

**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 1, 2015

Presiding: Mr. Joseph Fiscaro, Vice President

Secretary: David C. Hespe, Commissioner

PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM

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

ABSENT

Mr. Arcelio Aponte
Mr. Mark Biedron
Ms. Claire Chamberlain
Mr. Peter Simon

CONVENING

State Board of Education Vice President Joseph Fiscaro 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 1, 2015, was called to order.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Vice President Fiscaro 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 1, 2015.

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 4, 2015.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Public Testimony

Vice President Fiscaro stated that public testimony session will not be held today at 2 pm because there are no topics scheduled.

Vice President Fiscaro stated that public testimony would be held on May 6. He also stated that registration for the May 6 public testimony session will open on Friday, April 17, 2015 and close on Friday, May 1, 2015. Topics for the May 6 public testimony include the health services amendments to chapter 16, Programs to Support Student Development and the Enlargement of Purpose for Passaic Educational Services Commission and the Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission.

Vice President Fiscaro stated that the May 6 public testimony session is also an Open Topic testimony session and members of the public may present testimony before the state board on any educational topic of their choice. He also stated that anyone interested in speaking at or also attending the public testimony session must register so that the State Board staff can make proper arrangements for space.

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

President Biedron welcomed Russell Bauer, the student representative for the 2014-2015 school year, and his advisor, Ms. Erica Maira. Russell spoke to the board about feedback he has received from students and school districts about the first phase of the administration of the PARCC assessment.

Resolution to Recognize April 2015 as School Library Month

Vice President Fiscaro presented a resolution to recognize April 2015 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 2015 as School Library Month

WHEREAS, the educational resources and instruction provided by school library programs that are staffed by professional certified school librarians stimulate and develop the quest for knowledge and achievement by students; 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 every student the skills to effectively locate and ethically use information through traditional resources and new technologies, to pursue literature

appreciation activities, and to examine both informational and recreational reading; and

WHEREAS, the school librarian engages and challenges students to find texts on any topic of interest across a range of complexity, and prepares them to access and assess information for future school, career or personal needs; and

WHEREAS, school library programs teach students to inquire, think critically, draw conclusions, make informed decisions, and create and share knowledge in preparation for adult decision making and citizenship; 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 2015 as School Library Month in New Jersey.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORTS

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

Commissioner Hespe gave a brief update on the status of the implementation of the PARCC assessments. He stated that NJ administered approximately 1.6 million English Language Arts and Mathematics tests statewide. He also stated that 98 percent of NJ’s schools administered the new assessments via the computer, the highest rate of tech usage among any of the PARCC states. He further stated that the testing was largely free of any major technology problems.

Commissioner Hespe stated that he is committed to identifying best practices from the initial administration and working to ensure that future administrations function as smoothly as possible.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

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

***A. Appointment(s)**

- There were no appointments today.

***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.

Certified School District	County
East Windsor	Mercer
Lawrence	Mercer
Freehold Township	Monmouth
Howell Township	Monmouth
Union Beach	Monmouth
Harmony Township	Warren

***C. Student Residency**

Adopted the amendments to the rules pertaining to student residency proposed at N.J.A.C. 6A:22, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1.

***D. Religious Holidays Calendar Resolution**

- Adopted the resolution pertaining to the annual calendar of religious holidays for the 2015-2016 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 2015-2016 school year:

2015-16 School-Year	Observance
July 2015	
July 2	Asalha Puja Day (Buddhist)
July [9]10	Martyrdom of the Bab (Baha'i)
July 13	Laylat as-Qadr (Islam)*
July 13-15	Ulambana/Obon (Buddhist)
July 18-21	Eid al Fitr (Islam)*
July 26	Tisha B' Av (Jewish)
July 31	Guru Purnima (Hindu)*
August 2015	
August 1	Fast in Honor of the Holy Mother of Lord Jesus (Eastern Orthodox Christian) Lammass (Christian and Wicca)
August 6	Transfiguration of the Lord (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
August 15	Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Christian) Dormition of the Theotokos (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
August 19	Naga Panchami (Hindu)*
August 28	Onam (Hindu)*
August 29	Raksha Bandhan (Hindu)*
September 2015	
September 1	Ecclesiastical Year begins (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
September 5	Krishna Janmashtami (Hindu)*
September 7	His Holiness Sakya Trizin's Birthday (Buddhist)
September 8	Nativity of Mary (Christian) Nativity of the Theotokos (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
September 14	Feast of Trumpets (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God) The Elevation of the Holy Cross (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
September 14-15	Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)
September 17	Ganesha Chaturthi (Hindu)*
September 22	Hajj Day (Islam)*
September 23	Yom Kippur (Jewish) Mabon (Wicca) Day of Atonement (Christian, Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God) Eid al Adha (Islam)*
September 28-October 4	Sukkot (Jewish) Feast of Tabernacles (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
October 2015	
October 5	Last Great Day (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God); Shemini Atzeret (Jewish)
October 6	Simcat Torah (Jewish)
October 13-21	Navaratri (Hindu)*
October 14	Al Hijra – 1 st Muharram (Islam)*
October 20	[Birth of B' ab (Baha'i)]

