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

KEVIN DEHMER
Acting Commissioner

**STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS
MINUTES OF MEETING
VIRTUALLY VIA MS TEAMS
September 19, 2024**

Present: Dr. Jorden Schiff
Ms. Gargi Adhikari
Mr. Robert Ford
Ms. Kristen Ludman
Ms. Melissa Pearce
Mr. Kevin Pfister
Dr. Thelma Ramsey
Dr. Carmela Somershoe

Absent: Mr. Derek Jess
Ms. Dayna Desiderio Orlak
Ms. Michelle McGreivey

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.

Dr. Jorden Schiff was introduced as the newly appointed State Board of Examiners Chairperson and proceeded to read the resolution that was passed by the State Board of Education on September 4th of this year, which included the reappointment of Mr. Derek Jess, Ms. Kristen Ludman, Ms. Dana Desiderio Orlak, Ms. Mellisa Pierce and Dr. Thelma Ramsey. The Resolution

also appointed six new members, Ms. Gargi Adhikari, Mr. Robert Ford, Ms. Michelle McGreivey, Mr. Kevin Pfister, Dr. Jorden Schiff, and Dr. Carmela Somershoe.

The meeting was called to order by Dr. 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.

Ms. Kristen Ludman moved to adopt the minutes of the June 27, 2024, meeting (Regular and Executive Session). Ms. Melissa Pearce seconded the motion. The minutes were then approved by a vote of 6-0 with Dr. Schiff and Ms. Adhikari abstaining.

Ms. Ludman moved to adopt the minutes of the July 12, 2024, special meeting (Regular and Executive Session). Ms. Pearce seconded the motion. The minutes were then approved by a vote of 5-0 with Dr. Schiff, Mr. Ford and Ms. Adhikari abstaining.

Ms. Ludman moved to adopt the minutes of the August 22, 2024, special meeting (Regular and Executive Session). Ms. Pearce seconded the motion. The minutes were then approved by a vote of 5-0 with Dr. Schiff, Mr. Ford and Ms. Adhikari abstaining.

Individual Credentials Review Presentations

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

Derek Keith Cason
Rossana De Papado
Alyssa DeBlasis
Francoise Dragonetti
Joshua Freimark
Allison Hornberger
Alexandria Kerr
Erin Lichtenwalner
Vicki Patrizio
Richard Shahpazian

The following applicants were unable to attend the meeting.

Joanne Colvin

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

Credentials Review Consent List

Ms. Ludman made a motion to adopt the decisions in items “a” through “d” on the credentials review consent list, candidates who were present at the June 27, 2024, meeting, and Dr. Ramsey seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a vote of 8-0.

Ms. Ludman made a motion to adopt the decision in item “e” on the credentials review consent list, candidates who were not present at the June 27, 2024 meeting, and Dr. Thelma Ramsey seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a vote of 8-0.

The candidates in the following cases were present at the June 27, 2024 meeting. The Board adopted the following decisions:

Heather Becker	Learning Disability Teacher-Consultant certificate- – The Board denied the certificate.
Nakia Bell	Student Assistance Coordinator Certificate of Eligibility – The Board denied the certificate.
Christina Boyle	Supervisor certificate- The Board denied the certificate.
Tara Tully	Teacher of Elementary K-6 Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing- The Board denied the certificate.

The candidate in the following case was not present at the June 27, 2024 meeting. The Board adopted the following decision:

Jennifer O'Donnell	Teacher of Preschool through Grade Three Limited Certificate of Eligibility - The Board denied the certificate.
	Teacher of English as A Second Language Limited Certificate of Eligibility- The Board denied the certificates.

Legal Committee Report

Mr. Robert S. Armstrong was not present, so no hearing was held.

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 vote of 8-0. The Board went into closed session at 11:26 am.

The Board returned to the public session following a motion by Ms. Ludman, seconded by Mr. Pfister and carried by a vote of 8-0. The Board returned to the public portion of the meeting at 1:16pm.

On return to the public meeting, Dr. Schiff 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 Burdi– By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to reject the proposed consent order in this matter.

Lora Cimiluca – By a vote of 7-0, with Dr, Schiff abstaining, the Board voted to reject the proposed consent order in this matter.

Caesar Dommar - By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to accept the proposed consent order in this matter.

Thomas Fuller – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to reject the proposed consent order in this matter.

David Haggerty – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to reject the proposed consent order in this matter.

