

New Jersey State Board of Education
Minutes of the Meeting of the New Jersey State Board of Education
In the Conference Room on the First Floor
100 River View Executive Plaza
Trenton, NJ

August 3, 2016

Presiding: Mark W. Biedron, President

Secretary: David C. Hespe, Commissioner

PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM

Mr. Arcelio Aponte
Mr. Joseph Fisicaro
Mr. Jack Fornaro
Ms. Edithe Fulton
Mr. Andrew Mulvihill
Mr. Peter Simon - via teleconference
Dr. Dorothy Strickland

ABSENT

Dr. Ronald Butcher
Dr. Ernest Lepore

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 August 3, 2016, 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 Education will now adjourn to executive session to discuss personnel and legal issues. The State Board immediately adjourned to executive session on August 3, 2016.

RECONVENING

President Biedron reconvened the open meeting at 10:15 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 July 13, 2016. State Board members Arcelio Aponte and Edithe Fulton abstained.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Public Testimony

President Biedron stated public testimony would not be held at 2 pm following the August 3, 2016 meeting as no one registered to speak. He also stated that the topic scheduled was the Monmouth-Ocean Educational Services Commission's request to enlarge its purpose.

President Biedron stated public testimony would be held at 2 pm following the September 7, 2016, State Board meeting. He also stated that the topic for the September public testimony session is Open Topic. He further stated that registration for the September 7, 2016 public testimony session would open on Thursday, August 11, 2016 and close on Thursday, August 25, 2016.

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://education.state.nj.us/sboe/reg.php> for updates.

Permanent Student Representative

President Biedron welcomed Ava Rybicki the 2016-2017 permanent student representative to the State Board of Education. Ava Rybicki is a junior from Williamstown High School in Gloucester County. President Biedron also introduced Ava's advisor, Mr. David Zane. Ava introduced herself to the State Board members and spoke to the board about Therapy dogs in schools.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORTS

There were no Commissioner's reports.

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**

- Certified for a period of three years, the following school district recommended by the Commissioner, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-14a and b.

Certified School District	County
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West Milford	Passaic
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***C. Standards and Assessment**

- Adopted the amendments pertaining to high school graduation requirements, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-10 through 14, 18A:7C-1 et seq., 18A:7E-2 through 5, 18A:35-4.2 and 4.7, and 18A:59-5. State Board member Edithe Fulton abstained.

***D. Resolution to Adopt the edTPA Performance Assessment and Qualifying Scores for Novice Teachers to Receive Certification**

- Adopted the following resolution as revised to approve a new test and qualifying score for the novice teachers to receive certification pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.2(a)6, N.J.A.C. 6A:9A-5.5(a)2, N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.8 and N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.7(a)4.

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE edTPA PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT AND QUALIFYING CUT SCORES FOR NOVICE TEACHERS TO RECEIVE CERTIFICATION

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education adopted rules on November 4, 2015 that any teacher candidates who graduate on or after September 1, 2017 and are seeking a **certificate of eligibility with advanced standing (CEAS) (formerly called traditional-route teacher candidates)** must pass a Commissioner-approved performance-based assessment in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.2(a)6; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education also adopted rules on November 4, 2015 that any **certificate of eligibility (CE) holders (formerly called alternate-route teachers)** who begin teaching in the 2017-2018 academic year and are seeking a Standard certificate must pass a Commissioner-approved performance-based assessment in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.7(a)4i; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education further adopted rules on November 4, 2015 that any out-of-state candidates seeking reciprocity for a CEAS and begin teaching in the 2017-2018 academic year must pass a Commissioner-approved performance-based assessment in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.8; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education adopted rules on November 4, 2015 requiring that any CE holders (alternate-route teachers) who begin teaching in the 2017-2018 academic year must pass a Commissioner-approved performance-based assessment to complete their CE educator preparation program in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:9A-5.5(a)2; and

WHEREAS, the Department has conducted a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for providers of a performance-based assessment; and

