



## State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PO Box 500

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

PHILIP D. MURPHY  
*Governor*

TAHESHA L. WAY  
*Lt. Governor*

KEVIN DEHMER  
*Acting Commissioner*

### STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS MINUTES OF MEETING VIRTUALLY VIA MS TEAMS April 11, 2024

- Present:** Mr. Abdul Saleem Hasan  
Ms. Kristen Ludman  
Ms. Dayna Desiderio Orlak  
Ms. Melissa Pearce  
Dr. Thelma Ramsey
- Absent:** Mr. Derek Jess
- Others:** Ms. Rani Singh, Secretary  
Ryan Silver, Deputy Attorney General  
Laurie Fichera, Coordinator, State Board of Examiners

#### **THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIRTUALLY VIA MS TEAMS.**

This meeting was duly noticed pursuant to the requirements of law. In compliance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-10a, the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this meeting was given by way of notice filed with the Secretary of State, and publication in Trenton Times and Star Ledger in New Jersey. Notice of the virtual access information was provided online on the Department's website, via memorandum to the Secretary of State and several other individuals and entities and is available at the physical conference room where the meeting has been conducted prior to the public health crisis.

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Dayna Desiderio Orlak, Acting Chairperson, who read the appropriate notice that the meeting complied with the Open Public Meetings Act. She also read the notice provisions regarding access to the virtual meeting.

Ms. Kristen Ludman moved to adopt the minutes of the March 1, 2024 meeting (Regular and Executive Session). Mr. Abdul Saleem Hasan seconded the motion. The minutes were then approved by a vote of 5-0.

## **Individual Credentials Review Presentations**

The following applicants attended the meeting to respond to any questions from the Board regarding their applications:

Jennifer Auer  
Richard Bogath  
Sofia De Jesus  
Noa Feldberg  
Christina Kavaja  
Maria Lago  
Margarita Lopez  
Ashley Sarmiento  
Jibril Smitherman  
Christine Sullivan

The following applicants were unable to attend the meeting.

Anthony Merendino  
Holly Romeo

The Board had a question for Ms. DeJesus regarding her supervision while working in Teaneck and Newark. Ms. DeJesus provided a response. The Board had a question for Maria Lago regarding whether she had additional support for her statement that her GPA was not correct. Ms. Lago provided a response. The Board didn't have any questions for the other candidates.

## **Credentials Review Consent List**

Dr. Thelma Ramsey made a motion to table item B – Casandra Capadona - on the credentials review consent list and Ms. Melissa Pearce seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a vote of 5-0.

Dr. Ramsey made a motion to adopt the decisions in items A and C on the credentials review consent list, and Ms. Pearce seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a vote of 5-0. Dr. Ramsey made a motion to adopt the decisions in items D through G on the credentials review consent list, and Ms. Pearce seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a vote of 5-0.

The candidates in the following cases were present at the March 1, 2024 meeting. The Board adopted the following decisions:

Letitia Becker	Standard Teacher of Vocational Arts: Theater – The Board voted to PARTIALLY GRANT as to the 4,810 hours in
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verified employment experience in theater and DENIED as to 3,190 hours of verified employment experience in theater.

Nicole Kolankowski	Standard Supervisor Certificate – The Board denied the certificate.
Scott Loughlin	Teacher of Comprehensive Business Limited Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied the certificate.
Hannah Sambor	Teacher of Biological Science Certificate of Eligibility – The Board granted the certificate.
Yun Xu	Teacher of Chinese Certificate of Eligibility – The Board granted the certificate.

The candidates in the following cases were not present at the March 1, 2024 meeting. The Board adopted the following decision:

Michael Lipoff	Teacher of Middle School Mathematics Limited Certificate of Eligibility -The Board granted the certificate.
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### **Legal Committee Report**

There were no hearings on the agenda.

Ms. Ludman made a motion to go into executive session to receive legal advice regarding matters on the Legal Consent Order portion of the agenda, which was duly seconded by Ms. Pearce and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0. The Board went into closed session at 10:53 am.

The Board returned to the public session following a motion by Ms. Ludman, seconded by Ms. Pearce and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0. The Board returned to the public portion of the meeting at 11:18 am.

On return to the public meeting, Ms. Orlak turned the meeting over to Ms. Ludman to continue the Legal committee report.

The Board then took the following action regarding items on the agenda:

John Q, Angeline – By a vote of 5-0, the Board voted to reject the proposed consent order in this matter.

Ashley A Markovic– By a vote of 5-0, the Board voted to accept the proposed consent order in this matter.

Wendy Mesogianes - By a vote of 5-0, the Board voted to reject the proposed consent order in this matter.

Vincent R Ramkissoon - By a vote of 5-0, the Board voted to reject the proposed consent order in this matter.

Romie Lane, Doss – By a vote of 5-0, the Board voted given that no material facts are in dispute and the level and nature of conduct is unbecoming of a teacher and due to action against out of state licenses, the appropriate action is suspension for a period of two years.

