary (Eastern Orthodox Christian; Christian)
March 26	Khordad Sal (Zoroastrian)
March 28	Rami Navami (Hindu)
March 29	Palm Sunday (Christian)
April 2015	
April 2	Holy Thursday (Christian)
April 3	Holy Friday (Christian)
April 3	Mahavir Jayanti (Jain)
April 4	Lazarus Saturday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 4	Theravadin New Year (Buddhist)
April 4	Hanuman Jayanti (Hindu)
April 4-11	Pesach (Jewish)
April 5	Easter (Christian)
April 5	Palm Sunday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 6	Easter Monday (Christian)
April 8	Buddha's Birthday (Buddhist)
April 9	Holy Thursday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 10	Holy Friday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 12	Pascha (Easter) (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 13	Bright Monday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 14	Baisakhi (Sikh)
April 14	Passover (Philadelphia Church of God)
April 14 *	Souramana Yugadi (Hindu)
April 15	First Day of Unleavened Bread (Church of God)
April 15	Lord's Evening Meal (Christian, Jehovah's Witness)
April 15-21	Days of Unleavened Bread (Philadelphia Church of God)
April 21	Last Day of Unleavened Bread (Church of God)
April 21	First Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
April 24	Yom Ha' Azmaut (Jewish)
April 25	The 11 th Panchen Lama's Birthday (Buddhist)
April 29	Ninth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
May 2015	
May 1	Beltane (Wicca)
May 2	Ascension of Our Lord (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
May 2	Twelfth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
May 4	Buddha Day – Visakha Puja (Buddhist)
May 7	Lag B'Omer (Jewish)
May 13	Lailat al Miraj (Islam)
May 21	Declaration of the Bab (Baha'i)
May 24	Pentecost (Christian)

May 24-25	Shavuot (Jewish)
May 29	Ascension of Baha' u'llah (Baha'i)
May 31	Pentecost (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
June 2015	
June 1	Lailat al Bara' ah (Islam)
June 8	Holy Apostles Fast Apostles (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
June 16	Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Sahib (Sikh)
June 18	Ramadan (Islam)
June 21	Litha (Wicca)
June 30	Synaxis of the 12 Apostles (Eastern Orthodox Christian)

*Approximate date based on lunar calendar.

***D. Bylaws of the State Board of Education**

- Adopted the regulations pertaining to the readoption with amendments of the State Board Bylaws at N.J.A.C. 6A:1 pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-15 et seq.

***E. Professional Licensure and Standards**

- Adopted the regulations pertaining to mentoring and certification of staff 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:36-10 and 18A:26-2.7.

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

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

G. Charter Schools

- Discussed the readoption with amendments of the rules pertaining to charter schools pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:36A-18.

H. Educator Effectiveness

- Discussed the amendments pertaining to educator evaluation proposed at N.J.A.C. 6A:10, Educator Effectiveness pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-15.

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 April 2, 2014, public meeting at 11:57 a.m.

David C. Hesse, Acting Commissioner
Acting Secretary, State Board of Education