WHEREAS, the Department has approved the provider Stanford University Center for Assessment, Learning and Equity(SCALE)/American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education (AACTE)/ Pearson to administer its edTPA to New Jersey novice teachers seeking certification, or working to complete a CE educator preparation program; and

WHEREAS, the Department plans to study flexibility options for candidates completing the Commissioner-approved performance assessment; and

WHEREAS, the Department plans to phase in a rigorous cut score by gathering New Jersey data during the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 academic years; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the State Board of Education hereby supports the Department’s selection of the edTPA; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the State Board of Education hereby supports that the assessments described in the table below serve as allowable for the endorsement areas listed; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the State Board of Education hereby supports setting cut scores for **two** [one] academic years, to expire on August 31, [2018] **2019**, at which point a New Jersey-specific standard setting conducted on or before June 1, [2018] **2019** will be used to determine a higher cut score; and be it further

RESOLVED, that completing the assessment shall satisfy all relevant regulatory requirements from September 1, 2017 through August 31, 2018; and be it further

RESOLVED that a cut score of [42] **44** on the combined elementary assessment, a cut score of **32**[29] on the world and classical languages assessment, and a cut score of [35] **37** on all other assessments will be acceptable from September 1, [2017] **2018** through August 31, [2018] **2019** to satisfy all relevant regulatory requirements.

Code	Endorsement Area	Allowable edTPA Handbook(s)
1001	Elementary School Teacher in Grades K - 6	Elementary Education (Combined)
1005	Teacher of Supplemental Instruction in Reading and Mathematics, Grades K-8	Elementary Education (Combined)
1013	Preschool through Grade 3	Early Childhood
1102	Middle School with Subject Matter Specialization: Mathematics in Grades 5 - 8	Middle Childhood Mathematics
1103	Middle School with Subject Matter Specialization: Science in Grades 5 - 8	Middle Childhood Science
1104	Middle School with Subject Matter Specialization: Social Studies in Grades 5 - 8	Middle Childhood Social Studies
1105	Middle School with Subject Matter Specialization: World Language/American Sign Language in Grades 5 - 8	World Language

1106	Middle School with Subject Matter Specialization: Language Arts/Literacy Specialization in Grades 5 - 8	Middle Childhood English Language Arts
1110	Middle School with Subject Matter Specialization: World Language/French in Grades 5 - 8	World Language
1125	Middle School with Subject Matter Specialization: World Language/German in Grades 5 - 8	World Language

1130	Middle School with Subject Matter Specialization: World Language/Italian in Grades 5 - 8	World Language
1145	Middle School with Subject Matter Specialization: World Language/Latin in Grades 5 - 8	Classical Language
1150	Middle School with Subject Matter Specialization: World Language/Spanish in Grades 5 - 8	World Language
1165	Middle School with Subject Matter Specialization: World Language/Russian in Grades 5 - 8	World Language
1170	Middle School with Subject Matter Specialization: World Language/Greek in Grades 5 - 8	Classical Language
1172	Middle School with Subject Matter Specialization: World Language/Chinese in Grades 5 - 8	World Language
1173	Middle School with Subject Matter Specialization: World Language/Japanese in Grades 5 - 8	World Language
1174	Middle School with Subject Matter Specialization: World Language/Portuguese in Grades 5 - 8	World Language
1176	Middle School with Subject Matter Specialization: World Language/Polish in Grades 5 - 8	World Language
1178	Middle School with Subject Matter Specialization: World Language/Hebrew in Grades 5 - 8	World Language
1179	Middle School with Subject Matter Specialization: World Language/Korean in Grades 5 - 8	World Language
1181	Middle School with Subject Matter Specialization: World Language/Arabic in Grades 5 - 8	World Language

