

**New Jersey State Board of Education
Minutes of the Public Work Session
in the Conference Room on the First Floor,
100 River View Executive Plaza
Trenton, NJ**

May 18, 2005

Presiding: Debra Casha, Vice President

Secretary: William L. Librera, Ed.D., Commissioner

PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM:

Ms. Margaret F. Bartlett
Ms. Maud Dahme
Ms. Kathleen A. Dietz
Mrs. Anne S. Dillman
Ms. Josephine E. Figueras
Mr. John A. Griffith
Dr. Ernest Lepore
Dr. Thelma Napoleon-Smith
Mr. Edward M. Taylor
Mrs. Roberta Van Anda

ABSENT:

Dr. Arnold G. Hyndman
Dr. Ronald K. Butcher

CONVENING

Debra Casha, vice president, State Board of Education, convened the public meeting with the reading of the resolution pertaining to the public session of the State Board meeting as it complies with the Open Public Meetings Act.

WHEREAS, the New Jersey 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, and

WHEREAS, 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, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that by adopting this resolution the State Board of Education states its intention to convene a public meeting to conduct the state's business on Wednesday, May 18, 2005.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

● Just for the Kids-New Jersey

Dana Egreczky, vice president of Work Force Development, New Jersey Chamber of Commerce, provided information on Just for the Kids New Jersey, a public school information website system. The system organizes and analyzes student achievement data at the school level in the core academic subjects and presents the data in ways that are easy to understand. Ms. Egreczky stated that extra components have been added to the website since last year. The website includes features that are linked to the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) requirements for specific student populations. Ms. Egreczky also stated that last year data from 66 schools was included in the website and this year the website contains data from 77 schools. Ms. Egreczky further stated that once the data are studied, a school's potential for improvement is identified by comparing its performance against other schools with similar or more challenging-to-educate student populations.

Ms. Egreczky also provided information on the New Jersey Scholars program. She stated that New Jersey Scholars is part of a national initiative that encourages students to complete a more rigorous high school course of study that will better ensure their success in college and in the workplace. Information regarding both of these programs can be found on the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce website at www.bcee.org.

● Update on Special Review Assessment (SRA)

Commissioner Librera discussed his proposal for the replacement of the Special Review Assessment (SRA) beginning with the final administration of the SRA for literacy in 2008. The final administration of the SRA for mathematics will occur in 2011. The Commissioner stated that the proposal includes a revised testing schedule to move the first administration of the High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA) to the fall of the eleventh grade year. The proposal addresses strategies to include the use of research –based predictive methods to identify students who could have trouble with the HSPA as early as the eight grade; more extensive use of practice tests; increased opportunities for support and assistance for students particularly in mathematics; and additional professional development opportunities for key district and school staff to better prepare students to pass the HSPA. An appeal process will be developed for students not passing the HSPA.

● Regional Support Centers for Teaching & Learning

Commissioner Librera presented the Department's long term plan for the establishment of three fully functioning regional support centers designed to provide professional development in the form of resources, professional development and outreach services to districts, schools and individual practitioners. The Commissioner stated that the approach will be multi-faceted and will include but not be limited to providing: instructional coaches in literacy and mathematics; a career center to counsel teachers; leadership development workshops; and highly skilled mentors for novice administrators. Commissioner Librera also stated that the initial focus will be placed on the central region and will allow greatest access to the center's services.

Vice President Casha asked State Board members to identify what the State Board has done for the children of New Jersey as a result of today's work session. State board member Roberta Van Anda stated that the State Board complimented the children of the state by enjoying the display of their art work in the first floor conference room. State board member Josephine Figueras stated that the State Board continues to demonstrate through discussion of topics relative to the best interest of children that they are always the State Board's foremost fundamental concern.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board adjourned its May 18, 2005 public work session at 3:10 p.m.

William L. Librera, Ed.D., Commissioner
Secretary, NJ State Board of Education

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