



MIKIE SHERRILL
Governor

DR. DALE G. CALDWELL
Lt. Governor

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

DR. LILY LAUX
Commissioner

**STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS
MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING
VIRTUALLY VIA MS TEAMS
June 25, 2026**

Present: Mr. Ambrose Duckett
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

Absent: None

Others: Kimberly A. Gatti, Acting 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 several digital editions of newspapers and posting at the Department of Education. Notice of virtual access information was provided online on the Department of Education's Public Notice webpage, on the State Board of Examiners' website and via a public notice weblink on the Secretary of State's Statewide Legal Notices Listings webpage.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Ambrose Duckett, 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. Kimberly A. Gatti, Acting Secretary, State Board of Examiners, took roll call and determined there was a quorum for the meeting.

Mr. Duckett entertained the motion to adopt the minutes of the May 21, 2026 meeting (Regular and Executive Sessions), Ms Dayna Desiderio Orlak made the motion and Ms. Melissa Pearce seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by a vote of 8-0, with Mr. Derek Jess abstaining.

Individual Credentials Review Presentations

The following applicants attended the June 25, 2026, meeting to respond to any questions from the Board regarding their applications:

Luz Baldwin
Colleen Dancy
Regina Marie Femminella
Toby Robert Hague
Melissa Lynn Harris
Donald Gary McDermott, Jr.
Elizabeth Moliterno
Michael Wong

The following applicants did not attend the June 25, 2026, meeting:

Timothy J. Masterson
Jennifer Perrotta

Credentials Review Consent List

Ms. Orlak made a motion to adopt the decisions in items “a” through “h” on the credentials review consent list, for the candidates who was present at the May 21, 2026, meeting, and Ms. Pearce seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a vote of 9-0.

Ms. Orlak made a motion to adopt the decisions in items “i” through “m” on the credentials review consent list, for the candidates who were not present at the May 21, 2026, meeting, and Ms. Pearce seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a vote of 9-0.

The candidates in the following cases were present at the May 21, 2026, meeting. The Board adopted the following decisions:

Julia Buccini	Application for a Student Assistant Coordinator Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing (CEAS) – The Board denied the certificate.
---------------	--

Zenia Chatila	Application for a Teacher of Arabic Certificate of Eligibility (CE) – The Board granted the certificate.
Paul Karol Cherubini	Application for a Teacher of Social Studies CE – The Board denied the certificate.
Lauren Henri Katz	Applications for a Provisional Teacher of Students with Disabilities CEAS and Provisional Elementary School Teacher in Grades K-6 CEAS with an employment start date of September 1, 2022 – The Board denied the certificates.
Terry M. Lucas	Application for a Provisional Teacher of Preschool through Grade 3 CE – The Board granted the Provisional certificate with an expiration of July 31, 2027.
Micaela Elizabeth Piell	Applications for a Standard Teacher of Preschool through Grade 3 certificate and a Standard Teacher of Students with Disabilities certificate – The Board granted the certificates.
Laura Tierney Spreng	Application for a Standard Reading Specialist certificate – The Board granted the certificate.

The candidates in the following cases were not present at the May 21, 2026, meeting.
The Board adopted the following decisions:

Natalia Novoa	Application for a Teacher of Spanish CE – The Board denied the certificate.
Bryan Alexis Rivera	Applications for a Provisional Teacher of Students with Disabilities CEAS and Provisional Elementary School Teacher in Grades K-6 CEAS with an employment start date of July 8, 2024 – The Board denied the certificates.
Yardan Wang	Application for a Teacher of Chinese CE – The Board granted the certificate.

Legal Committee Report

The Board heard two hearings: the Matter of the Certificates of Melissa Monestime-Frazier, Docket Number 2425-312 and Ms Delma (Pozo) Rose, Docket Number 2526-169. Ms. Monestime-Frazier and Ms. Rose appeared and provided testimony to the Board.

Dr. Thelma Ramsey Bryant 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. Melissa Pearce and carried by a vote of 9-0. The Board went into closed session at 10:53 am. The Board returned to the public portion of the meeting at 11:46 am

Mr. Robert Ford made a motion to return to public session, and Mr. Kevin Pfister seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a vote of 9-0.

On return to the public meeting, Mr. Duckett then turned the meeting over to Ms. Pearce to continue the Legal Committee report.

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

William Bolle, Docket No. 2425-212 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to reject the terms and conditions of the proposed consent order in this matter.

Thomas Esser, Docket No. 2122-126 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to accept the terms and conditions of the proposed consent order in this matter.

Mario Macias, Docket No. 1819-190 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to accept the terms and conditions of the proposed consent order in this matter.

Tinasiah Mitchell, Docket No. 2425-162 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to reject the terms and conditions of the proposed consent order in this matter.

Thomas Carraher, Docket No. 2425-158 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted given that no material facts are in dispute and the level and nature of the conduct and crime is unbecoming a teacher and they are disqualified from employment with any institutions under the supervision of the Department of Education, the appropriate response and penalty is revocation.

Rebecca E. Coddington, Docket No. 2425-226 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted given that no material facts are in dispute and the level and nature of the conduct and crime is unbecoming a teacher and they are disqualified from employment with any institutions under the supervision of the Department of Education, the appropriate response and penalty is revocation.

Anselmo Girimonte, Docket No. 2425-227 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted given that no material facts are in dispute and the level and nature of the conduct and crime is unbecoming a teacher, and they are disqualified from employment with any institutions under the supervision of the Department of Education, the appropriate response and penalty is revocation.

