

New Jersey State Board of Education

Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of the New Jersey State Board of Education

May 6, 2020

Presiding: Kathy Goldenberg, President

Secretary: Lamont O. Repollet, Ed.D., Commissioner

Present Constituting a Quorum

Mrs. Mary Beth Berry

Mrs. Elaine Bobrove

Mrs. Fatimah Burnam-Watkins

Dr. Ronald Butcher

Mr. Jack Fornaro

Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Gazi

Dr. Nedd J. Johnson

Dr. Ernest Lepore

Mr. Andrew Mulvihill

Mrs. Sylvia Sylvia-Cioffi

Absent

Mr. Arcelio Aponte

Dr. Joseph Ricca

Convening

State Board of Education President Kathy Goldenberg convened the public meeting at 9:10 a.m. with the reading of the statement pertaining to the public session of the State Board meeting as it complies with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act.

The Open Public Meetings Act was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meeting of public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon.

In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the State Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted in the Department of Education, Secretary of State's Office and notice also having been given to the State House Press Corps, the Governor's Office and the State Board agenda subscribers.

And seeing there was a quorum, the meeting of May 6, 2020, was called to order.

Adjourn to Executive Session

President Goldenberg then read the resolution pertaining to the executive session of the State Board meeting as it complies with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Whereas, in order to protect the personal privacy and to avoid situations wherein the public interest might be disserved, the Open Public Meetings Act permits public bodies to exclude the public from that portion of a meeting at which certain matters are discussed, now therefore be it

Resolved, that consistent with the provision of N.J.S.A. 10:4-12.b, the State Board Education will now adjourn to executive session to discuss personnel and legal issues. The State Board immediately adjourned to executive session on May 6, 2020.

Reconvening

President Kathy Goldenberg reconvened the open meeting at 10:20 a.m. with the reading of the resolution pertaining to the resumption of the public session of the State Board meeting as it complies with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Whereas, consistent with the provision of N.J.S.A. 10:4-12.b, the State Board will now adjourn from executive session to resume the open session of this meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes of The Meetings

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board members approved the minutes of the public meeting conducted on April 1, 2020.

President's Reports

Announcements

President Goldenberg welcomed everyone to the State Board's virtual meeting and extended her best wishes on behalf of the State Board that all are safe and healthy.

Public Testimony

President Goldenberg stated that the State Board would receive written testimony on the proposed readoption with amendments to the Educator Effectiveness Regulations. She also stated that going forward the State Board would only accept written testimony on administrative code items currently pending before the State Board.

Resolution in Honor of Physical Fitness and Sport Month

President Goldenberg introduced a resolution to recognize Physical Fitness and Sport Month in NJ.

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board unanimously approved the following resolution read by State Board member Elaine Bobrove:

Resolution to Recognize May 2020 as Physical Fitness and Sport Month

Whereas, childhood obesity has reached epidemic proportions in the United States and New Jersey has the highest obesity rate in the nation among low-income children; and

Whereas, today's childhood obesity rates are putting our children on course to be the first generation in this country to live shorter and less healthy lives than their parents; and

Whereas, children spend many of their waking hours at school and therefore need to be active during the school day to meet the recommendations of the Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans; and

Whereas, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recommends that young people aged 6–17 years participate in at least 60 minutes of physical activity daily; and

Whereas, N.J.S.A.18A:35-7 and 8 require all students in grades 1-12 to participate in at least 150 minutes per week of health, safety and physical education; and

Whereas, research shows that physically active children are more likely to thrive academically and have improved behavior in school; and

Whereas, schools can promote physical activity through comprehensive school physical activity programs, including recess, classroom-based physical activity, intramural physical activity clubs, interscholastic sports, and physical education; and

Whereas, participation in sports teams and physical activity clubs, can improve grade point average, school attachment, educational aspirations and the likelihood of graduation; and

Whereas, higher physical fitness achievement is associated with better school attendance rates and fewer disciplinary incidents involving drugs, alcohol, violence or truancy;

Whereas, the New Jersey State Board of Education strongly supports efforts to increase physical education, physical activity and participation in youth sports, recognizes the month of May as National Physical Fitness and Sport Month; now therefore be it

Resolved, that the New Jersey State Board of Education designates the week of May 1-7, 2020, as National Physical Education and Sport Week and recognizes National Physical Education Fitness and Sport Month and the central role of physical education and sports in creating a healthy lifestyle for all children in the State of New Jersey.