	Installation of the Scriptures as Guru Granth (Sikh)
October 22	Duserra (Hindu)*
October 31	Samhain-Beltane (Wicca)
November 2015	
November 1	All Saints' Day (Christian)
November 2	All Souls' Day (Christian)
November 11	Diwali (Hindu, Jain and Sikh)*
November 12	[Birth of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)] Goverdhan Puja (Hindu)*
November 13	Birth of B'ab (Baha'i)
November 14	Birth of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)
November 15	Nativity Fast begins (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
November 21	The Presentation of the Theotokos to the Temple (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
November 24	Guru Tegh Bahadur Martyrdom (Sikh)
November 25	Guru Nanak Dev Sahib Birthday (Sikh)
November 26	Day of Covenant (Baha'i)
November 28	Ascension of 'Abdu'l Baha (Baha'i)
November 29	First Sunday of Advent (Christian)
December 2015	
December 7-14	Hanukkah (Jewish)
December 8	Bodhi Day (Buddhist) Immaculate Conception (Christian)
December 21	Yule (Wicca and Christian)
December 23	Mawlid an Nabi (Islam)*
December 25	Christmas (Christian) The Nativity of Christ (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
December 26	Zarathosht Diso (Zoroastrian)
January 2016	
January 1	Gantan-sai (Shinto)
January 3 through 10	Holy Convocation (Church of God and Saints of Christ)
January 5	Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh Sahib (Sikh)
January 6	Feast of Epiphany (Christian) Feast of Theophany (Eastern Orthodox Christian) Nativity of Christ (Armenian Orthodox)
January 7	Feast of the Nativity (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
January 13	Maghi (Sikh)
January 14	Makar Sankranti and Pongal (Hindu)*
January 17	World Religion Day (Baha'i)
January 25	Tu B'shvat (Jewish)
February 2016	
February 1	Clean Monday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
February 2	The Presentation of Our Lord to the Temple (Eastern Orthodox Christian) Imbolic-Candlemas (Wicca and Christian)
February 8	Chinese/Lunar New Year (Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist)
February 9	Shrove Tuesday (Christian)
February 10	Ash Wednesday (Christian)

February 12	Vasant Panchami (Hindu)*
February 15	Nirvana Day (Buddhist)
February 26 through March 1	Intercalary Days (Baha'i)
March 2016	
March 8	Maha Shivaratri (Hindu)*
March 13	L. Ron Hubbard's Birthday (Church of Scientology)
March 20	Ostara (Wicca) Palm Sunday (Christian) Naw Ruz (Baha'i)
March 21	Nowruz (Zoroastrian) [Naw Ruz (Baha'i)]
March 23	Holi (Hindu)* Lord's Evening Meal (Christian, Jehovah's Witness)
March 24	Purim (Jewish) Hola Mohalla (Sikh) Holy Thursday (Christian)
March 25	Holy Friday (Christian) The Annunciation of the Theotokos (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
March 27	Easter (Christian)
March 28	Khordad Sal (Zoroastrian) Easter Monday (Christian)
April 2016	
April 4	The Annunciation of the Virgin Mary (Christian)
April 8	Chandramana Yugadi (Hindu)*
April 13	Baisakhi (Sikh)
April 13	Souramana Yugadi (Hindu)*
April 13-20	Passover/Days of Unleavened Bread (Church of God and Saints of Christ)
April 15	Rami Navami (Hindu)*
April [21]20	First Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
April 22	Passover (Philadelphia Church of God) Hanuman Jayanti (Hindu)*
April 22-23	Theravadin New Year (Buddhist)
April 23	Lazarus Saturday (Eastern Orthodox Christian) First Day of Unleavened Bread (Church of God)
April 23-29	Days of Unleavened Bread (Philadelphia Church of God)
April 23-30	Pesach (Jewish)
April 24	Palm Sunday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 25	The 11 th Panchen Lama's Birthday (Buddhist)
April 28	Holy Thursday (Eastern Orthodox Christian) Ninth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
[April 29]	[Ninth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)] Holy Friday (Eastern Orthodox Christian) Last Day of Unleavened Bread (Church of God)
April 30	Mahavir Jayanti (Jain)
May 2016	
May 1	Twelfth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i) Beltane (Wicca)

