

**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 2, 2015

Presiding: Mr. Mark 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. Andrew Mulvihill
Mr. Peter Simon
Dr. Dorothy Strickland

ABSENT

Mr. Arcelio Aponte

CONVENING

State Board of Education President Mark 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 2, 2015, was called to order.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Biedron 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 December 2, 2015.

RECONVENING

President Biedron 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 approved the minutes of the public meeting conducted on November 4, 2015.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

January 2016 State Board Meeting Date Change

President Biedron stated that the January State Board meeting will be changed from Wednesday, January 6, 2015 to Monday, January 11, 2016. He also stated that a special notice regarding this change was distributed on Tuesday, December 1, 2015.

Public Testimony

President Biedron stated that public testimony session would not be held today at 2 pm because there are no topics scheduled. He also stated that public testimony session would be held in January. He further stated that registration for the January 11, 2016 public testimony session would open on Thursday, December 17, 2015 and close on Thursday, January 7, 2016.

President Biedron stated that the topic for the January 11, 2016 public testimony is the Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission Name Change Request. He also stated that this is an Open Topic Public Testimony Session meaning that members of the public may register to present testimony before the State Board on any educational topic of their choice.

President Biedron stated that anyone interested in speaking at or also attending the public testimony session must register so the State Board staff can make proper arrangements for space. He also stated that members of the public should contact the State Board office at 609-984-6024 or check the following website <http://www.state.nj.us/education/sboe/meetings/pubtest.shtml> for updates.

Permanent Student Representative

President Biedron welcomed Alexis Bailey the 2015-2016 permanent student representative to the State Board of Education. Alexis is a junior from Bayonne High School in Hudson County. President Biedron also introduced Alexis's advisor, Ms. Kerry Toomey.

Alexis spoke to about fundraising for the New Jersey Association of Student Councils 2015-2016 State charity, Hope Loves Company. She stated that Hope Loves Company is a nonprofit organization based in southern New Jersey that provides emotional and educational support services to children with family members diagnosed with ALS.

State Board Agenda Subscribers Renewal

President Biedron stated that requests for advanced paper copies of the public meeting agenda expire on December 30 of each year. He also stated that to continue to receive an advanced paper copy of the agenda in 2016, subscriptions will need to be renewed. He further stated that electronic subscribers will continue to receive the agenda without renewing.

He stated that to subscribe to receive an advanced copy of the agenda interested parties can contact the State Board office.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

Annual Report of the State Operated School District of the City of Camden Public Schools

Paymon Rouhanifard, Superintendent of the State Operated School District of the City of Camden Public Schools provided his annual report to the State Board of Education. He highlighted a rise in graduation rates, the opening of three renaissance schools, increased preschool enrollment, and safer schools in the 2014-15 school year. He also highlighted updates for 2015-16, including the school improvement plan, a new Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy, 21st century school buildings, excellent schools, parent engagement and central office effectiveness. He further highlighted that increasing performance rates for all students is the goal for the coming years.

Standards Review Process Update

Kimberley Harrington, Chief Academic Officer provided an update on the work of the Standards Review Committee. She stated that the final subcommittee and Standards Review Committee meetings will be in early December. She also stated that the work has proceeded within the timeline established and that recommendations for revisions would be brought to the board at their January 11, 2016 meeting.

Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) Update

- Jeff Hauger, acting Chief Performance Officer provided an update on the PARCC Fall Block Administration. He stated that the second PARCC administration began on November 9, 2015 in NJ. He also stated that this is the first time NJ has offered a fall testing window for students on a block schedule. He further stated that to date 13,586 tests that been completed in NJ.

He stated that the Department released PARCC Spring 2015 state-level results on October 2015 and while these results cannot be compared to previous NJ assessment scores, they can be compared against the PARCC data from 10 states that administered PARCC in Spring 2015. He also stated that the NJ students that took the test met or exceeded expectations in both English Language Arts and Mathematics in Grades 3 through 8 overall. He further stated that the NJ students that took the PARCC surpassed the averages for the PARCC states in most grades and subjects.

- Katherine Bassett, Executive Director and CEO of the National Network of State Teachers of the Year provided an overview of their work that took place this past summer with a group of Teachers of the Year

She stated that the group spent nearly 20 hours each conducting a comprehensive comparison of the new consortia and prior state assessments. She also stated that one panel reviewed the PARCC end-of-year assessment and previously administered assessments in Illinois and New Jersey, the other reviewed the Smarter Balanced and prior assessments from Delaware and New Hampshire. She further stated that participating teachers found the new consortia to represent a meaningful step forward for teaching and learning.

Ms. Bassett stated that specifically, the group found that:

1. The new consortia assessments better reflect the range of reading and math knowledge and skills that all students should master.
2. The new consortia assessments include items that better reflect the full range of cognitive complexity in a balanced way.

3. The new consortia assessments better align with the kinds of strong instructional practices these expert teachers believe should be used in the classroom, and thereby better support great teaching and learning throughout the school year.
4. The new consortia assessments provide information relevant to a wide range of performers, particularly moderate and high-performers.
5. While the new consortia assessments are more rigorous and demanding, they are grade-level appropriate, and even more so than prior state tests.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

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

***A. Appointment(s)**

- There were no appointments.

***B. Certification of School Districts**

- There were no districts recommended for certification.

WORK SESSION

There was no work session.

NEW BUSINESS

President Biedron stated that in the near future two dates will be publicized for stakeholder meetings with members of the State Board Strategic Planning Committee to receive feedback on the Committee's work thus far. He also stated that the Committee is on target for adoption of the Strategic Plan in the summer of 2016.

President Biedron stated that NASBE is finalizing its review of NJ's Data Policies and more information about this initiative will be available in the coming months.

President Biedron stated that the Department would be providing an update on the Every Student Succeeds Act in the coming weeks.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education adjourned its December 2, 2015, public meeting at 11:40 a.m.

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