Selection of State Board Nominating Committee

President Goldenberg announced the members of the State Board Nominating Committee. Mary Beth Gazi will serve as Chair of the committee and State Board members Arcelio Aponte and Mrs. Sylvia Sylvia will serve on the committee. President Goldenberg stated the State Board nominating committee will present the slate of officers for the 2020-2021 school year at the June 3, 2020 meeting. She also stated that in accordance with State Board bylaws, the elections for the State Board leadership will be held after June 30.

State Board Calendar of Meeting Dates

President Goldenberg presented to the State Board members the proposed list of State Board meeting dates for 2020-2021. She asked the State Board members to review and share any concerns they may have about the dates. She also stated that the State Board will vote on the resolution to adopt the 2020-2021 Calendar at the June 3, 2020 public business meeting. She further stated that the Ad Hoc Committee will also meet to discuss the proposed calendar prior to the June State Board meeting.

State Board Committee Report(s)

Fatimah Burnam-Watkins, chair of the Social Emotional Learning Committee stated that the Social Emotional Learning Committee met on April 29, 2020 with Department staff to learn about the various initiatives that are taking place designed to support students, teachers and school districts in an effort to promote social and emotional learning that enhance the building of positive school climates and the healthy development of young people.

Commissioner's Reports

Commissioner Repollet welcomed everyone to today's meeting and requested a moment of silence in honor of all who have recently passed away due to COVID19.

Resolution in Honor of Mrs. Margit Feldman

Commissioner Repollet introduced a resolution in honor of Mrs. Margit Feldman. He also requested a moment of silence in memory of Margit and Harvey Feldman, who both recently passed away.

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board unanimously approved the following resolution read by State Board President Kathy Goldenberg:

Resolution in Honor of Mrs. Margit Feldman

Whereas, longtime New Jersey resident Mrs. Margit Feldman survived imprisonment in a series of Nazi concentration camps in her youth, where she was forced to perform hard labor and had the identification "A23029" tattooed on her arm; and

Whereas, Mrs. Feldman was liberated from the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in Germany on April 15, 1945; and

Whereas, Mrs. Feldman emigrated to the United States approximately two years later and eventually settled in New Jersey; and

Whereas, Mrs. Feldman shared her remarkable story of surviving the Holocaust by speaking to many students over the years and through her 2003 memoir "Margit: A Teenager's Journey Through the Holocaust and Beyond" and the 2016 documentary "Not A23029"; and

Whereas, Mrs. Feldman helped pass the state laws that created the New Jersey Holocaust Education Commission and mandated that curricula in New Jersey's public elementary and secondary schools include instruction about the Holocaust and genocide; and

Whereas, Mrs. Feldman was an original member of the New Jersey Holocaust Education Commission and a founding member of the Holocaust and Genocide Institute at Raritan Valley Community College; and

Whereas, the Commission was such personal and important work to Mrs. Feldman that it became a family affair and she recruited her husband Harvey, who also recently passed away, to photograph New Jersey Holocaust Education Commission events; and

Whereas, Mrs. Feldman, a mother of two and grandmother of three, was active in her synagogue and with organizations like the Jewish Federation of Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren Counties; and now therefore be it

Resolved, that the New Jersey State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education recognize and posthumously honor Mrs. Margit Feldman and her commitment to teaching students about the Holocaust and ensuring the atrocities of genocide will never be forgotten.

Recognition of Teacher Appreciation Week

Commissioner Repollet introduced a video produced to honor all teachers working in New Jersey.

Items for Consideration:

*Items scheduled for a vote are marked with an asterisk.

***A. Commissioner**

- This item was tabled.

***B. Appointments**

- Approved the following appointment(s) pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:2:
 - Kerlyn Espinal, Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Division of Field Services
 - Anthony Wright, Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Division of Student Services
 - Scott Henry, Director, Office of Fiscal Policy & Planning, Division of Finance
 - Doug Cervi, Executive Director, Holocaust Commission, Division of Field Services

***C. Certification of School Districts**

- The State Board certified for a period of three years the following school districts recommended by the Commissioner, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-14a and b. State Board member Fatimah Burnam-Watkins abstained.

