

**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 3, 2014**

**Presiding:** Mr. Mark W. Biedron, President

**Secretary:** David C. Hespe, Commissioner

**PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM**

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

**ABSENT**

Ms. Claire Chamberlain  
Mr. Peter Simon

**CONVENING**

State Board of Education President Mark W. Biedron 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 3, 2014, was called to order.

**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 4, 2014. State Board members Ronald Butcher, Edithe Fulton and Dorothy Strickland abstained.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

### **Public Testimony**

President Biedron stated that public testimony would not be held following today's monthly public business meeting because there were no topics on the schedule.

President Biedron stated that registration for the January 7, 2015 public testimony session would open Friday, December 19, 2014 and close Friday, January 2, 2015. He also stated that the Programs to Support Student Development regulations. He further stated that the January 7 public testimony is an Open Topic public testimony opportunity meaning that members of the public may present testimony on any educational topic of their choice.

President Biedron 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**

President Biedron introduced Russell Bauer, the student representative for the 2014-2015 school year, and his advisor in attendance, Ms. Erica Maira. Russell spoke to the State Board members about how the Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) and Common Core Standards are applied within his school.

## **COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS**

### **Universality of Italian Heritage Curriculum**

Cav. Gilda Rorro Baldassari, Ed. D., Chair of the New Jersey Italian and Italian American Heritage Commission Curriculum Development, Dr. Eileen Poiani, Commission member of the Curriculum Development Committee, and Catherine Vignale, Commission member of the Curriculum Development Committee and President of the Italian Teacher Association of New Jersey presented an overview of the mission, purpose and curriculum of the New Jersey Italian and Italian American Heritage Commission.

### **2014 Graduation**

Bari Erlichson, Chief Performance Officer presented to the State Board of Education New Jersey's high school graduation rate for 2014. She stated that the graduation rate increased to 88.6 percent in 2014 from 87.5 percent in 2013, the second consecutive year in which high school graduation statewide grew by a full percentage point. She also stated New Jersey uses a federally mandated methodology designed to provide a complete accounting of graduation rates by tracking cohorts of students over four years, starting from the time they enter the ninth grade.

### **NJQSAC**

Robert Bumpus, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Field Services provided an overview of the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC). He also stated that the Department would begin to consider requests for flexibility from NJQSAC requirements from school districts that have been consistently high-performing. He further stated that through the Equivalency and Waiver process, the Department will allow high-performing school districts,

those that have satisfied 80-100 percent of the quality performance indicators in each of the five key components of school district effectiveness, to submit a Statement of Assurance documenting they remain high performing, in lieu of receiving a full NJQSAC review every three years.

**Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career (PARCC)**

Bari Erlichson, Chief Performance Officer provided a comprehensive update on the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers to the State Board of Education. She stated that the PARCC assessments are aligned to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and were created to measure students' ability to apply their knowledge of concepts rather than memorizing facts. She also stated that the assessments will require students to solve problems using mathematical reasoning and to be able to model mathematical principles. She further stated that in English Language Arts (ELA), students will be required to closely read multiple passages and to write essay responses in literary analysis, research tasks and narrative tasks.

She stated that the assessments will provide teachers information on student progress to inform instruction and provide targeted student support. She also stated that in 2014-2015, the PARCC assessments will replace the existing statewide assessments, the NJASK in grades 3-8 and HSPA in high school. She further stated that New Jersey has been transitioning the NJ ASK to measure the CCSS over the past three years to provide local districts and schools the time necessary to shift practices and prepare students and educators for PARCC.

**ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:**

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

**\*A. Appointments**

- 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>
<b>Somerville</b>	<b>Somerset</b>
<b>South Bound Brook</b>	<b>Somerset</b>
<b>Knowlton Township</b>	<b>Warren</b>
<b>Lopatcong Township</b>	<b>Warren</b>

**\*C. State Board Rulemaking**

- Adopted the amendments to the rules pertaining to rulemaking proposed at N.J.A.C. 6A:6, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-15 and 52:14B-1.

**\*D. Educator Effectiveness**

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

**\*E. Religious Holiday Calendar Resolution-Revised**

- Adopted the following revised resolution pertaining to the annual calendar of religious holidays for the 2014-2015 school year as established at N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.3(j), pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:36-14-16.