Charles Jannetti – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to reject the proposed consent order in this matter.

Melanie Ledoux– By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to accept the proposed consent order in this matter.

Judith McLead– By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to accept the proposed consent order in this matter.

Briel Peters - By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to reject the proposed consent order in this matter.

Gina M. Tischio – By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to reject the proposed consent order in this matter.

Rebecca Dean- By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted given that no material facts are in dispute and the 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, the appropriate penalty is revocation.

Nahri M. Hickman- By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted given that no material facts are in dispute and the level and nature of conduct is unbecoming a teacher, the appropriate penalty is revocation.

Reese Lachner- 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 and due to action against out of state licenses, the appropriate penalty is revocation.

Joseph Ohrt - By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted given that no material facts are in dispute and the level and nature of conduct and crime is unbecoming a teacher, the appropriate penalty is revocation.

Maria D. Gomez - By a vote of 8-0, 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 and due to being disqualified from employment with any institution under the supervision of the Department of Education.

Marti L. Helmick - By a vote of 8-0, 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.

Jonathan C. Howell - By a vote of 8-0, 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.

Michele Nycz - By a vote of 8-0, 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.

Paul Pena - By a vote of 8-0, 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.

Iman H. Rahim - By a vote of 8-0, 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.

Rosa (DaSilva) Teixeira - By a vote of 8-0, 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.

Raisah Thomas - By a vote of 8-0, 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.

Andrew (Garcia) Villiez - By a vote of 8-0, 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.

Andrew Wepner- By a vote of 8-0, 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.

Joann Beam - By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to block the application for certification.

Alberto Deleon - By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to table the matter.

Matthew Hoiem - By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to block the application for certification.

Desirre Mariana - By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to table the matter.

Noel P. Sims - By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to block the application for certification.

Brian Swift - By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to table the matter.

Stacy Wilcox - By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to block the application for certification.

Alnae T. Bailey - By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of licenses with the same force and conditions as a revocation.

Julius Coaccioli - By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of licenses with the same force and conditions as a revocation.

Edward D. Del Russo - By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of licenses with the same force and conditions as a revocation.

Michelle Jacoby - By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of licenses with the same force and conditions as a revocation.

Eric N. Schau- By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of licenses with the same force and conditions as a revocation.

Jodi L. Vanaman- By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of licenses with the same force and conditions as a revocation.

Theodore W. Poecker - By a vote of 5-0, with Dr. Schiff, Dr. Somershoe and Ms. Adhikari abstaining, the Board voted to adopt the initial decision from the Office of Administrative Law.

David J. McKenna- By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to adopt the initial decision from the Office of Administrative Law.

Kerri Condegni- By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to accept the voluntary surrender of licenses with the same force and conditions as a revocation.

Jenny DiVone - By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to table the matter.

Darlene Donahue - By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to block the application for certification after revocation.

Travis W. Brown - By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to block the application for certification.

Terrell Gambill - By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to block the application for certification.

Sean Huggins - By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to rescind the Board's motion to find unbecoming conduct but take no action, adopted at the January 19th, 2024 meeting.

Billie Danielle Thomas – Removed from Agenda

Joseph Tramontana - By a vote of 8-0, the Board voted to remand the case to the Office of Administrative Law.

Legal Consent List

Ms. Ludman then made a motion to adopt all items on the legal consent list below, except for item “j.” Mr. Pearce seconded, and the motion passed by a vote of 7-0, with Ms. Adhikari abstaining.

Ms. Ludman then made a motion to adopt item j on the legal consent list below. Ms. Pearce seconded, and the motion passed by a vote of 6-0, with Dr. Schiff and Ms. Adhikar abstaining.

Orders to Show Cause

- a. Brett Baker
- b. Rebecca Coughlin
- c. Christopher Hillman
- d. Jessica (Brown) Murphy
- e. Nysere Nunn
- f. Deanna Silver

Revocations/Suspensions

- g. Matthew J. Maxwell - revocation
- h. Brian Morgan - revocation
- i. William C. Penkethman - revocation
- j. Lus Ravines - suspension
- k. Cara L. Steinberg - revocation

Other

- l. Deanna Silver – block application

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 Ms. Pearce and the motion carried by a unanimous vote of 8-0. The meeting was adjourned at 1:41pm.

The next regularly scheduled public meeting of the State Board of Examiners will be held on November 1, 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