

**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**

**June 17, 2009**

**Presiding:** Josephine Hernandez, President

**Secretary:** Lucille E. Davy, Commissioner

**PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM**

Mr. Arcelio Aponte  
Dr. Ronald Butcher  
Ms. Edithe Fulton  
Mr. Robert Haney  
Dr. Ernest Lepore  
Ms. Florence McGinn  
Mr. Ilan Plawker  
Dr. Dorothy Strickland

**ABSENT**

Ms. Kathleen Dietz

**CONVENING**

Josephine Hernandez, president, State Board of Education, 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 Open Public Meetings Act.

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.

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.

Accordingly, the State Board of Education states its intention to convene a public meeting to conduct the state's business on June 17, 2009.

**STUDENT SPEAKERS**

In her last address before the State Board, Jen Luck, a senior at South Brunswick High School (Middlesex County) and school representative for the 2008-09 year shared her desire to become an educator and affirmed the role the State Board of Education played in influencing her decision. The State Board members approved a resolution congratulating and thanking Jen for her service and wished her well in college.

President Hernandez announced that Devon McRimmon, a student at J.P. Stevens High School (Middlesex County) will be the new student representative for 2009-2010 school year.

## **INTRODUCTIONS**

Commissioner Davy recognized Lawrence S. Feinsod, Acting Executive County Superintendent of Schools (Essex County), who represented the county superintendents.

### **Student Recognition Program**

The State Board recognized Zaide Rodriguez, a senior at the Hillcrest Academy North Campus in Scotch Plains (Union County), as a part of its monthly recognition program designed to honor a student or a group of students who have made a significant contribution to school, community, family or other groups. The State Board recognized Zaide for her academic and humanitarian efforts.

On behalf of the State Board, President Hernandez congratulated Zaide on her achievements.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS**

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board members approved the minutes of the public meeting conducted on May 20, 2009. State Board members Florence McGinn and Ernest Lepore abstained from the vote.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

### **Nominating Committee Report**

Dorothy Strickland, chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the slate of candidates as: Josephine Hernandez for president and Arcelio Aponte for vice president. The vote will occur next month. State Board members Robert Haney and Edythe Fulton were also on the committee.

### **Legislative Committee Report**

Ilan Plawker reported that he has a meeting with Assemblyman Joseph Cryan next month.

### **Retreat**

President Hernandez reported that there will be a conference call with Brenda Welburn from NASBE to follow up on the retreat from last month.

### **General Report**

President Hernandez reported on her participation as the commencement speaker at Hillcrest Academy North graduation ceremonies and in a middle school civics competition at Rutgers University's Project Citizen.

President Hernandez announced that there will be public testimony today at 3:00 p.m. and topics are: open topic, adult education, interdistrict public school choice and student residency.

## **COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS**

### **New Jersey School Business Administrator of the Year**

John Donohue, Executive Director of the New Jersey Association of School Business Administrators introduced James Savage, Jr. from Lacey Township (Ocean County) as the recipient of this year's NJASBO service award. State Board members congratulated Mr. Savage for his service.

### **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act**

Commissioner Davy informed the State Board that the department is still waiting for guidance from the federal government. The technical training sessions for districts will start next week. The department has received nearly 400 applications for summer projects that include the purchase of technology and educational materials and programs for students at risk of failure.

Commissioner Davy shared that she had the opportunity to spend time with U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan when he visited the Newark school district during his "listening and learning tour".

Commissioner Davy also shared some of Secretary Duncan's comments made at a meeting she attended with state governors and other education commissioners at the Hunt Institute in North Carolina. She stated that Secretary Duncan favored the common core standards initiative among the states and encouraged tight goals but flexibility in defining how to achieve the goals so that all students are college or career ready when they graduate from high school.

State Board member Florence McGinn requested that the State Board receive future updates on the progress of the common core standards initiative and how the technology infrastructure goals will be met. Commissioner Davy responded that an update can be provided in July or August.