Kenneth E Fellows III – By a vote of 5-0, the Board voted given that no material facts are in dispute and the level and nature of conduct is unbecoming of a teacher, the appropriate response is revocation.

Kimberly Killion – By a vote of 5-0, the Board voted given that no material facts are in dispute and the level and nature of conduct and crime is unbecoming of a teacher, and due to being disqualified from employment with any institution under the supervision of the Department of Education, the appropriate penalty is revocation.

Andrew Fantasia - By a vote of 5-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause as to why his certificate(s) should not be suspended pending the resolution of the underlying criminal charges.

Spencer J Frohwirth – By a vote of 5-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause as to why his certificate(s) should not be revoked based on level and nature of conduct and crime and due to being disqualified from employment with any institution under the supervision of the Department of Education.

Carlos Mendez – By a vote of 5-0, the Board voted to vacate the order to show cause for suspension pending the criminal charges.

Carlos Mendez – By a vote of 5-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause as to why his certificate(s) should not be revoked based on level and nature of conduct and crime and due to action against out of state licenses.

Vanessa Morrison – By a vote of 5-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause as to why her certificate(s) should not be revoked based on level and nature of conduct.

JeanMary Ovide – By a vote of 5-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show as to why his certificate(s) should not be revoked based on level and nature of conduct and crime and due to being disqualified from employment with any institution under the supervision of the Department of Education.

Deanna Silver – By a vote of 5-0, the Board voted to table the matter.

Candice O. Bland – By a vote of 5-0, the Board voted given that no material facts are in dispute and the level and nature of conduct and crime is unbecoming of a teacher, and due to being disqualified from employment with any institution under the supervision of the Department of Education, the appropriate penalty is revocation.

Erika Caceres – By a vote of 5-0, the Board voted given that no material facts are in dispute and the level and nature of conduct is unbecoming of a teacher, the appropriate penalty is a suspension for a period of six months.

Shannon M. Kennedy – By a vote of 5-0, the Board voted given that no material facts are in dispute and the level and nature of conduct is unbecoming of a teacher, the appropriate penalty is a suspension for a period of three months.

Amy Lowers - By a vote of 5-0, the Board voted to block the application for certification.

Juliette Malek - By a vote of 5-0, the Board voted to take no action.

Jacqueline Nisbett - By a vote of 5-0, the Board voted to block the application for certification.

Mark Puma - By a vote of 5-0, the Board voted to take no action.

Christine Villani - By a vote of 5-0, the Board voted to take no action.

Luisa Blanco - By a vote of 5-0, the Board voted to table the matter.

James Curran - By a vote of 5-0, the Board voted to accept the voluntary surrender of licenses with the same force and conditions as a revocation.

Christine E Knudsen - By a vote of 5-0, the Board voted to accept the voluntary surrender of licenses with the same force and conditions as a revocation.

Christine Paduch (Schwartz) - By a vote of 5-0, the Board voted to accept the voluntary surrender of licenses with the same force and conditions as a revocation.

Zachary M. Slater- By a vote of 5-0, the Board voted to accept the voluntary surrender of licenses with the same force and conditions as a revocation.

Peter B. Thompson- By a vote of 5-0, the Board voted to accept the voluntary surrender of licenses with the same force and conditions as a revocation.

Steven P. Woodruff - By a vote of 5-0, the Board voted to accept the voluntary surrender of licenses with the same force and conditions as a revocation.

Hector Montes - By a vote of 5-0, the Board voted to adopt the initial decision from the Office of Administrative Law in this matter.

Joseph Piparo - By a vote of 5-0, the Board voted to adopt the initial decision from the Office of Administrative Law in this matter.

### **Legal Consent List**

Ms. Ludman then made a motion to adopt items A through J on the legal consent list below. Ms. Pearce seconded, and the motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

#### **Orders to Show Cause**

- a. David Calero
- b. Joseph Ohrt
- c. Andrew Temme
- d. Kyle W. Kacicz

#### **Revocations/Suspensions**

- e. Richard H. Brenton - revocation
- f. Michael P. Brown - revocation
- g. Gary Dominicus - revocation
- h. Michael Morrill - revocation

#### **Other**

- i. Radale Locke (Falana) – denied application for cert after revocation
- j. Lynderia Mansfield – denied application for cert after revocation

### **Old Business**

None.

### **New Business**

None.

### **Secretary's Report**

None.

## **Adjournment**

Ms. Ludman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was duly seconded by Mr. Abdul Saleem Hasan, and the motion carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 am.

The next scheduled regular public meeting of the State Board of Examiners will be held on May 23, 2024 either in the first-floor conference room, 100 River View Plaza, Trenton, New Jersey or virtually via Microsoft Teams.

Minutes prepared by Laurie Fichera

Minutes certified by Rani Singh, Secretary