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State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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KEVIN DEHMER
Acting Commissioner

**STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS
MINUTES OF MEETING
VIRTUALLY VIA MS TEAMS
February 28, 2025**

Present: Dr. Jorden Schiff
Ms. Gargi Adhikari
Mr. Robert Ford
Mr. Derek Jess
Ms. Michelle McGreivey
Ms. Dayna Desiderio Orlak
Ms. Melissa Pearce
Mr. Kevin Pfister
Dr. Thelma Ramsey
Dr. Carmela Somershoe

Absent: Ms. Kristen Ludman

Others: Rani Singh, Secretary
Ryan Silver, Deputy Attorney General
Laurie Fichera, Coordinator, State Board of Examiners
Debra Perez, Credentials Review 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 a 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 Dr. Jorden Schiff, 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.

Ms. Rani Singh took the roll call and determined there was a quorum for the meeting.

Mr. Derek Jess moved to adopt the minutes of the January 16, 2025, meeting (Regular and Executive Session), Ms. Gargi Adhikari seconded the motion. The minutes were then approved by a vote of 9-0, with Ms. Desiderio Orlak abstaining.

Mr. Derek Jess moved to adopt the minutes of the January 30, 2025, special meeting of the State Board of Examiners (Regular and Executive Session), Ms. Gargi Adhikari seconded the motion. The minutes were then approved by a vote of 9-0, with Derek Jess abstaining.

Individual Credentials Review Presentations

Ms. Desiderio Orlak noted that items “b” and “h” on the Individual Credentials Review Presentation list have been removed from the agenda.

The following applicants attended the February 28, 2025 meeting to respond to any questions from the Board regarding their applications:

Charlsey Duran
Robert Santos Perez
Shakiera Smith

The following applicants did not attend the February 28, 2025 meeting; the board did not have any questions or them:

Henry W. Pearson
Faith Popowich
Alexander Quinn

Credentials Review Consent List

Ms. Desiderio Orlak made a motion to adopt the decisions in items “a” through “d” on the credentials review consent list, for candidates who were present at the January 16, 2025, meeting, and Ms. Pearce seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a vote of 9-0, with Desiderio Orlak absenting.

The candidates in the following cases were present at the January 16, 2025 meeting. The Board adopted the following decisions:

Michael Carlin	Teacher of Art Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied the certificate.
Flavia Gray	Teacher of English as a Second Language standard certificate – The Board denied the certificate.

Jennifer Rosh Teacher of Middle School with Subject Matter
Specialization: Mathematics in Grade 5-8 standard
certificate – The Board granted the certificate.

Shona Wright Teacher of Middle School with Subject Matter
Specialization: Mathematics in Grade 5-8 standard
certificate – The Board granted the certificate.

Legal Committee Report

There were no hearings on the agenda.

Ms. Melissa Peace made a motion to go into the executive session to receive legal advice regarding matters on the Legal Consent Order portion of the agenda, which was duly seconded by Ms. Adhikari and carried by a vote of 10-0. The Board went into closed session at 10:44 am.

The Board returned to the public session following a motion by Ms. Pierce, seconded by Ms. McGreivey and carried by a vote of 10-0. The Board returned to the public portion of the meeting at 12:10 pm.

On return to the public meeting, Dr. Schiff turned the meeting over to Ms. Pierce to continue the Legal committee report.

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

Taylor Bernstein – By a vote of 10-0, the Board voted to accept the proposed consent order in this matter.

Carley R. Fanslau – By a vote of 10-0, the Board voted to reject the proposed consent order in this matter.

Andrew Ferrie – By a vote of 10-0, the Board voted to reject the proposed consent order in this matter.

Melissa L. Hilliard – By a vote of 10-0, the Board voted to reject the proposed consent order in this matter.

Briel Peters – By a vote of 10-0, the Board voted to reject the proposed consent order in this matter.

Christopher Pond – By a vote of 10-0, the Board voted to reject the proposed consent order in this matter.

Andrew Fantasia – By a vote of 10-0, the Board voted to suspend Mr. Fantasia's certificate(s) pending the resolution of the underlying criminal charges.

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Christopher Bygott – By a vote of 10-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause as to why his certificate(s) should not be revoked based upon the level and nature of the conduct, crime and disqualification from public school employment.

Christine D. D’Avanzo – By a vote of 10-0, the Board voted to seal the record in this matter and to issue an order to show cause as to why her certificate(s) should not be revoked based on level and nature of conduct.

Trevor Pinho – By a vote of 10-0, 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.

Lorenzo S. Puertas – By a vote of 10-0, the Board voted to seal the record in this matter and to issue an order to show cause as to why his certificate(s) should not be revoked based upon the level and nature of the conduct and crime and disqualification from public school employment.

Vincent Root – By a vote of 10-0, the Board voted to seal the record in this matter and 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.

Brittany Werner – By a vote of 10-0, the Board voted to seal the record in this matter and to issue an order to show cause as to why her certificate(s) should not be revoked based on level and nature of conduct.

Marsiste Adolphe – By a vote of 10-0, the Board voted to block the applications for certification.

Thomas Brooks – By a vote of 10-0, the Board voted to block the application for certification.

Alicia Cuttita – By a vote of 10-0, the Board voted to block the applications for certification.

Alan Freeman – By a vote of 10-0, the Board voted to block the application for certification.

Tinasiah Mitchell – By a vote of 10-0, the Board voted to seal the record in this matter and to block the application for certification.

Legal Consent List

Ms. Pearce made a motion to adopt items “a” through “i” excluding item “f” on the legal consent list below. Ms Adhikari seconded, and the motion passed by a vote of 10-0.

Ms. Pearce then made a motion with respect to item “f” to amend the Order or Revocation in the Raymond Morison matter to reflect the correct certificates. Ms. Adhikari seconded, and the motion passed by a vote of 9-0, with the recusal of Ms. Pearce.

Ms. Pearce then made a motion to adopt item “f” on the legal consent list, the amended decision in the Raymond Morison matter. Ms. Desiderio Orlak seconded, and the motion passed by a vote of 9-0, with the recusal of Ms. Pearce.

Orders to Show Cause

- a. Joshua DeSantis
- b. Richie Lopez
- c. Jill C. (Persson) Myers

Revocations/Suspensions

- d. Rafael Dossantos-Rocha - revocation
- e. Christopher Miller– revocation
- f. Raymond Morison –amended-Revocation

Other

- g. Kathleen Shiobhan Clyne -block application
- h. Steven McCarthy-block application
- i. Andrea Diaz-Chaparro - dismissal

Old Business

None.

New Business

None

Secretary’s Report

None.

Adjournment

Ms. Desiderio Orlak made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was duly seconded by Ms. Ramsey and the motion carried by a unanimous vote of 10-0. The meeting was adjourned at 12:21 pm.

The next regularly scheduled public meeting of the State Board of Examiners will be held on April 11, 2025, 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