

**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**

**March 1, 2017**

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

**Secretary:** Kimberley Harrington, Acting Commissioner

**PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM**

Dr. Ronald Butcher  
Mr. Joseph Fiscaro  
Mr. Jack Fornaro  
Ms. Edythe Fulton  
Dr. Ernest Lepore  
Mr. Andrew Mulvihill

**ABSENT**

Mr. Arcelio Aponte

**CONVENING**

State Board of Education President Mark Biedron convened the public meeting at 9:00 a.m. 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 March 1, 2017, 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 March 1, 2017.

**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 February 1, 2017.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

#### **Public Testimony**

President Biedron stated public testimony would not held today at 2 pm.

President Biedron stated that public testimony would be held on April 5 following the monthly public meeting of the State Board. He also stated that the topics for the April 5 public testimony session include the Social Emotional Competencies Resolution; amendments to the Charter School regulations and amendments to the Fiscal Accountability, Efficiency and Budgeting Procedures regulations located at subchapter 18 and pertain to Tuition for Private Schools for Students with Disabilities. He further stated that registration for the April 5, 2017 public testimony session would open on Thursday, March 9, 2017 and close on Thursday, March 23, 2017.

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 senior from Williamstown High School in Gloucester County. President Biedron also introduced Ava's parent, Mr. and Mrs. Sebastian Rybicki. Ava spoke to the State Board about her high school's DECA program.

### **COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS**

#### **Data Security and Privacy Overview: NJDOE's Approach to Cybersecurity**

Peter Shulman, Deputy Commissioner and Evan Linhardt, Chief Information Technology Officer provided an overview of the Department's approach to Cybersecurity.

#### **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Update**

Peter Shulman, Deputy Commissioner and Jill Regan, project manager for ESSA provided an update on the Department's work regarding the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

**ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:**

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

**\*A. Commissioner**

- Adopted the organization rules for the State Department of Education at N.J.A.C. 6A:2-1.1 et seq., pursuant to N.J.S.A.18A:4 et.seq and N.J.S.A 52:14B-3(1).

**\*B. Appointment(s)**

- Approved the following title changes pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-32-35 and N.J.A.C. 6A:2-1.1 et seq.:

**Appointments**

- John Worthington, Director, Office of Special Education Policies and Procedures
- Lorelei Drew-Novela, Director, Office of Special Education Professional Development

**\*C. Certification of School Districts**

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

<b>Certified School District</b>	<b>County</b>
Swedesboro-Woolwich Township	Gloucester

**\*D. Regulatory Flexibility and Relief Package**

- Adopted the amendments to N.J.A.C. 6A:3, 6A:9, 6A:11, 6A:32, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-15.

**\*E. Resolution to Establish a New Passing Score for the Written Proficiency Test for Bilingual Teachers**

- Adopted the following resolution establishing a new passing score for the Written Proficiency Tests for Teacher of Bilingual/Bicultural Education pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.14 and N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.5(a)2i1.

**RESOLUTION**

**ADOPTING A NEW QUALIFYING SCORE FOR THE WRITTEN PROFICIENCY TEST IN THE TARGET LANGUAGE OR THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE FOR TEACHERS OF BILINGUAL AND BICULTURAL EDUCATION**

**WHEREAS**, the State Board of Education has required that teacher certification candidates pass subject matter tests in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8.2(a)4, effective December 7, 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Board of Education has required a written proficiency test (WPT) in the target language and in the English language for the endorsement for Teacher of Bilingual and Bicultural Education in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.14 and N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.5(a)2i1; and

**WHEREAS**, for this purpose the department uses the Written Proficiency Tests (WPT) offered by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL); and

**WHEREAS**, the department has determined through its research and discussions with the field that there is a need to address teacher shortages in this subject area while maintaining academic rigor; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Board of Education approves the recommendation that candidates for Teacher of Bilingual and Bicultural Education meet either qualifying scores on the WPT of “Advanced Low” for the English language and of “Intermediate High” for the target language, or that candidates meet qualifying scores on the WPT of “Intermediate High” for the English language and of “Advanced Low” for the target language; and

