

**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**

**January 7, 2015**

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

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

**PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM**

Dr. Ronald Butcher  
Mr. Joseph Fisicaro  
Mr. Jack Fornaro  
Ms. Edithe Fulton  
Dr. Ernest Lepore  
Mr. Peter Simon  
Dr. Dorothy Strickland

**ABSENT**

Mr. Arcelio Aponte  
Ms. Claire Chamberlain  
Mr. Andrew Mulvihill

**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 January 7, 2015, 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 December 3, 2014. State Board Peter Simon abstained.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**Public Testimony**

President Biedron stated that public testimony session be held today at 2 pm. He also stated that the Programs to Support Student Development regulations were scheduled for public testimony. 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 public testimony would not be held on February 4, 2015 because there are no topics scheduled.

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 advised that Russell Bauer, the student representative for the 2014-2015 school year, and his advisor, Ms. Erica Maira would not be in attendance today because they are attending a conference.

### **School Board Recognition Month**

President Biedron introduced the School Board Recognition resolution. State Board vice president Joseph Fisicaro read the resolution which was approved by the State Board. Donald Webster, President of the New Jersey School Boards Association and Larry Feinsod, Executive Director of the New Jersey School Boards Association accepted the resolution and thanked the State Board for the recognition.

#### **RESOLUTION FOR SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey State Board of Education, which adopts the administrative code to implement state education law, has established rigorous standards through its promulgation of the state Core Curriculum Content Standards and its adoption of the Common Core State Standards, both of which set the expectations of academic achievement for nearly 1.4 million public schoolchildren; and

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey's locally elected and appointed boards of education play a vital role in ensuring that their local school districts meet state standards and adhere to all code provisions, with the goal of providing an outstanding education to prepare all students for college and the workplace and to enable them to compete in a global economy; and

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey's 4,800 non-partisan local board of education members are public servants who dedicate their time, without pay or benefit, to the oversight of school district operations, sound financial practices, comprehensive policies, curriculum, staffing, and the well-being and academic achievement of all students in the district; and

**WHEREAS**, the efforts of local boards of education, in conjunction with state education officials and local educators, have built a foundation of success that has led to New Jersey's status as a leader in student achievement, as evidenced by the National Assessment of Educational Progress scores; and

**WHEREAS**, the National School Boards Association and the New Jersey School Boards Association have declared January 2015 to be School Board Recognition Month; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the New Jersey State Board of Education recognizes the contributions of our state's local boards of education to the academic success of its public school students and expresses its sincerest appreciation to local board of education members for their continued focus on the achievement of children throughout New Jersey; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the New Jersey State Board of Education encourages qualified New Jersey citizens to consider serving as members on their local school boards.

### **COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS**

#### **State Operated School District of Paterson Annual Report**

Commissioner Hespe introduced Dr. Donald Evans, superintendent, Paterson Public Schools who provided his annual report to the State Board. Dr. Evans updated the State Board on the status of student

achievement, facilities and operations of the school district. Specifically, Dr. Evans outlined the school district's priorities, goals and accomplishments since 2009. Dr. Evans stated that the Paterson Public School District has embraced a college-ready mission for its 29,000 students. He also stated that since 2009, the school district has aligned the high schools with this mission by transforming all traditional high schools into twelve small thematic programs and converting all high schools to "schools of choice". He further stated that the district identified seven transformation objectives aligned with its strategic plan *Bright Futures*. The objectives were intended to build healthy school cultures, redesign critical processes and procedures, build capacity among staff at all levels, implement a robust assessment system, develop a performance-based teacher and administrator evaluation system, implement high impact academic interventions for low performing students, and implement the Common Core State Standards.

Dr. Evans stated that the research-based strategies and interventions implemented to meet these objectives have resulted in improvements in academic and process outcomes. He stated that the district's graduation rate using the cohort method for the 2014 graduating class grew to 74.2% as compared to 45.6% in 2009. He also stated that the district has demonstrated increases in proficiency for both language arts literacy (LAL) and mathematics. He further stated that the district's HSPA LAL scores grew from 49.7% in 2009 to 74.6% in 2014 with 91.4% of general education students at or above proficient.

Dr. Evans stated that HSPA mathematics scores have increased from 31.9% in 2009 to 43.2% in 2014 with 53.7% of general education students at or above proficient. He also stated that the percentage of graduates who plan to attend a 4 year college/university has increased 33% from 2010 to 2014. He further stated that the percentage of students in Grades 3-8 performing at or above proficient in language arts increased from 35.5% in 2010-11 to 40.1% in 2012-13, from 49.1% to 52% in mathematics and from 58.7% to 61.2% in science.

Dr. Evans stated that for the 2014-2015 school year and beyond, the district will continue its efforts to reach its academic and other targets and will begin the implementation of its new strategic plan "Brighter Futures." He also stated that the priorities, goals and strategies of the new strategic plan are intended to create an aligned instructional system, build capacity among teachers and principals, implement the Common Core State Standards, provide high impact interventions for low performing students, create a strong district-level support system and involve parents and community partners. He further stated that the district will also address other critical areas in need of improvement including human resource processes and procedures and the implementation of new data management systems to better manage and analyze school-based and district-wide data.

### **New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC)**

Robert Bumpus, Assistant Commissioner of Field Services, Evo Popoff, Chief Innovation Officer and Timothy Matheny, Chief Innovation Officer continued the conversation about the fundamentals of New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC) provided at the December 3, 2014 meeting with an overview of what the Department does to help districts that fail to meet the NJQSAC benchmarks to improve their performance.

#### **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:**

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

#### **\*A. Appointments**

- Approved the appointment of Kevin Dehmer, Executive Director, Office of School Facilities and Finance, pursuant N.J.S.A. 18A:4-32-35 and N.J.A.C. 6A:2-1.1 et seq.

#### **\*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>
Delaware Township	Hunterdon
Ocean Gate	Ocean
Haledon	Passaic

**\*C. Special Education**

- Adopted the amendments to the rules pertaining to changes in the federal Individuals with Disabilities Act, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-15 and 18A:46-1, U.S.P.L. 93-112, Sec. 504. 94-142, 99-457, 101-476, 105-17, 108-446, and 34 CFR 300.1 et seq.

**\*D. School District Operations**

- Adopted the readoption with amendments of the rules pertaining to school district operations, proposed at N.J.A.C. 6A:32, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-10, 18A:4-15, 18A:6-50, 18A:7A-1, 18A:7A-1.1, 18A:10-6, 18A:12-21 et seq., 18A:13-14, 18A:16-1, 18A:17-14 to 14.3, 18A:27-15, 18A:17-17, 18A:17-20, 18A:17-32, 18A:22-14, 18A:22-19, 18A:24-11, 18A:28-9, 18A:28-13, 18A:29-6 to 16, 18A:38-1, 18A:40-12.1, and 18A:49-1 to 8.

**E. 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**

State Board President Mark Biedron stated that the State Board Strategic Plan and Mission Statement would be reviewed over the coming months.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education adjourned its January 7, 2015, public meeting at 12:12 p.m.

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