



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Statements on the Passing of Mark Biedron, Former President of the State Board of Education**

**Trenton, NJ** – The New Jersey Department of Education issued the following statements on the passing of Mark Biedron, former President of the State Board of Education, who died on November 6 after a battle with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, or ALS.

“Mark earned the reputation as a leader and staunch advocate for public education,” said Acting Education Commissioner Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed.D. “He was known for his efforts to communicate with all stakeholders, as well as his dedication to the improvement of schools throughout New Jersey. The entire educational community in New Jersey owes him a debt of gratitude for his service.”

“Mark Biedron set a very high standard for all who will succeed him as President of the State Board of Education. Mark worked tirelessly representing the State Board throughout his tenure. He demonstrated a commitment to and focus on the concerns of all educational stakeholders. He was a true believer in collaboration, which helped him influence sound educational policies. I have tremendous respect and appreciation for the work he achieved in this role. His absence is an incredible loss for New Jersey,” said Kathy Goldenberg, President of the State Board of Education.

Mr. Biedron was cofounder of the Willow School, a private pre-k to Grade 8 school in Gladstone. He served on the State Board of Education for six years starting in 2011 and was President from 2014 to 2017. He served as co-chair of Governor Murphy’s Education Transition Team; co-chaired the New Jersey Juvenile Justice Education Task Force; was a trustee of the Social Emotional Learning Alliance for New Jersey; and chaired the Rubenstein School Board of Advisors at the University of Vermont, his alma mater. Earlier this year he received the Governor’s Award for Outstanding Lifetime Contribution to Arts Education in New Jersey.