Jason Manzella, Docket No. 2425-314 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted given that no material facts are in dispute and the level and nature of the conduct and crime is

unbecoming a teacher, and they are disqualified from employment with any institutions under the supervision of the Department of Education, the appropriate response and penalty is revocation.

Jancarlos Santos, Docket No. 2425-198 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted given that no material facts are in dispute and the level and nature of the conduct is unbecoming a teacher, the appropriate response and penalty is revocation.

Michael Elson, Docket No. 2425-178 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to accept the return from the Office of Administrative Law.

Matthew J. Maxwell, Docket No. 2122-206 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to table the matter.

Alaric Chuy, Docket No. 2526-216 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause for revocation, given the level and nature of conduct is unbecoming a teacher.

Michael Hamilton, Docket No. 2526-229 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause for revocation, given the level and nature of conduct and crime is unbecoming a teacher and they are disqualified from employment with any institution under the supervision of the Department of Education.

Alexandria Newton, Docket No. 2526-225 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to seal the record in the matter.

Alexandria Newton, Docket No. 2526-225 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause for revocation, given the level and nature of conduct and crime is unbecoming a teacher and they are disqualified from employment with any institution under the supervision of the Department of Education.

Louis R. Sobo, Docket No. 2526-215 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to seal the record in the matter.

Louis R. Sobo, Docket No. 2526-215 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause for revocation, given the level and nature of conduct is unbecoming a teacher.

Yuri Urrutia, Docket No. 2526-195 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to seal the record in the matter.

Yuri Urrutia, Docket No. 2526-195 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause for revocation, given the level and nature of conduct is unbecoming a teacher.

Andrew D. Walker, Docket No. 2425-306 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause for revocation, given the level and nature of conduct and crime is

unbecoming a teacher and they are disqualified from employment with any institution under the supervision of the Department of Education.

Jack Wilder, Docket No.2526-228 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause for revocation, given the level and nature of conduct and crime is unbecoming a teacher and they are disqualified from employment with any institution under the supervision of the Department of Education.

Luke Samuel Zottoli, Docket No. 2526-174 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to issue an order to show cause for revocation, given the level and nature of conduct is unbecoming a teacher.

Debra Lasher, Docket No. 2526-124 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted given that no material facts are in dispute and the level and nature of the conduct is unbecoming a teacher, the appropriate response and penalty is a suspension of six months.

Nicole R. White, Docket No. 2526-231 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to block the application.

Kristopher B. Wright, Docket No. 2526-232 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to block the application.

Asael Benitez, Docket No. 2526-159 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of licenses with the same force and conditions as a revocation.

Martin Cannon, Docket No. 2526-194 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of licenses with the same force and conditions as a revocation.

Jeffrey Munguia, Docket No. 2425-177 – By a vote of 9-0, the Board voted to accept the relinquishment of licenses with the same force and conditions as a revocation.

Legal Consent List

Ms. Pearce made a motion to adopt items “a” through “n” on the legal consent list below. Ms. Gargi Adhikari seconded, and the motion passed by a vote of 9-0.

Orders to Show Cause

- a. Agency Dkt. No. 2526-197 Elbert Adams
- b. Agency Dkt. No. 2526-198 Angela Bell
- c. Agency Dkt. No. 2526-209 Joseph DeSanto
- d. Agency Dkt. No. 2526-201 Arlene Diaz
- e. Agency Dkt. No. 2526-212 Danielle M. Elliot (Gogol)
- f. Agency Dkt. No. 2526-211 Brandon C. Stephens
- g. Agency Dkt. No. 2526-207 Joseph Stocker

- h. Agency Dkt. No. 2526-210 Timothy Vangelas
- i. Agency Dkt. No. 2526-185 Emily Wescott

Revocations/Suspensions

- j. Agency Dkt. No. 2425-154 Erin (Sullivan) Gawronski – Revocation
- k. Agency Dkt. No. 2122-176 Samantha Krakower – Revocation
- l. Agency Dkt. No. 2425-313 Andrei J. Simon(a) – Revocation
- m. Agency Dkt. No. 2425-310 Stevie Williams – Revocation

Other

- n. Agency Dkt. No. 1617-2017 David S. Gorman – Deny request for cert after rev

Old Business

None.

New Business

Ms. Pearce made a motion to adopt the following resolution. It was seconded by Ms. Adhikari. The motion carried by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Ms. Dayna Desiderio Orlak

CHAIR OF THE CREDENTIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE, NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS

Whereas, Ms. Dayna Desiderio Orlak has been a member of the New Jersey State Board of Examiners since September 2015, serving as a Chair of the Credential Review Committee since May 2024; and

Whereas, the State Board of Examiners recognizes the knowledge and expertise that Ms. Orlak brought to the Board that enabled her to provide guidance in all facets of the Board's work; and

Whereas, Ms. Orlak's extensive experience as an educator enabled her to offer sound reasoning and effective solutions for complex matters before the Board, consistently demonstrating her deep concern for the education and well-being of all children; and

Whereas, through her philosophy and example, Ms. Orlak exerted a positive influence in assisting the State Board of Examiners to maintain the highest standards for all practicing educational professionals in New Jersey's public schools;

Be It Now Resolved, that the State Board of Examiners extends its sincere appreciation to Ms. Orlak for the high regard that she exhibited for her responsibilities to the Board during her many years of service and commends her for the manner in which she discharged her duties.

Secretary's Report

None.

Adjournment

Dr. Ramsey Bryant made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was duly seconded by Ms. Orlak and the motion carried by a unanimous vote of 9-0. The meeting was adjourned at 12:17 pm.

The next regularly scheduled public meeting of the State Board of Examiners will be held on August 7, 2026.

Minutes prepared by Laurie Fichera