**RESOLUTION**

**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**, although the New Jersey Department of Education makes every attempt to ensure the accuracy of the dates using the lunar, Gregorian and Julian calendars; and

**WHEREAS, dates within this resolution may not be fixed before the State Board adopts the annual calendar and may require additional revision; now therefore be it**

**RESOLVED, the State Board of Education permits the Commissioner of Education, after annual adoption by the State Board of Education, to revise the dates provided in list of religious holidays.**

**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:**

**\*Revised on December 3, 2014 to include “Goverdhan Puja” October 24, 2014, “Holy Convocation” January 3 through 10, “Pongal” January 14, 2015 and “Passover/Days of Unleavened Bread” April 13 through 20**

<b>2014-2015 School-Year</b>	<b>Observance</b>
<b>July 2014</b>	
July 9	Martyrdom of the Bab (Baha’i)
July 11	Asalha Puja Day (Buddhist)
July 13-15	Ulambana/Obon (Buddhist)
July 24	Laylat as-Qadr (Islam)*
July 29	Eid al Fitr (Islam)*
<b>August 2014</b>	
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 18	Krishna Janmashtami (Hindu)*
August 29	Ganesha Chaturthi (Hindu)*
<b>September 2014</b>	
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	Mabon (Wicca)
September 25-26	Feast of Trumpets (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God) Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)
September 25-October 3	Navaratri (Hindu)*

<b>October 2014</b>	
October 3	Hajj Day (Islam)* Duserra (Hindu)*
October 4	Yom Kippur (Jewish)
October 4	Day of Atonement (Christian, Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God) Eid al Adha (Islam)*
October 8-15	Sukkot (Jewish); Feast of Tabernacles (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
October 16	Last Great Day (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
October 17	Simcat Torah (Jewish)
October 16-17	Shemini Atzeret (Jewish)
October 20	Birth of B'ab (Baha'i) Installation of the Scriptures as Guru Granth (Sikh)
October 23	Diwali (Hindu, Jain and Sikh)*
<b>October 24</b>	<b>Goverdhan Puja (Hindu)*</b>
October 25	Al Hijra – 1 <sup>st</sup> Muharram (Islam)*
<b>November 2014</b>	
November 1	All Saints' Day (Christian) 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)
<b>December 2014</b>	
November 30	First Sunday of Advent (Christian)
December 8	Bodhi Day (Buddhist) Immaculate Conception (Christian)
December 16-24	Hanukkah (Jewish)
December 21	Yule (Wicca and Christian)
December 25	Christmas (Christian) The Nativity of Christ (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
December 26	Zarathosht Diso (Zoroastrian)
<b>January 2015</b>	
January 1	Gantan-sai (Shinto)
January 3	Mawlid an Nabi (Islam)*
<b>January 3 through 10</b>	<b>Holy Convocation (Church of God and Saints of Christ)</b>
January 5	Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh Sahib (Sikh)
January 6	Feast of Epiphany (Christian and Eastern Orthodox Christian) Feast of Theophany (Eastern Orthodox Christian) Nativity of Christ (Armenian Orthodox)

January 7	Feast of the Nativity (Orthodox Christian)
January 13	Maghi (Sikh)
January 14	Makar Sankranti <b>and Pongal</b> (Hindu)*
January 18	World Religion Day (Baha'i)
January 24	Vasant Panchami (Hindu)*
<b>February 2015</b>	
February 2	The Presentation of Our Lord to the Temple (Eastern Orthodox Christian) Imbolic-Candlemas (Wicca and Christian)
February 4	Tu B'shvat (Jewish)
February 15	Nirvana Day (Buddhist)
February 17	Shrove Tuesday (Christian) Maha Shivaratri (Hindu)*
February 18	Ash Wednesday (Christian)
February 19	Chinese/Lunar New Year (Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist)
February 23	Clean Monday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
February 26 through March 1	Intercalary Days (Baha'i)
<b>March 2015</b>	
March 5	Purim (Jewish)
March 6	Hola Mohalla (Sikh) Holi (Hindu)*
March 18	L. Ron Hubbard's Birthday (Church of Scientology)
March 20	Ostara (Wicca)
March 21	Nowruz (Zoroastrian) Naw Ruz (Baha'i) 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)
<b>April 2015</b>	
April 2	Holy Thursday (Christian) Mahavir Jayanti (Jain)
April 3	Holy Friday (Christian)
April 4	Lazarus Saturday (Eastern Orthodox Christian) First Day of Unleavened Bread (Church of God) Theravadin New Year (Buddhist) Hanuman Jayanti (Hindu)*
April 4-10	Days of Unleavened Bread (Philadelphia Church of God)
April 4-11	Pesach (Jewish)
April 5	Easter (Christian) 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) Last Day of Unleavened Bread (Church of God)