1191	Elementary School with Subject Matter Specialization: World Language/Other World Languages in Grades 5 - 8	World Language
1200	Art	Visual Arts
1300	Business: Comprehensive Business	Business Education
1301	Business: Accounting	Business Education
1302	Business: Finance/Economics/Law	Business Education
1303	Business: Keyboarding/Data Entry	Business Education
1304	Business: Computer Applications and Business-Related Information Technology	Business Education
1305	Business: Office Administration/Office Systems Technology	Business Education
1410	English	1. Secondary English Language Arts 2. Middle Childhood English-Language Arts
1430	Reading	1. Secondary English Language Arts 2. Reading Specialist
1440	Speech Arts and Dramatics	K-12 Performing Arts
1451	Theater	K-12 Performing Arts
1475	English as a Second Language	English as an Additional Language
1480	Bilingual/Bicultural Education	N/A: Candidate completes assessment in initial content area
1505	American Sign Language	World Language
1510	French	World Language
1520	German	World Language
1530	Italian	World Language

1540	Latin	Classical Language
1550	Spanish	World Language
1560	Russian	World Language
1570	Greek	Classical Language
1572	Chinese	World Language
1573	Japanese	World Language
1574	Portuguese	World Language
1578	Hebrew	World Language
1579	Korean	World Language
1580	Arabic	World Language
1590	Other Foreign Languages	World Language
1605	Health and Physical Education	1. Physical Education 2. Health Education
1610	Driver Education	N/A; Exempt
1615	Swimming and Water Safety Instructor	N/A; Exempt
1620	Health Education	Health Education
1630	Physical Education	Physical Education
1635	Dance	K-12 Performing Arts
1705	Family and Consumer Sciences	Family and Consumer Sciences
1706	Family and Consumer Sciences: Child and Family Development	Family and Consumer Sciences
1707	Family and Consumer Sciences: Foods/Nutrition and Food Science	Family and Consumer Sciences
1708	Family and Consumer Sciences: Apparel, Textiles, and Interiors	Family and Consumer Sciences
1810	Technology Education	Educational Technology Specialist
1900	Mathematics	1. Secondary Mathematics 2. Middle Childhood Mathematics
2100	Music	K-12 Performing Arts
2210	Biological Science	1. Secondary Science 2. Middle Childhood Science

2220	Earth Science	1. Secondary Science 2. Middle Childhood Science
2240	Physical Science	1. Secondary Science 2. Middle Childhood Science
2250	Military Science	N/A; Exempt
2260	Physics	1. Secondary Science 2. Middle Childhood Science
2270	Chemistry	1. Secondary Science 2. Middle Childhood Science
2300	Social Studies	1. Secondary History/Social Studies 2. Middle Childhood History/Social Studies
2350	Psychology	1. Secondary History/Social Studies 2. Middle Childhood History/Social Studies
2415	Blind or Visually Impaired	N/A: Candidate completes assessment in initial content area
2422	Deaf or Hard of Hearing: Oral/Aural Communication	N/A: Candidate completes assessment in initial content area
2423	Deaf or Hard of Hearing: Sign Language Communication	N/A: Candidate completes assessment in initial content area
2475	Students with Disabilities	N/A: Candidate completes assessment in initial content area
2501	Agriculture, Teacher of	Agriculture Education
2560	Marketing	Business Education

***E. State Operation of the City of Newark Public Schools**

- Adopted the following resolution pertaining to the status of state operation of the City of Newark Public Schools, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-34.

RESOLUTION TO RETURN THE FUNCTION OF PERSONNEL TO LOCAL CONTROL IN THE NEWARK SCHOOL DISTRICT

WHEREAS, by administrative order issued by the State Board of Education on July 5, 1995, the State Board of Education removed the Newark School District Board of Education and created a State-operated school district in Newark pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-34; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-10 et seq., effective on January 24, 2007, the New Jersey Legislature, in review and consultation with the Joint Committee on the Public Schools, directed the Commissioner of the Department of Education to develop and implement a system for monitoring and evaluating the thoroughness and efficiency of public school districts in the State of New Jersey to be called the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC); and

WHEREAS, NJQSAC involves an assessment of each school district's performance in the five key components of school district effectiveness: Instruction and Program, Personnel, Fiscal Management, Operations, and Governance; and

