



PHILIP D. MURPHY  
*Governor*

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State of New Jersey  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
PO Box 500  
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

KEVIN DEHMER  
*Acting Commissioner*

**STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
VIRTUALLY VIA MS TEAMS  
June 27, 2024**

**Present:** Mr. Abdul Saleem Hasan  
Mr. Derek Jess  
Ms. Kristen Ludman  
Ms. Dayna Desiderio Orlak  
Ms. Melissa Pearce  
Dr. Thelma Ramsey

**Absent:** N/A

**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 Mr. Derek Jess, Chairperson, who read the appropriate notice that the meeting complied with the Open Public Meetings Act. He also read the notice provisions regarding access to the virtual meeting.

Mr. Jess moved to adopt the minutes of the May 23, 2024, meeting (Regular and Executive Session). Ms. Kristen Ludman seconded the motion. The minutes were then approved by a vote of 5-0 with Mr. Jess abstaining.

## **Individual Credentials Review Presentations**

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

Heather Becker  
Nakia Bell  
Christina Boyle  
Tara Tully

The following applicants were unable to attend the meeting.

Jennifer O'Donnell

The Board didn't have any questions for any of the candidates.

## **Credentials Review Consent List**

Ms. Dayna Desiderio Orlak made a motion to adopt the decisions in items a-f on the credentials review consent list, candidates who were present at the May 23, 2024, meeting, and Mr. Abul Saleem Hasan seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a vote of 5-0, with Mr. Jess abstaining.

Ms. Orlak made a motion to adopt the decisions in items g-i on the credentials review consent list, candidates who were not present at the May 23, 2024 meeting, and Dr. Thelma Ramsey seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a vote of 5-0, with Mr. Jess abstaining.

The candidates in the following cases were present at the May 23, 2024 meeting. The Board adopted the following decisions:

Jennifer DiGiorgio	Teacher of Art Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied the certificate.
Brittany Harden	Director of School Counseling – The Board denied the certificate.
Sam Koshy	Principal Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied the certificate. School Administrator Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied the certificate.
Mary Michael	Teacher of Chemistry Limited Certificate of Eligibility- The Board granted the certificate.

Andrew Scott Nelson	Supervisor certificate – The Board denied the certificate.
Nicole Velba	Teacher of Comprehensive Family and Consumer Sciences Limited Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied the certificate.

The candidates in the following cases were not present at the May 23, 2024 meeting. The Board adopted the following decision:

Soungchul David Cho	Supervisor certificate - The Board denied the certificate.
Christina Kavaja	Supervisor certificate - The Board denied the certificate.
Margarita Lopez	Supervisor certificate – The Board denied the certificate.

### **Legal Committee Report**

There were no hearings at the June 27, 2024 meeting.

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 Dr. Ramsey and carried by a vote of 6-0. The Board went into closed session at 10:47 am.

The Board returned to the public session following a motion by Ms. Ludman, seconded by Ms. Orlak and carried by a vote of 6-0. The Board returned to the public portion of the meeting at 11:46 am.

On return to the public meeting, Mr. Jess 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 Angeline– By a vote of 6-0, the Board voted to table this matter.

Ernesto Austin – By a vote of 6-0, the Board voted to reject the proposed consent order in this matter.

Thomas Fien - By a vote of 6-0, the Board voted to reject the proposed consent order in this matter.

Melissa (Lorenzo) Gilbert – By a vote of 6-0, the Board voted to accept the proposed consent order in this matter.

Luke Maginnis – By a vote of 6-0, the Board voted to reject the proposed consent order in this matter.

William C. Penkethman – By a vote of 6-0, 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 revocation.

Cara L. Steinberg – By a vote of 6-0, the Board voted given that no material facts are in dispute and the level and nature of conduct, crime, and out of state action on certificates is unbecoming of a teacher the appropriate penalty is revocation.

Brett Baker– By a vote of 6-0, 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.

Rebecca Coughlin - By a vote of 6-0, 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.

Christopher Hillman – By a vote of 6-0, 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.

Jessica (Brown) Murphy - By a vote of 6-0, 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.

Nysere Nunn- By a vote of 6-0, 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 and crime.

Brian Morgan- By a vote of 6-0, 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 revocation.

Tina Doughty - By a vote of 6-0, the Board voted to take no action.

Desiree Mariani - By a vote of 6-0, the Board voted to table the matter.

Brian Swift - By a vote of 6-0, the Board voted to table the matter.

David Checchio - By a vote of 6-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of licenses with the same force and conditions as a revocation.

Isaac A. Romano - By a vote of 5-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of licenses with the same force and conditions as a revocation.

Sara K. Terpak - By a vote of 6-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of licenses with the same force and conditions as a revocation.

Michael Wagner - By a vote of 6-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of licenses with the same force and conditions as a revocation.

Matthew J. Maxwell - By a vote of 6-0, the Board voted to adopt the initial decision from the Office of Administrative Law.

Luz Ravines - By a vote of 6-0, the Board voted to adopt the initial decision from the Office of Administrative Law with modification of the penalty to a 1-year suspension.

Katherine Kelly - By a vote of 6-0, the Board voted to allow the application for certification after revocation.

Lisa Burgos- By a vote of 6-0, the Board voted to accept the voluntary surrender of license.

Deanna Silver- By a vote of 6-0, 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.

Deanna Silver - By a vote of 6-0, the Board voted to block the application for certification.

### **Legal Consent List**

Ms. Ludman then made a motion to adopt items a through f on the legal consent list below. Mr. Hasan seconded, and the motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

Ms. Ludman then made a motion to adopt item g on the legal consent list below. Ms. Pearce seconded, and the motion passed by a vote of 4-0, with recusals from Dr. Ramsey and Mr. Hasan.

Ms. Ludman made a motion to adopt items h through q on the legal consent list below. Mr. Hasan seconded, and the motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

### **Orders to Show Cause**

- a. Steve Brooks
- b. Natakia Chestnut-Lee
- c. Jill (Albrecht) Cichanowsky
- d. Nataly Diaz
- e. Rafael Dossantos-Rocha
- f. Gail A. Grube

### **Revocations/Suspensions**

- g. Alim A. Hasan –Revocation
- h. Christopher R. Icochea –Revocation

- i. Craig A. Levin –Revocation
- j. Casey (Birchett) Blaha –Suspension
- k. Gina Cinotti–Suspension
- l. Myron Fairley–Dismissal
- m. Christopher Faley–Suspension
- n. Motjaba Kahn–Suspension
- o. Zachary Smith–Dismissal

**Other**

- p. James Geist – block
- q. Kenya R. Miller – block

**Old Business**

None.

**New Business**

The Board adopted a resolution honoring the service of Mr. Abdul Saleem Hasan, who served as a Board Member, for the State Board of Examiners. The motion was moved by Dr. Ramsey and seconded by Ms. Orlak and passed unanimously.

**Secretary's Report**

None.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Hasan made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was duly seconded by Ms. Ludman, and the motion carried by a unanimous vote of 6-0. The meeting was adjourned at 12:12pm.

The next scheduled regular public meeting of the State Board of Examiners will be held on September 19, 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