Certified Districts	County
Egg Harbor Twp.	Atlantic
Folsom	Atlantic

Ventnor	Atlantic
Bergen County Voc Tech	Bergen
Bogota	Bergen
Fort Lee	Bergen
Garfield	Bergen
Moonachie	Bergen
Paramus	Bergen
Upper Saddle River	Bergen
Beverly City	Burlington
Medford Twp.	Burlington
Somerdale	Camden
Cape May City	Cape May
Stone Harbor	Cape May
Deerfield Twp.	Cumberland
Lawrence Twp.	Cumberland
Hudson County Vocational	Hudson
Delaware Twp.	Hunterdon
Tewksbury Twp.	Hunterdon
Ewing Twp.	Mercer
Carteret	Middlesex
Freehold Borough	Monmouth
Long Branch	Monmouth
Millstone Twp.	Monmouth
Red Bank Borough	Monmouth
Shore Regional H.S.	Monmouth
Union Beach	Monmouth
East Hanover Twp.	Morris
Mount Olive	Morris
Pequannock Twp.	Morris
Roxbury Twp.	Morris
Beach Haven	Ocean
Little Egg Harbor	Ocean
Toms River	Ocean
Clifton	Passaic
Little Falls	Passaic
Pennsville	Salem
Franklin Twp.	Somerset
Hardyston	Sussex
Montague	Sussex
Sparta Twp.	Sussex
Berkeley Heights	Union
Linden	Union
Springfield	Union
Westfield	Union
Allamuchy	Warren

***D Religious Holidays Calendar Resolution**

- Adopted the following resolution pertaining to the annual calendar of religious holidays for the 2020-2021 school year as established at N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.3(j), pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:36-14 through 16.

Resolution

The List of Religious Holidays Permitting Student Absence from School

Whereas, according to N.J.S.A. 18A:36-14 through 16 and N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.3(j), regarding student absence from school because of religious holidays, the Commissioner of Education, with the approval of the State Board of Education, is charged with the responsibility of prescribing such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of the law; and

Whereas, the law provides that:

1. Any student absent from school because of a religious holiday may not be deprived of any award or of eligibility or opportunity to compete for any award because of such absence;
2. Students who miss a test or examination because of absence on a religious holiday must be given the right to take an alternate test or examination;
3. To be entitled to the privileges set forth above, the student must present a written excuse signed by a parent or person standing in place of a parent;
4. Any absence because of a religious holiday must be recorded in the school register or in any group or class attendance record as an excused absence;
5. Such absence must not be recorded on any transcript or application or employment form or on any similar form; and
6. The Commissioner, with the approval of the State Board of Education, is required to:
 - (a) prescribe such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this act; and
 - (b) prepare a list of religious holidays on which it shall be mandatory to excuse a student. The list, however, is to be a minimum list. Boards of education, at their discretion, may add other days to the list for the schools of their districts; and

Whereas, the New Jersey Department of Education makes every attempt to ensure the accuracy of the dates using the lunar, Gregorian and Julian calendars; and

Whereas, the district board of education has the right to add any bona fide religious holiday to the list for its own schools;

Whereas, dates within this resolution may not be fixed before the State Board adopts the annual calendar and may require additional revision; now therefore be it

Resolved, that the State Board of Education permits the Commissioner of Education, after annual adoption by the State Board of Education, to revise the dates provided in list of religious holidays; and be it further

Resolved, that the State Board of Education adopts the following list of religious holidays for the 2020 - 2021 school year:

2020-21 School Year Observances

July 2020

Date	Observance
July 4	Asalha Puja Day (Buddhist)
July 5	Guru Purnima
July 9	Martyrdom of the Bab (Baha'i)
July 25	Naga Panchami (Hindu)* ¹
July 28-August2	Hajj Day (Islam)*
July 29	Yawm al-Arafa (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
July 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tish'a B'Av (Jewish) • Eid al-Adha (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
July 31	Eid al-Adha (Islam)*