WHEREAS, local control of Operations and Fiscal Management was returned to Newark on October 17, 2007 and June 4, 2014, respectively, while the remaining key components of school district performance continue under partial State intervention; and

WHEREAS, the Newark School District has demonstrated substantial and sustained progress in improving its NJQSAC scores in Personnel from meeting an initial 94% of the performance indicators in 2011 to having met 48% in 2012, 100% in 2014, 60% in 2015 and 100% of the performance indicators in 2016, as well as substantial evidence that the public school district has adequate programs, policies and personnel in place and in operation to ensure that the demonstrated progress in Personnel will be sustained; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:30-7.1 the Commissioner has determined that Newark has met the factors for initiating return of the function of Personnel to local control; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the process for transition to local control of the function of Personnel shall be initiated forthwith in the Newark School District pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:30-7.2 and that the functions of Instruction and Program, and Governance shall continue to be placed under partial State intervention pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:30-7.2. The Department of Education, in collaboration with the Newark School District, shall develop a transition plan pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:30-7.2 and 7.3; and be it further

RESOLVED, that consistent with and upon approval by the Commissioner of Education a transition plan to return the function of Personnel to local control pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:30-7.2 and 7.3, the Newark Board of Education shall be empowered to vote on matters presented to the board relating to the function of Personnel, subject, however, to veto by the Commissioner or designee pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-53.

***F. Enlargement of Purpose**

- Adopted the following resolution approving the Enlargement of Purpose for the Monmouth-Ocean Educational Services Commission, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-69.

**RESOLUTION
REQUESTING ENLARGEMENT OF PURPOSE PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 18A:6-69
FOR THE MONMOUTH-OCEAN EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION**

WHEREAS, in accordance with *N.J.S.A. 18A:6-52*, the State Board of Education approved the establishment of the Monmouth-Ocean Educational Services Commission in or about September 10, 1969; and

WHEREAS, the Monmouth-Ocean Educational Services Commission currently provides diverse educational services to a number of school districts in Monmouth and Ocean counties, as well as educational and business services to numerous school districts and municipalities throughout the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the educational services provided to school districts in Monmouth-Ocean include, without limitation, nonpublic schools, cooperative transportation to and out-of-district schools, cooperative purchasing, adult education, summer school, computer serves, specialized consultants, printing and duplicating services, equipment maintenance services, and other specialized services, data processing, special education, research studies, cultural programs, in-service programs; and

WHEREAS, the Monmouth-Ocean Educational Services Commission also delivers various of the aforementioned services beyond the greater Monmouth and Ocean County areas and has identified additional

services and entities beyond Monmouth-and Ocean Counties who would benefit from those services offered beyond those identified in its original petition; and

WHEREAS, the Monmouth-Ocean 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 Monmouth-Ocean Educational Services Commission to enlarge its purpose to expand and enlarge its areas of service and geographic areas served (and to be served).

***G. Religious Holidays Calendar**

- Adopted the following revised resolution pertaining to the annual calendar of religious holidays for the 2016-2017 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 TO ADOPT 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 2016 - 2017 school year:

* Revised on July 12, 2016 to include “Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary” August 15, 2016 and “Mary, Mother of God” January 1, 2017 .

2016-17 School-Year	Observance
July 2016	
July 2	Laylat as-Qadr (Islam)*
July 7-9	Eid al Fitr (Islam)*
July 9	Martyrdom of the Bab (Baha’i)
July 19	Asalha Puja Day (Buddhist) Guru Purnima (Hindu)*
August 16	Ulambana/Obon (Buddhist)
August 2016	
August 1	Fast in Honor of the Holy Mother of Lord Jesus (Eastern Orthodox Christian) Lammas (Christian and Wicca)
August 6	Transfiguration of the Lord (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
August 7	Naga Panchami (Hindu)*
August 14	Tish’a B’Av (Jewish)
August 15	Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Catholic Christian)
August 18	Raksha Bandhan (Hindu)*
August 25	Krishna Janmashtami (Hindu)*
September 2016	
September 1	Ecclesiastical Year begins (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
September 5	Ganesha Chaturthi (Hindu)*
September 7	His Holiness Sakya Trizin’s Birthday (Buddhist)
September 8	Nativity of Mary (Christian) Nativity of the Theotokos (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
September 10	Hajj Day (Islam)*
September 11-14	Eid al Adha (Islam)*
September 14	Onam (Hindu)*; The Elevation of the Holy Cross (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
October 2016	
October 1-10	Navaratri (Hindu)*
October 3	Feast of Trumpets (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)