State Board member Ilan Plawker recommended that the race to the top funds be used to create a merit pay system for teachers to provide incentive for teachers to get involved in the new proposed common core standards initiative. He also commented that the data collected should indicate where NJ students eventually settle and in what positions.

State Board member Edithe Fulton expressed her agreement with the common core standards but hoped that they would not become a national curriculum.

Vice President Aponte commented that he is interested in collecting data that will inform and direct the decisions the State Board has to make.

State Board member Dorothy Strickland commented that the data collected should not be exclusively relegated to outcome measures on standardized test numbers. Data is not just numbers but should be contextualized to include the circumstances under which children were taught and how they learn.

President Hernandez asked Commissioner Davy about her vision for how our assessments will interrelate with the common core standards. Commissioner Davy responded that the benchmarks for assessments will be derived as the common core standards are developed and college and career ready is defined.

### **Partnership for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills**

Commissioner Davy reported that Deputy Commissioner Willa Spicer and other department staff attended the national conference. There is an advisory group working with the department to address 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and technology issues facing school districts. State Board member Florence McGinn is a member of this advisory group. At the conference, NJ was awarded and recognized as a state that has created some of the best standards for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **State Board Member Training**

Commissioner Davy stated that she hoped to have the training in the early summer. State Board member Florence McGinn requested an interactive learning process. Commissioner Davy responded that the plan is for the assistant commissioners and directors to meet with the State Board members and discuss the various functions and duties of each division.

### **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:**

On motions duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education took the following action:

#### **A. Appointments**

- There were no appointments.

#### **B. Annual Calendar of State Board Meeting Dates**

- Approved the resolution setting the annual calendar of the 2009-2010 meeting dates for the State Board.

#### **C. CCCS Preschool Expectations**

- Approved the resolution adopting the core curriculum content standards for preschool education, visual and performing arts, comprehensive health and physical education, science, technology, 21<sup>st</sup> century life and career and world languages.

#### **D. High School Graduation Requirements**

- Approved the resolution adopting the proposed amendments to the high school graduation requirements. Commissioner Davy thanked the State Board for its support on this project and pledged that this is just step one. Commissioner Davy also thanked assistant commissioner Jay Doolan, who is retiring, for his work on these standards, and his dedication to the department and children of the state.

#### **E. Business Services**

- Approved the proposal to recodify and readopt with amendments the Business Services regulations. Katie Attwood, assistant commissioner, shared that her division received numerous comments from the public regarding the nepotism policy for charter schools. As a result, the proposal does not include this provision pending further consideration and discussions. In addition, subchapter two is being added

which clarifies how often public school districts must submit the monthly school business administrators' reports to the Executive County Superintendent.

F. **Controversies and Disputes**

- Discussed State Board member Ilan Plawker's desire to speak to legislators about reinstating the State Board's appeals authority under limited circumstances.

G. **Student Transportation**

- Discussed the proposed amendments to the readoption of the student transportation code as presented by Jerry Ford, director of the office student transportation and shared services.

**WORK SESSION**

- Assistant commissioner, Jay Doolan and Marie Barry, director of the office of career and technical education, discussed the process of developing the personalized student learning plans and the pilot program. The two year pilot program will begin in September.
- Assistant commissioner, Katie Attwood and Commissioner Davy provided an update on how the School Funding Reform Act will impact public school districts.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Vice President Aponte requested an update from the School Development Authority on the capital outlay plan for facilities and school construction across the state. Commissioner Davy responded that an update can be provided in August or September by department staff.
- Vice President Aponte also requested information on schools that have not done well on the High School Proficiency Assessment and what plans the department has to address those schools. Commissioner Davy responded that the department would not have information on specific schools by the next State Board meeting. However, as soon as the information is received it will be provided to the State Board.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion duly seconded and carried the State Board of Education adjourned its June 17, 2009 public meeting at 3:10 p.m.

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Lucille E. Davy, Commissioner  
Secretary, State Board of Education