	Pascha (Easter) (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
May 2	[Twelfth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)] Bright Monday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
May 5	Lailat al Miraj (Islam)* Ascension of Our Lord (Christian)
May 12	Yom Ha'Azmaut (Jewish)
May 15	Buddha's Birthday/Buddha Day – Visakha Puja (Buddhist) Pentecost (Christian)
May 21	Lailat al Bara'ah (Islam)*
May 23	Declaration of the Bab (Baha'i)
May 26	Lag B'Omer (Jewish)
May [29]28	Ascension of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)
June 2016	
June 6	Ramadan (Islam)
June 12-13	Shavuot (Jewish)
June 16	Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Sahib (Sikh)
June 19	Pentecost (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
June 20	Litha (Wicca)
June 24	Fast of the Holy Apostles (Eastern Orthodox Christian)

* Disclaimer: New Jersey Department of Education has made every attempt to ensure the accuracy of the dates. The information has been verified through the use of various sources and some dates may vary due to the lunar, Gregorian and Julian calendars.

***E Fiscal Accountability, Efficiency and Budgeting Procedures**

- Approved for publication in the *NJ Register*, the amendments to the rules proposed at N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-22.4, pertaining to the financial operations of charter schools, pursuant to N.J.S.A.18A:36A-12.

F. Enlargement of Purpose

- Discussed the resolution approving the Enlargement of Purpose for the Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-69.

RESOLUTION

REQUESTING ENLARGMENT OF PURPOSE PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 18A:6-69 FOR THE MIDDLESEX REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-52, the State Board of Education approved the establishment of the Middlesex County Educational Services Commission in or about December, 1977, to provide educational and administrative services and programs to member school district boards of education; and

WHEREAS, the Middlesex County Educational Services Commission was approved to provide services to nonpublic schools, cooperative transportation to out-of-district schools, cooperative purchasing, adult education, summer school, computer services, specialized consultants, printing and duplicating services, equipment maintenance services, and other specialized services; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18A:6-69*, the State Board of Education approved an enlargement of scope of purpose for the Middlesex County Educational Services Commission in or about December, 1991, which permitted the provision of nursing services to nonpublic schools; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education approved a name change request from the “Middlesex County Educational Services Commission” to the “Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission” in or about June 2005; and

WHEREAS, since its inception, the Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission has provided a wide variety of education services to twenty-four (24) school districts in Middlesex County, as well as educational and business services to numerous school districts and municipalities throughout the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, at the present time, the Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission is providing services to over eight hundred (800) school districts, colleges, county colleges, and municipalities in all twenty-one (21) counties throughout the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, in light of the fact that the Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission is no longer only serving the needs of the greater Middlesex County area, but also presently meeting the educational needs of over eight hundred (800) public entities in all twenty-one (21) counties throughout the State of New Jersey, the Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission believes it is appropriate to expand its areas of service beyond those identified in its original petition; and

WHEREAS, the Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission believes that an expansion in its areas of service and geographic area served would better identify and authorize the scope of services it now provides to its clientele; now therefore be it

RESOLVED that, pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18A:6-69*, the State Board of Education grants approval to the Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission to enlarge its purpose beyond those identified in its original petition, and to accurately represent its areas of service and geographic areas served.

G. Enlargement of Purpose

- Discussed the resolution approving the Enlargement of Purpose for Passaic County Educational Services Commission, pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18A:6-69*.

**RESOLUTION
REQUESTING ENLARGMENT OF PURPOSE PURSUANT TO *N.J.S.A. 18A:6-69* FOR THE
PASSAIC COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION**

WHEREAS, in accordance with *N.J.S.A. 18A:6-52*, the State Board of Education approved the establishment of the Passaic County Educational Services Commission in or about 1978; and

WHEREAS, the Passaic County Educational Services Commission currently provides diverse educational services to a number of school districts in Passaic County; and

WHEREAS, the educational services provided to school districts in Passaic County include, without limitation, Supplemental Educational Services, Extended School Year Program, Summer School Program, Alternative Education/Special Needs High Schools, Professional Services (Physical, Occupational, and/or Speech Therapy; Home Instruction; and Financial/Clerical Office Staffing), Substitute Registry, One-to-One Aides, Non-Public Nursing, Technology, and Transportation; and

WHEREAS, the Passaic County Educational Services Commission also delivers various of the aforementioned services to a number of northern New Jersey school districts located outside of Passaic

County and, more specifically, in Bergen County, Morris County, Hudson County, and Sussex County;
and

WHEREAS, the Passaic County Educational Services Commission seeks to enlarge its purpose so that it may expand and enlarge its areas of service and the geographical areas served (and to be served); now therefore be it

RESOLVED that, pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18A:6-69*, the State Board of Education grants approval to the Passaic County Educational Services Commission to enlarge its purpose to expand and enlarge its areas of service and geographic areas served (and to be served).

WORK SESSION

There was no work session.

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education adjourned its April 1, 2015, public meeting at 11:03 a.m.

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