October 3-4	Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)
October 11	Duserra (Hindu)*
October 12	Yom Kippur (Jewish) Day of Atonement (Christian, Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
October 17-23	Sukkot (Jewish) Feast of Tabernacles (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
October 20	Birth of B'ab (Baha'i) Installation of the Scriptures as Guru Granth (Sikh)
October 24	Last Great Day (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God); Shemini Atzeret (Jewish)
October 25	Simcat Torah (Jewish)
October 30	Diwali (Hindu, Jain and Sikh)*
October 31	Goverdhan Puja (Hindu)*
November 2016	
November 1	All Saints' Day (Christian) Samhain-Beltane (Wicca) Birth of the Bab
November 2	All Souls' Day (Christian) Birth of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)
November 14	Guru Nanak Dev Sahib Birthday (Sikh)
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	Day of Covenant (Baha'i)
November 27	First Sunday of Advent (Christian) Ascension of 'Abdu'l Baha (Baha'i)
December 2016	
December 8	Bodhi Day (Buddhist) Immaculate Conception (Christian)
December 14	Mawlid an Nabi (Islam)*
December 21	Yule (Wicca and Christian)
December 25	Christmas (Christian) The Nativity of Christ (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
December 25-January 1	Hanukkah (Jewish)
December 26	Zarathosht Diso (Zoroastrian)
January 2017	
January 1	Gantan-sai (Shinto) Mary, Mother of God - Catholic Christian
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 15	World Religion Day (Baha'i)

January 28	Chinese/Lunar New Year (Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist)
February 2017	
February 1	Vasant Panchami (Hindu)*
February 2	Imbolic-Candlemas (Wicca and Christian); The Presentation of Our Lord to the Temple (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
February 11	Tu B'shvat (Jewish)
February 15	Nirvana Day (Buddhist)
February 25	Maha Shivaratri (Hindu)*
February 25 -28	Intercalary Days (Baha'i)
February 28	Shrove Tuesday (Christian)
March 2017	
March 1	Ash Wednesday (Christian)
March 12	Purim (Jewish)
March 13	L. Ron Hubbard's Birthday (Church of Scientology) Holi (Hindu)* Hola Mohalla (Sikh)
March 20	Ostara (Wicca) Naw Ruz (Baha'i)
March 21	Nowruz (Zoroastrian)
March 25	The Annunciation of the Theotokos (Eastern Orthodox Christian) The Annunciation of the Virgin Mary (Christian)
March 27	Clean Monday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
March 28	Khordad Sal (Zoroastrian) Chandramana Yugadi (Hindu)* Souramana Yugadi (Hindu)*
April 2017	
April 1	Lazarus Saturday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 2	Palm Sunday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 5	Ramnavami (Hindu)*
April 9	Palm Sunday (Christian)
April 10	Passover (Philadelphia Church of God); Mahavir Jayanti (Jain)
April 11	Lord's Evening Meal (Christian, Jehovah's Witness) Hanuman Jayanti (Hindu)* First Day of Unleavened Bread (Church of God)
April 11-14	Theravadin New Year (Buddhist)
April 11-17	Days of Unleavened Bread (Philadelphia Church of God)
April 11-18	Passover (Jewish)
April 13	Holy Thursday (Christian, Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 13-20	Passover/Days of Unleavened Bread (Church of God and Saints of Christ)
April 14	Holy Friday (Christian, Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 16	Easter (Christian, Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 17	Easter Monday (Christian) Last Day of Unleavened Bread (Church of God) Bright Monday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 20	First Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
April 24	Lailat al Miraj (Islam)*

