

**Minutes of the Meeting of the New Jersey State Board of Education
In the Conference Room on the First Floor
100 River View Executive Plaza
Trenton, NJ
November 6, 2024**

Presiding: Kathy Goldenberg, President

Secretary: Kevin Dehmer, Acting Commissioner

Present Constituting a Quorum

Dr. Nedd Johnson
Dr. Ronald Butcher
Mr. Arcelio Aponte
Mr. Jack Fornaro
Ms. Elaine Bobrove
Ms. Jeanette Peña
Dr. Claudine Keenan
Mr. Ahmed Shehata

Absent

Ms. Mary Beth Berry
Dr. Joseph Ricca
Ms. Mary Bennett

Convening

State Board of Education President Kathy Goldenberg convened the public meeting at 9:07 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 ensure 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 (Department), 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 November 6, 2024, 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 November 6, 2024.

Reconvening

President Kathy Goldenberg reconvened the open meeting at 10:07 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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by State Board member Jeanette Peña.

Welcome

President Goldenberg stated the State Board meetings are accessible to the public for viewing on YouTube Channel and would like to advise that YouTube provides readily accessible language translation options for closed captioning. She further stated if you are viewing this simulcast now, you can use the settings option in YouTube for information about sub-titles, auto translations and closed captioning in multiple languages.

Approval of Minutes of the Meeting

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board members unanimously approved the minutes of the public meeting conducted on October 2, 2024.

President's Reports

Public Testimony

President Goldenberg stated that for the month of November, the State Board of Education will hear public testimony on Chapter 30, the Evaluation of the Performance of School Districts.

President Goldenberg stated that for the month of December, the State Board of Education will not hear public testimony as there are no educational topics for discussion.

Permanent Student Representative

President Goldenberg introduced the State Board of Education's permanent student representative, Miss Anna Paszkiewicz. Miss Paszkiewicz is a senior at Palmyra High School in Burlington County.

Miss Paszkiewicz stated that extracurricular activities are in full swing at schools across the State. She stated she created and distributed a school survey to student council advisors of New Jersey Association of Student Councils (NJASC) member schools to find out what new clubs, sports and extracurriculars were put into place in middle and high schools in New Jersey for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 school years. She further stated she was pleased to receive information about many new clubs and activities that are being offered throughout the State. She stated that extracurriculars are an

important way for students to become involved in their school community and interact with their peers outside the classroom.

Resolution in Recognition of Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Membership Month in New Jersey

President Goldenberg requested that the State Board adopt a resolution recognizing November as Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Membership Month in New Jersey.

The State Board unanimously adopted the following resolution read by State Board member Dr. Claudine Keenan recognizing November as Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Membership Month in New Jersey.

Resolution in Recognition of November 2024 as New Jersey Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Membership Month

Whereas, the New Jersey Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is an association advocating for the benefit of children's education and well-being by focusing attention on issues affecting youth and public education; and

Whereas, for more than 124 years, the New Jersey PTA has served the needs of children, teachers, parents, and schools through active volunteerism; and

Whereas, the New Jersey PTA promotes family engagement in schools and communities, advocates for public education, and provides a network of local, State, and national voices speaking together on behalf of all children; and

Whereas, among the millions of members of the National PTA, the New Jersey PTA has more than 87,000 members in over 600 Local PTAs; and

Whereas, the strength of the PTA lies in its membership -- the volunteers who tirelessly devote themselves to making the world better for children and youth; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the New Jersey State Board of Education and the Acting Commissioner of Education encourage everyone to become advocates for children and show their support for their local PTA or the Garden State PTA, which is the Statewide local PTA; and be it further

Resolved, that the New Jersey State Board of Education and the Acting Commissioner of Education commend the hardworking individuals and members serving in their local, State, and national roles in PTA and recognize November 2024 as New Jersey PTA Membership Month.

President Goldenberg introduced Ms. Lynette Howard, Vice President of Advocacy, New Jersey Parent Teacher Association (PTA) to accept the resolution.

State Board Committee Reports

Administrative Policy Committee

Due to technical difficulties, President Goldenberg offered the report on behalf of Elaine Bobrove, chair of the Administrative Policy Committee. President Goldenberg stated the Administrative Policy Committee met on October 28, 2024. to discuss the sunset readoption with amendments to the

Regulatory Equivalency and Waiver regulations. She stated since this item is on today's agenda for adoption, she will forgo the report.

Instructional Policy Committee

Nedd Johnson, chair of the Instructional Policy Committee, stated the Instructional Policy Committee met on October 29, 2024, to discuss the proficiency level cut scores for the WIDA Alternate ACCESS assessments for kindergarten through grade 12. He stated that since this item is on today's agenda for consideration, he will not elaborate on the committee discussion. Dr. Johnson further stated the Department also presented an overview of Chapter 8, Standards and Assessments. He stated they discussed the chapter's existing rules in anticipation of the chapter's readoption in 2025.

Items for Consideration

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

***A. Appointments**-There were no appointments.

***B. Certification of School Districts**

- Approved for a period of three years, those school districts recommended by the Commissioner, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-14.a and b. State Board members Goldenberg and Aponte recused themselves from voting on Moorestown Township Public School District and Piscataway Township School District, respectively.