August 2020

Date	Observance
August 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fast in Honor of the Holy Mother of Lord Jesus (Eastern Orthodox Christian) • Lammass (Christian and Wicca)
August 3	Raksha Bandhan (Hindu)*
August 6	Transfiguration of the Lord (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
August 7	Eid-e-Ghadeer (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
August 11	Krishna Janmashtami (Hindu)*

¹ * *Disclaimer: New Jersey Department of Education has made every attempt to ensure the accuracy of the dates. The information has been verified through the use of various sources and some dates may vary due to the lunar, Gregorian and Julian calendars.*

Date	Observance
August 13-15	Obon (Buddhist)
August 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Catholic Christian) • Dormition of the Theotokos (Orthodox Christian)
August 16-23	Paryushana (Jain)
August 19	1 st Muharram (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
August 19-28	Ashara Mubarak (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
August 20	1 ST Muharram (Islamic New Year)
August 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ulambana (Buddhist) • Ganesh Chaturthi (Hindu)*
August 22-September 2	Onam (Hindu)*
August 28	Yawm Aashura (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*

September 2020

Date	Observance
September 1	Ecclesiastical Year begins (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
September 7	His Holiness Sakya Trizin's Birthday (Buddhist)
September 8	Nativity of Mary (Christian)
September 18-20	Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)
September 19	Feast of Trumpets (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
September 21	Nativity of the Theotokos (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
September 21-29	Mabon (Wicca/Pagan)
September 27	The Elevation of the Holy Cross (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
September 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yom Kippur (Jewish) • Day of Atonement (Christian, Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)

October 2020

Date	Observance
October 2-9	Sukkot (Jewish)
October 3-9	Feast of Tabernacles (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
October 7	Chehlum Imam Hussain (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
October 9-11	Sh'mini Atzeret (Jewish)
October 10	Last Great Day (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)

Date	Observance
October 11	Simchat Torah (Jewish)
October 17-26	Navaratri (Hindu)*
October 19	Birth of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)
October 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of the Scriptures as Guru Granth (Sikh) • Birth of B'ab (Bah'i)
October 28	Milad an-Nabi (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
October 29	Maulid al-Nabi (Islam)*

November 2020

Date	Observance
November 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Saints' Day (Christian) • Samhain-Beltane (Wicca) • Urus-Syedna Mohammed Burhanuddin (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
November 2	All Souls' Day (Christian)
November 14	Diwali (Hindu, Jain, Puja, Deepavali and Sikh)*
November 15	Goverdhan Puja (Hindu)*
November 19	Milad Imam-uz-Zamaan (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
November 21	The Presentation of the Theotokos to the Temple (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
November 24	Guru Tegh Bahadur Martyrdom (Sikh)
November 25	Day of Covenant (Baha'i)
November 27	Ascension of 'Abdul'l Baha (Baha'i)
November 28	Nativity Fast begins (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
November 29	First Sunday of Advent (Christian)
November 30	Guru Nanak Dev Sahib Birthday (Sikh)

December 2020

Date	Observance
December 5	Milad Syedna Mohammed Burhanuddin (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
December 8	Immaculate Conception (Christian)
December 11-18	Hanukkah (Jewish)
December 22	Yule (Wicca and Christian)
December 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas (Christian) • The Nativity of Christ (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
December 26	Zarathosht Diso (Zoroastrian)

January 2021

Date	Observance
January 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Gantan-sai (Shinto)Mary, Mother of God - Catholic Christian
January 3-10	Holy Convocation (Church of God and Saints of Christ)
January 5	Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh Sahib (Sikh)
January 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Feast of Epiphany (Christian)Feast of Theophany (Eastern Orthodox Christian)Nativity of Christ (Armenian Orthodox)
January 7	Feast of the Nativity (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
January 13	Maghi (Sikh)
January 14	Makar Sankranti and Pongal (Hindu)*
January 17	World Religion Day (Baha'i)
January 20	Bodhi Day (Buddhist)
January 28	Tu B'shvat (Jewish)