April 12	Pascha (Easter) (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 13	Bright Monday (Eastern Orthodox Christian) Baisakhi (Sikh)
<b>April 13-20</b>	<b>Passover/Days of Unleavened Bread (Church of God and Saints of Christ)</b>
April 14	Passover (Philadelphia Church of God)
April 14	Souramana Yugadi (Hindu)*
April 15	Lord's Evening Meal (Christian, Jehovah's Witness)
April 21	First Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
April 23	Yom Ha'Azmaut (Jewish)
April 25	The 11 <sup>th</sup> Panchen Lama's Birthday (Buddhist)
April 29	Ninth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
<b>May 2015</b>	
May 1	Beltane (Wicca)
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 14	Ascension of Our Lord (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
May 23	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)
<b>June 2015</b>	
June 1	Lailat al Bara'ah (Islam)*
June 8	Fast of the Holy 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.

**\*F. Special Education Advisory Council Resolution**

- Adopted the following resolution to approve the reappointments to the State Special Education Advisory Council for a period of two years, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-66.1 and P. L. 94-142.

**RESOLUTION  
THREE REAPPOINTMENTS TO  
THE STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 18A:46-2 requires that the Commissioner shall appoint biannually an advisory council for special education with the approval of the State Board which will consist of not

fewer than seven nor more than 15 members representative of professionals in the field of special education and parents of children with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 18A:46-2 defines the role of the advisory council as advising in the promulgation of rules, regulations and implementation of N.J.A.C. 6A:14 and the establishment of standards and qualifications for professional personnel and further provides that the council members shall serve without remuneration; and

**WHEREAS**, the reauthorized Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) of 2004 requires each state education agency to have an advisory panel for special education; and

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Department of Education has established and maintains an advisory panel, known as the State Special Education Advisory Council, for the purpose of providing policy guidance with respect to special education and related services for children with disabilities in the State; and

**WHEREAS**, the advisory panel consists of members, that are representative of the state population and are composed of individuals involved in, or concerned with, the education of children with disabilities, including: (i) parents of children with disabilities; (ii) individuals with disabilities; (iii) teachers; (iv) representatives of institutions of higher education that prepare special education and related services personnel; (v) state and local education officials; (vi) administrators of programs for children with disabilities; (vii) representatives of other state agencies involved in the financing or delivery of related services to children with disabilities; (viii) representatives of private schools and public charter schools; (ix) at least one representative of a vocational, community, or business organization concerned with the provision of transition services to children with disabilities; and (x) representatives from the state juvenile and adult corrections agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, a majority of the members of the panel shall be individuals with disabilities or parents of children with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the advisory panel shall: (i) advise the department of unmet needs within the state in the education of children with disabilities; (ii) comment publicly on any rules or regulations proposed by the department regarding the education of children with disabilities; (iii) advise the department in developing evaluations and reporting on data to the Secretary of the United States Department of Education under Part B Sec. 618 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; (iv) advise the department in developing corrective action plans to address findings identified in federal monitoring reports under this part; and (v) advise the department in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children with disabilities; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the State Special Education Advisory Council meets the state mandate for an advisory council and the federal requirements for an advisory panel; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Commissioner recommends that Ms. Mary Ann Comparetto be reappointed for a two-year term effective December 3, 2014

**RESOLVED**, that the Commissioner recommends that Dr. Tekelah Sherrod be reappointed for a two-year term effective December 3, 2014

**RESOLVED**, that the Commissioner recommends that Dr. Dorothy Van Horn be reappointed for a two-year term effective December 3, 2014.

**G. Programs to Support Student Development**

- Discussed the amendments to Chapter 16 pertaining to health services pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-1, 4, 12, 23 through 31, 34, 41, and 44, and N.J.S.A 18A:40A-12.

### **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 3, 2014, public meeting at 1:15 p.m.

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David C. Hespe, Commissioner  
Secretary, State Board of Education