Districts	County
Oradell Public School District	Bergen
Teaneck School District	Bergen
Moorestown Township Public School District	Burlington
Cherry Hill School District	Camden
Livingston Board of Education School District	Essex
Montclair Public School District	Essex
Bayonne School District	Hudson
Edison Township School District	Middlesex
Piscataway Township School District	Middlesex
Avon Boro School District	Monmouth
Manalapan-Englishtown Regional School District	Monmouth
Middletown Township Public School District	Monmouth
Monmouth Beach School District	Monmouth
Monmouth County Vocational School District	Monmouth
Rumson-Fair Haven Regional School District	Monmouth
Sea Girt Borough School District	Monmouth
Brick Township Public School District	Ocean
Point Pleasant Beach School District	Ocean
Passaic County Technical-Vocational School District	Passaic

***C.**

Resolution to Accept Donated Funds

- Adopted the resolution approving the acceptance of up to \$250.00 in donated funds.

Resolution to Accept Donated Funds

Whereas, N.J.S.A. 18A:4-26 requires the approval of the New Jersey State Board of Education in order for the Acting Commissioner of Education to accept donated funds; and

Whereas, the New Jersey Department of Education, Marie H Katzenbach School for the Deaf is the recipient of donated funds; and

Whereas, these funds are provided to the Department of Education, Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf to use for student activity funds, which are for the sole use of supporting student activities such as field trips, yearbooks, and student clubs; and

Whereas, a donation in the amount of \$250.00 was made by Cranbury Lions' Club Program; now therefore be it

Resolved, that the New Jersey State Board of Education approves the acceptance of the donated funds for the aforementioned specified purposes.

***D. Regulatory Equivalency and Waiver**

- Adopted the sunset readoption with amendments to the Regulatory Equivalency and Waiver regulations at N.J.A.C. 6A:5, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-15.

***E. Resolution to Adopt Proficient Level Cut Scores for WIDA Alternate ACCESS for Multilingual Learners (MLs) Assessments (grades K-12)**

- Approved the following resolution setting forth the adopted the proficiency level cut scores for ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS for ELLs assessments (grades K-12), pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.

Resolution to Establish Performance Level Cut Score Standards for the WIDA Alternate ACCESS

Whereas, the New Jersey State Board of Education (State Board) has required that all students identified as multilingual learners (MLs) and enrolled in a language instruction education program in kindergarten through grade 12 be assessed in English language proficiency in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4 and the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA); and

Whereas, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1(d)3iii, the Department shall implement an approved English language proficiency assessment to measure the progress in English language proficiency of MLs with an IEP who have been determined eligible by the individualized education program (IEP) team for an alternative Department-approved English language proficiency assessment for students with disabilities; and

Whereas, pursuant to Section 1111(b)(2) of the ESSA, each state may provide for alternate assessments aligned with the challenging state academic standards and alternate academic achievement standards for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities; and

Whereas, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1(d)3, at specific times prescribed by the Commissioner, district boards of education shall administer the alternative assessment for

students with disabilities to students with severe disabilities who cannot participate in other assessments due to the severity of their disabilities; and

Whereas, the WIDA Alternate ACCESS assessment is provided for assessing student progress toward demonstrating a thorough understanding of essential knowledge and skills delineated by the State standards as the alternative English language proficiency assessment for students with severe disabilities; and

Whereas, standard-setting studies were completed in accordance with industry best practices in large-scale assessment to determine the assessments' validity and the theoretically appropriate performance level cut scores; and

Whereas, the State Board acknowledges the Department's selection of the consortium-adopted WIDA Alternate ACCESS performance level cut scores; and

Whereas, the Department will monitor the impact of the test and performance level cut scores on the performance rates for each grade level where the test is administered and will report any problems with the same to the State Board; now therefore be it

Resolved, that the New Jersey State Board of Education hereby approves the following performance level cut scores, effective November 6, 2024:

Overall Composite Cut Scores

Grade	P2	P3	P4	P5
K-2	941	949	957	964
3-5	943	951	958	965
6-8	945	952	960	968
9-12	946	953	961	970

Domain Cut Scores

Listening

Grade	P2	P3	P4	P5
K-2	937	943	949	959
3-5	940	948	954	961
6-8	943	950	958	962
9-12	945	951	959	965

Reading

Grade	P2	P3	P4	P5
K-2	943	950	957	963
3-5	943	950	957	965
6-8	944	950	957	967
9-12	944	950	957	968

Writing

Grade	P2	P3	P4	P5
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K-2	941	951	960	968
3-5	942	953	960	968
6-8	945	955	963	972
9-12	947	957	965	975

Speaking

Grade	P2	P3	P4	P5
K-2	941	948	958	962
3-5	946	953	959	965
6-8	946	954	961	966
9-12	946	954	961	966

Comprehension

Grade	P2	P3	P4	P5
K-2	941	948	955	962
3-5	942	949	956	964
6-8	944	950	957	966
9-12	944	950	958	967

Literacy

Grade	P2	P3	P4	P5
K-2	942	951	959	966
3-5	943	952	959	967
6-8	945	953	960	970
9-12	946	954	961	972

Oral

Grade	P2	P3	P4	P5
K-2	939	946	954	961
3-5	943	951	957	963
6-8	945	952	960	964
9-12	946	953	960	966

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 November 6, 2024, public meeting at 10:54 a.m.

Kevin Dehmer, Acting Commissioner
Acting Secretary, N.J. State Board of Education