April 25	The 11 th Panchen Lama's Birthday (Buddhist)
April 28	Ninth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
May 2017	
May 1	Beltane (Wicca) Yom Ha'Azmaut (Jewish) Twelfth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
May 10	Buddha's Birthday/Buddha Day – Visakha Puja (Buddhist)
May 12	Lailat al Bara'ah (Islam)*
May 14	Lag B'Omer (Jewish)
May 23	Declaration of the Bab (Baha'i)
May 25	Ascension of Our Lord (Christian)
May 27	Ramadan (Islam)
May 28	Ascension of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)
May 31 – June 1	Shavuot (Jewish)
June 2017	
June 4	Pentecost (Christian) Pentecost (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
June 16	Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Sahib (Sikh)
June 21	Litha (Wicca)
June 29	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.*

H. Student Transportation

- Discussed the amendments to the regulations pertaining to school buses at N.J.A.C. 6A:27, Student Transportation, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:39-21.

WORK SESSION

There was no work session.

NEW BUSINESS

Recognition of the passing of Mark Jeffrey Fornaro

State Board President Mark Biedron requested a moment of silence to remember Mr. Mark Jeffrey Fornaro, son of State Board Member Jack Fornaro who unexpectedly passed away on July 17, 2016.

Resolution in honor of State Board member Dr. Dorothy S. Strickland

On behalf of the State Board, President Biedron presented Dr. Strickland with a resolution honoring her for her service as a member of the State Board. Dr. Strickland is resigning after serving on the board since January 9, 2008.

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board approved the following resolution read by State Board member Edith Fulton:

RESOLUTION TO HONOR DR. DOROTHY S. STRICKLAND

WHEREAS, Dr. Dorothy S. Strickland was first appointed to the New Jersey State Board of Education in 2008, and is being honored for her commitment and dedication to public education through her role as an education policymaker having served under two Governors, four State Board of Education Presidents and collaborated with five Commissioners of Education; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Strickland played a integral part in facilitating the institution of a variety of initiatives to support the needs of students, including revised curriculum standards, graduation requirements and assessments, and the expansion of early childhood education, all of which challenged the education community to expand their view of a traditional education and consider the diverse needs of students; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Strickland contributed significantly to the work of the State Board and the Department of Education through her service on various committees that examined critical issues in public education related to policy development, educator preparation and evaluation, student health and safety, and closing the achievement gap; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Strickland consistently supported best practices and innovation in education, in part, by encouraging policy that provided opportunities for collaboration and sharing among education professionals to enable them to implement in their classrooms and schools proven methods of success that promoted good teaching and learning; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Strickland enthusiastically shared her excitement for reading and often spoke of the importance of the development of early literacy skills in all children when offering guidance and advice to the State Board and the Department in this area of expertise; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Strickland has been recognized not only for her extensive and outstanding service to public education statewide but also through her selfless service to numerous advisory boards, panels and associations at national and international levels serving as past president of the International Reading Association and as a recipient of the association's prestigious Outstanding Teacher Educator of Reading Award, as well as the National Council of Teachers of English Award as Outstanding Educator in the Language Arts and the National-Louis University Ferguson Award for Outstanding Contributions to Early Childhood Education; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education recognizes Dr. Dorothy S. Strickland's numerous accomplishments and her contributions to education in New Jersey through her qualities as an astute, forward-looking policymaker and advocate for all children and educators, as well as her personal qualities of warmth, humor, and individual style; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, it is both fitting and proper that the New Jersey State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education express their sincere appreciation for Dr. Dorothy S. Strickland's commitment to her role as a State Board member and for her service to the education community; and be it further

RESOLVED, the New Jersey State Board of Education appreciates her dedication and service to the children of New Jersey.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education adjourned its August 3, 2016, public meeting at 11:10 a.m.

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