

**New Jersey State Board of Education  
Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting  
in the Conference Room on the First Floor,  
100 River View Executive Plaza  
Trenton, NJ**

**January 21, 2009**

**Presiding:** Arcelio Aponte, Vice President

**Secretary:** Lucille E. Davy, Commissioner

**PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM**

Ms. Kathleen Dietz  
Ms. Edithe Fulton  
Mr. Robert Haney  
Ms. Florence McGinn  
Dr. Dorothy Strickland

**ABSENT**

Dr. Ronald Butcher  
Josephine Hernandez  
Dr. Ernest Lepore

**CONVENING**

Arcelio Aponte, vice president, State Board of Education, convened the public meeting with the reading of the resolution pertaining to the public session of the State Board meeting as it complies with the Open Public Meetings Act.

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey 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, and

**WHEREAS**, 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, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that by adopting this resolution the State Board of Education states its intention to convene a public meeting to conduct the state's business on January 21, 2009.

**ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Vice President Aponte 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 of Education will now adjourn to executive session to discuss personnel issues.

The State Board immediately adjourned to executive session.

### **RECONVENING**

Vice President Aponte reconvened the public meeting 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.

### **STUDENT SPEAKERS**

Commissioner Davy welcomed Tim Flank, a junior at Washington Township High School (Gloucester County) who is treasurer for the NJ Association of Student Councils, a member of DECA, Interact, Model United Nations, and the Student Council Executive Board, and is active in sports. Tim spoke about the classification of leaders: natural and reserved. He discussed ways in which the reserved leaders can be encouraged to rise to the top.

Vice President Aponte and State Board members Kathleen Dietz and Edithe Fulton thanked Tim for his comments and highlighting this issue.

### **INTRODUCTIONS**

Commissioner Davy recognized Lester Richens, Burlington County Executive County Superintendent of Schools, who represented the county superintendents.

### **Student Recognition Program**

The State Board recognized the students of the Family, Career & Community Leaders of America Club at the Burlington County Institute of Technology (Burlington County) as a part of its monthly recognition program designed to honor a student or a group of students who have made a significant contribution to school, community, family or other groups. The State Board recognized the students for their achievements and community service.

On behalf of the State Board, Vice President Aponte and State Board members Kathleen Dietz and Edithe Fulton congratulated the students for their commitment, kindness and unselfish service.

### **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 December 17, 2008.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Vice President Aponte presented a resolution declaring January as School Boards Recognition Month. The resolution was received by Harry Delgado, President of the New Jersey School Boards Association. The resolution was unanimously approved by the State Board members.

Commissioner Davy thanked Marie Bilik, Executive Director of the New Jersey School Boards Association and Harry Delgado for the partnership between the Department and the New Jersey School Boards Association.

## **COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS**

### **Monitoring of School Districts**

Commissioner Davy stated that county staff is reviewing the districts' self assessments under NJ QSAC. Results will be provided to the State Board in a few months once final determinations have been made regarding the districts' standing on the continuum of performance.

### **State Fiscal Crisis**

Commissioner Davy confirmed that she sent a letter to the State Board Members regarding the State's fiscal crisis in which districts are being asked to voluntarily postpone non-essential spending until the end of the school year. The letter also explains that the Department is waiting for notification by the Federal government regarding funds to expand early childhood education. When that information is received, the local districts will be notified.

### **World Language Assessment**

Commissioner Davy welcomed Dr. Carl Falstaff, who provided an update on the assessment on world languages. He is the executive director of the Center for Applied Second Language Studies at the University of Oregon.

## **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:**

On motions duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education took the following action:

### **A. Commissioner**

- Approved the revisions to the Department of Education's organization chart.

### **B. Appointments**

- There were no appointments.

### **C. Adult Education**

- Assistant Commissioner Jay Doolan, and Marie Barry, director of Office of Career and Technical Education presented information on the impact of the increased GED testing fees (from \$25 to \$50). Assistant commissioner Doolan stated that the increase is

- needed to keep the GED centers viable; several centers were unable to remain open because the fees would not support the centers' administrative structure. Since the fee increase, three centers have opened and one center specifically designed for Spanish-speakers is scheduled to open in Newark.

**D. Professional Teaching Standards Board**

- Adopted the resolution to appoint one new member and re-appoint nine members to the Professional Teaching Standards Board for two year terms.

**E. High School Graduation Amendments**

- Commissioner Davy stated that the first draft of the 2009 standards will be posted on the Department's website and there will be a 60 day comment period. In addition, there will be 5 meetings held throughout the state during the month of February to discuss the standards. The standards will be brought to the State Board in April, with adoption in June.
- Deputy Commissioner Willa Spicer, and Assistant Commissioner Jay Doolan presented Gina Matika, a principal at the Gloucester County Institute of Technology and Eileen Eagan, a supervisor of math in the Pennsauken School District who discussed their respective innovative interactive math programs.

**WORK SESSION**

Commissioner Davy introduced Dana Egreczky from the NJ Chamber of Commerce Foundation who introduced Stephen Morgan of Jersey Central Power and Light, Daniel Scheininger of Flexline/U.S. Brass and Copper Corporation, Roberta Schorr of Rutgers Newark and Peggy Coons of Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield. These business people shared their experiences in hiring recent high school graduates and identified the skill sets needed to perform the duties for their respective jobs. They are supportive of a more rigorous math curriculum because they have found that high school graduates in recent years have been deficient in basic math and applied physics and as a result businesses have had to create remedial programs to increase the employees' capacity to perform the basic qualifications for the jobs. They each concluded that a more rigorous curriculum is essential.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion duly seconded and carried the State Board of Education adjourned its December 17, 2008 public meeting at 3:51 p.m.

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Lucille E. Davy, Commissioner  
Secretary, State Board of Education