**WHEREAS**, the department will monitor the impact of these qualifying scores on the passing rates for this subject area and will report any problems with the same to the State Board of Education; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the State Board of Education hereby supports the department’s proposal [to set the WPT for the target language for Teacher of Bilingual and Bicultural Education at “Intermediate High.”] **that candidates for Teacher of Bilingual and Bicultural Education meet either qualifying scores on the WPT of “Advanced Low” for the English language and of “Intermediate High” for the target language, or that candidates meet qualifying scores on the WPT of “Intermediate High” for the English language and of “Advanced Low” for the target language.**

**\*F. Religious Holidays Calendar**

- Adopted the following resolution approving the amendments 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**

**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 March 1, 2017 to include Jonah's Passover (Eastern Orthodox Church) and Last Friday of The Great Lent (Eastern Orthodox Church).

2016-17 School-Year	Observance
<b>July 2016</b>	
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)*
<b>August 2016</b>	
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 16	Ulambana/Obon (Buddhist)
August 18	Raksha Bandhan (Hindu)*
August 25	Krishna Janmashtami (Hindu)*
<b>September 2016</b>	
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)
<b>October 2016</b>	
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)* Samhain-Beltane (Wicca)
<b>November 2016</b>	
November 1	All Saints' Day (Christian) 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)
<b>December 2016</b>	
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)
<b>January 2017</b>	
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)
<b>February 2017</b>	
February 1	Vasant Panchami (Hindu)*
February 2	Imbolic-Candlemas (Wicca and Christian); The Presentation of Our Lord to the Temple (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
<b>February 9</b>	<b>Jonah's Passover (Eastern Orthodox Christian)</b>
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)
<b>March 2017</b>	
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)*
<b>April 2017</b>	
April 1	Lazarus Saturday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 5	Ramnavami (Hindu)*
<b>April 7</b>	<b>Last Friday of The Great Lent (Eastern Orthodox Christian)</b>
April 9	Palm Sunday (Christian) Palm Sunday (Eastern Orthodox 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 <sup>th</sup> Panchen Lama's Birthday (Buddhist)
April 28	Ninth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
<b>May 2017</b>	
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)
<b>June 2017</b>	
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.*

**\*G. Controversies and Disputes**

- Approved for publication in the *New Jersey Register* the readoption with amendments of the Controversies and Disputes regulations at N.J.A.C. 6A:3-1.1 et seq., pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-15, 18A:6-9, 18A:6-10 et seq., 18A:7G-12, 18A:11-3, 18A:12-29, 18A:29-14, 18A:38-1, 18A:38-13 and 18A:60-1. The State Board agreed to move this rulemaking to proposal level at the March meeting.

**H. Religious Holidays Calendar**

- Discussed the following resolution pertaining to the annual calendar of religious holidays for the 2017-2018 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**