February 2021

Date	Observance
February 1	Imbolic-Candlemas (Wicca and Christian)
February 2	The Presentation of Our Lord to the Temple (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
February 12	Chinese/Lunar New Year (Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist)
February 14-23	Midwinter Ceremonies (Native American)
February 15	Nirvana Day (Buddhist, Jain)
February 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Shrove Tuesday (Christian)Vasant Panchami (Hindu)*
February 17	Ash Wednesday (Christian)
February 25	Jonah's Passover (Eastern Orthodox Church)
February 25-28	Intercalary Days (Baha'i)
February 26	Ayyam al Beez (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
February 27	Purim (Jewish)

March 2021

Date	Observance
March 2	Urus – Syedna Taher Saifuddin
March 10	Yawm al-Mab'ath (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
March 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Maha Shivaratri (Hindu)*

Date	Observance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lailat al Miraj (Islam)*
March 13	L. Ron Hubbard's Birthday (Church of Scientology)
March 15	Clean Monday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
March 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ostara (Wicca) Mabon (Wicca/Pagan Northern and Southern Hemispheres) Nowruz (Zoroastrian) Naw-Ryz (Baha'i)
March 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Annunciation of the Theotokos (Eastern Orthodox Christian) The Annunciation of the Virgin Mary (Christian)
March 26	Khordad Sal (Zoroastrian)
March 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lord's Evening Meal (Christian, Jehovah's Witness) Passover (United Church of God)
March 27-April 4	Passover (Jewish)
March 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Palm Sunday Lailat al Bara'ah (Islam)* First Day of Unleavened Bread (Church of God)
March 28-April 3	Days of Unleavened Bread (Philadelphia Church of God)
March 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holi (Hindu)* Hola Mohalla (Sikh)*

April 2021

Date	Observance
April 1	Holy Thursday (Christian)
April 2	Holy Friday (Christian)
April 3	Last Day of Unleavened Bread (Church of God)
April 4	Easter (Christian)
April 5	Easter Monday (Christian)
April 8-16	Passover (Jewish)
April 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holy Thursday (Christian) Passover/Days of Unleavened Bread (Church of God and Saints of Christ)
April 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Souramana Yugadi (Hindu)*

Date	Observance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chandramana Yugadi(Hindu)*
April 13-20	Memorial of the Feast of the Lord's Passover (Church of God and Saints of Christ)
April 13-May 13	Ramadan (Islam)
April 16-17	Yom Ha'Azmaut (Jewish)
April 20	First Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
April 21	Ramnavami (Hindu)*
April 24	Lazarus Saturday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mahavir Jayanti (Jain)* The 11th Panchen Lama's Birthday (Buddhist) Palm Sunday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 26	Hanuman Jayanti (Hindu)*
April 27	Theravadin New Year (Buddhist)
April 28	Ninth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
April 29	Holy Thursday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holy Friday (Eastern Orthodox Christian) The Last Friday of the Great Lent (Eastern Orthodox Church) Lag B'Omer (Jewish) Shahadat – Amirul Mumineen (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*

May 2021

Date	Observance
May 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beltane (Wicca) Twelfth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
May 2	Easter (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
May 3	Bright Monday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
May 3-4	Laylatul Qadr (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
May 4	Milad Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
May 7	Aakhir Jumo'a (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
May 8	Laylatul Qadr (Islam)*
May 12	Eid al-Fitr (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
May 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ascension of Our Lord (Christian) Eid al Fitr (Islam)*
May 16-18	Shavuot (Jewish)
May 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Declaration of the Bab (Baha'i)

Date	Observance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pentecost (Christian)
May 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visakha Puja (Buddhist) • Buddha's Birthday/Buddha Day-Buddha Day*
May 29	Ascension of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)

June 2021

Date	Observance
June 16	Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Sahib (Sikh)
June 21	Pentecost (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
June 24	Litha (Wicca)
June 28	Fast of the Holy Apostles (Eastern Orthodox Christian)

***E. State Board of Examiners and Certification**

- Adopted the amendments pertaining to the swimming and water safety endorsement at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.10 and N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-5.15, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-15, 18A:6-38, and 18A:26-2.3.

Work Session

There was no work session.

New Business

There was no new business.

Adjournment

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education adjourned its May 6, 2020, public meeting at 11:03 a.m.

Dr. Lamont O. Repollet, Commissioner
Secretary, N.J. State Board of Education