### **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 2017 - 2018 school year:

<b>2017-18 School-Year</b>	<b>Observance</b>
<b>July 2017</b>	
July 8	Guru Purnima Asalha Puja Day (Buddhist)
July 9-10	Martyrdom of the Bab (Baha'i)
July 13	Ulambana (Buddhist)
July 13-15	Obon (Buddhist)
July 27	Naga Panchami (Hindu)*
<b>August 2017</b>	
August 1	Fast in Honor of the Holy Mother of Lord Jesus (Eastern Orthodox Christian) Lammas (Christian and Wicca) Tish'a B' Av (Jewish)
August 6	Transfiguration of the Lord (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
August 7	Raksha Bandhan (Hindu)*
August 15	Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Catholic Christian) Krishna Janmashtami (Hindu)* Dormition of the Theotokos (Orthodox Christian)
August 24	Ganesha Chaturthi (Hindu)*
August 31	Hajj Day (Islam)*
<b>September 2017</b>	
September 1	Ecclesiastical Year begins (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
September 1-4	Eid al Adha (Islam)*
September 3	Onam (Hindu)*
September 7	His Holiness Sakya Trizin's Birthday (Buddhist)
September 8	Nativity of Mary (Christian)
September 9	The Elevation of the Holy Cross (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
September 21	Muharram (Islamic New Year) Nativity of the Theotokos (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
September 21-22	Rosh Hashanah (Jewish) New Year – Hijra (Islam)
September 21-29	Navaratri/Dassehra (Hindu)*
September 22	Mabon (Wicca/Pagan) Ostata (Wicca/Pagan)
September 24	Feast of Trumpets (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
September 30	Duserra (Hindu)* Yom Kippur (Jewish) Day of Atonement (Christian, Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
<b>October 2017</b>	
October 5-6	Sukkot (Jewish)
October 5-11	Feast of Tabernacles (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
October 11-13	Sh'mini Atzeret (Jewish)
October 12	Last Great Day (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
October 13	Simchat Torah (Jewish)
October 19	Diwali (Hindu, Jain and Sikh)*
October 20	Installation of the Scriptures as Guru Granth (Sikh)

	Goverdhan Puja (Hindu)*
October 21	Birth of B'ab (Baha'i)
October 22	Birth of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)
October 31	Samhain-Beltane (Wicca)
<b>November 2017</b>	
November 1	All Saints' Day (Christian)
November 2	All Souls' Day (Christian)
November 4	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	Ascension of 'Abdu'l Baha (Baha'i)
<b>December 2017</b>	
December 1	Maulid al-Nabi (Islam)*
December 3	First Sunday of Advent (Christian)
December 8	Bodhi Day (Buddhist) Immaculate Conception (Christian)
December 13-20	Hanukkah (Jewish)
December 21	Yule (Wicca and Christian)
December 25	Christmas (Christian) The Nativity of Christ (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
December 26	Zarathosht Diso (Zoroastrian)
<b>January 2018</b>	
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)*Timkat
January 21	World Religion Day (Baha'i)
January 22	Vasant Panchami (Hindu)*
January 24	Bodhi Day (Buddhist)
January 28	Chinese/Lunar New Year (Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist)
January 31	Tu B'shvat (Jewish)
<b>February 2018</b>	
February 1	Jonah's Passover (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
February 2	Imbolic-Candlemas (Wicca and Christian); The Presentation of Our Lord to the Temple (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
February 8	Nirvana Day (Buddhist)
February 13	Shrove Tuesday (Christian)

February 14	Ash Wednesday (Christian) Maha Shivaratri (Hindu)*
February 15	Nirvana Day (Jain)
February 19	Clean Monday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
February 26-March 1	Intercalary Days (Baha'i)
<b>March 2018</b>	
March 1	Purim (Jewish)
March 2-3	Holi (Hindu)*
March 3-5	Hola Mohalla (Sikh)*
March 13	L. Ron Hubbard's Birthday (Church of Scientology)
March 18	Souramana Yugadi (Hindu)*
March 20	Ostara (Wicca)
March 21	Nowruz (Zoroastrian) Naw-Rúz (Baha'i)* Mabon (Wicca/Pagan Northern and Southern Hemispheres)
March 25	The Annunciation of the Theotokos (Eastern Orthodox Christian) The Annunciation of the Virgin Mary (Christian) Palm Sunday Ramnavami (Hindu)*
March 28	Khordad Sal (Zoroastrian) Chandramana Yugadi (Hindu)*
March 29	Holy Thursday (Christian)
March 30	Passover (United Church of God) Holy Friday (Christain) The Last Friday of The Great Lent (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
March 31	Lazarus Saturday (Eastern Orthodox Christian) Lord's Evening Meal (Christian, Jehovah's Witness) Hanuman Jayanti (Hindu)* First Day of Unleavened Bread (Church of God)
March 31-April 6	Days of Unleavened Bread (Philadelphia Church of God)
March 31-April 7	Passover (Jewish)

<b>April 2018</b>	
April 1	Easter (Christian) Palm Sunday (Eastern Orthodox Christain)
April 2	Easter Monday (Christian)
April 3	Mahavir Jayanti (Jain)
April 6	Holy Friday (Eastern Orthodox Christain) Last Day of Unleavened Bread (Church of God)
April 8	Easter (Eastern Orthodox Christian) Buddha's Birthday/Buddha Day-Buddha Day*
April 9	Bright Monday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 13	Lailat al Miraj (Islam)*
April 13-20	Passover/Days of Unleavened Bread (Church of God and Saints of Christ)
April 20	Yom Ha'Azmaut (Jewish)
April 21	First Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
April 25	The 11 <sup>th</sup> Panchen Lama's Birthday (Buddhist)
April 29	Ninth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
April 30-May 2	Theravadin New Year (Buddhist)

May 2018	
May 1	Beltane (Wicca) Lailat al Bara'ah (Islam)*
May 2	Twelfth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
May 3	Lag B'Omer (Jewish)
May 10	Ascension of Our Lord (Christian)
May 16	Ramadan (Islam)
May 20	Pentacost (Christian)
May 20-21	Shavuot (Jewish)
May 24	Declaration of the Bab (Baha'i)
May 27	Pentecost (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
May 29	Ascension of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i) Visakha Puja (Buddhist)
June 2018	
June 4	Fast of the Holy Apostles (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
June 10	Laylat as-Qadr (Islam)* Martyrdom of the Bab (Baha'i)
June 15	Eid al Fitr (Islam)*
June 16	Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Sahib (Sikh)
June 24	Litha (Wicca)

*\* 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.*

#### **I. Resolution to Support Social and Emotional learning Competencies**

- Discussed the following resolution encouraging school districts to implement the New Jersey Social and Emotional Learning Competencies to promote positive school climates, regular attendance, and academic achievement in all subject areas and across all grade levels to prepare students for post-secondary success.

#### **A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL COMPETENCIES FOR NEW JERSEY SCHOOLS**

**WHEREAS**, students come to school with a variety of experiences, barriers and abilities that may impact readiness to learn; and

**WHEREAS**, schools that foster positive climates are characterized by people feeling socially, emotionally and physically safe; students and staff that are held to high expectations; and access to supportive programs and initiatives to assist students to reach their full potential; and

**WHEREAS**, social and emotional learning supports a positive school climate, reduces barriers to learning, increases school connectedness and is critical to success in school and life; and

**WHEREAS**, social and emotional learning skills, knowledge and attitudes can be acquired and are an integral part of education from preschool through Grade 12; and

**WHEREAS**, social and emotional learning is necessary for students to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions; and

**WHEREAS**, research demonstrates that social and emotional learning increases students' attendance; decreases conduct problems; improves grades and test scores; and reduces at-risk behaviors; and

**WHEREAS**, schools that embed and teach social and emotional learning skills across all subject areas facilitate students' academic success and social development; and

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Department of Education and stakeholders from across the State collaboratively developed the *New Jersey Social and Emotional Learning Competencies* to support school districts in their efforts to build and deepen positive school climates; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Commissioner of Education and the New Jersey State Board of Education recommend school districts implement the *New Jersey Social and Emotional Learning Competencies* to promote safe, supportive and challenging learning environments.

**WORK SESSION**

There was no work session.

**NEW BUSINESS**

State Board member Joseph Fiscaro stated that he was recently invited to visit the Cape May Technical Schools. He also stated that it was a wonderful experience.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education adjourned its March 1, 2017, public meeting at 12:10 p.m.

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Kimberley Harrington, Acting Commissioner  
Acting Secretary, N.J. State Board of Education