

**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**

**March 18, 2009**

**Presiding:** Josephine Hernandez, President

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

**PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM**

Mr. Arcelio Aponte  
Dr. Ronald Butcher  
Ms. Kathleen Deitz  
Ms. Edithe Fulton  
Mr. Robert Haney  
Dr. Ernest Lepore  
Ms. Florence McGinn  
Dr. Dorothy Strickland

**ABSENT**

**CONVENING**

Josephine Hernandez, 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 March 18, 2009.

**ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

President Hernandez 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**

President Hernandez 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**

Nisha Patel, a senior at J.P. Stevens High School in Edison (Middlesex County) congratulated and thanked the State Board for its commitment to excellence in education. She also stated there is room for improvement and highlighted three issues: fairly apportioning funding for education among all districts, not just poor districts; the need for more money for school supplies and technology; and raising the standards for teachers so that ineffective teachers are removed. President Hernandez and other state board members commended Nisha for her courage in speaking on these issues and thanked her for her comments.

### **INTRODUCTIONS**

Deputy Commissioner Willa Spicer recognized Robert Bumpus, Executive County Superintendent of Schools (Salem County), who represented the county superintendents.

### **Student Recognition Program**

The State Board recognized Kathleen Wentzell, a fifth grade student in the Quinton Township School District (Salem 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 Katie Wentzell for her academic and humanitarian efforts.

On behalf of the State Board, President Hernandez congratulated Katie on her achievements.

### **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 February 18, 2009.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORTS**

President Hernandez shared her experiences at the NASBE Legislative Conference. She stated that the focus of the conference was the economic stimulus money. The conference attendees met with political and budget analysts and visited Capitol Hill where they met various Congress people and Senators. President Hernandez also attended a pre-conference session on how to turn around low performing schools. She encouraged fellow state board members to participate in NASBE events.

President Hernandez reminded state board members to complete the ethics forms which are due in May.

State Board Member Edithe Fulton recommended that State Board members respond to the television broadcast of ABC's news magazine "20/20" which criticized universal preschool and declared it a scam.

State Board Member Florence McGinn shared her experiences at the NASBE conference on obesity. She stated that the statistics regarding child obesity are startling and there is a connection with school nutrition programs and lunch plans. She also stated greater integration of physical activity opportunities in the school environment will provide important benefits.

## **COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS**

### **Agenda Change**

Deputy Commissioner Willa Spicer announced that Item D. Interdistrict Public School Choice was being removed from the agenda because of new information received which requires further investigation and analysis.

### **Monitoring of School Districts**

Deputy Commissioner Willa Spicer stated that the second round of districts have completed their self evaluations and are now being verified by the executive county superintendents. The data thus far indicates that this second round of districts is doing better than the first round of districts in the degree of performance and compliance.

### **Stimulus Package**

Deputy Commissioner Spicer shared that the data regarding the use of and accountability for the stimulus money is incomplete and thus information will not be disseminated to the districts until clarification is received. She stated the first part of the money is coming in this month and will include funds for Title I and the IDEA and the second part of the money will come in July. The money is available for two years. However, the department is not clear on the use of the money or the accountability requirements.

Deputy Commissioner Spicer confirmed that the stabilization funds have been received by the Governor's office and have been distributed to all districts as state aid. The competitive money will be available in the fall; guidance is expected in the summer.

## **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:**

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

### **A. Commissioner**

- Approved the changes to the organization chart.

### **B. Appointments**

- Approved the appointment of David Corso to Director of the Office of Administration, Dodie Price to Manager of the Office of Human Resources and David Joye as Director of the Office of Budget and Accounting.

### **C. State Board of Examiners**

- Approved the resolution approving the reappointments to the State Board of Examiners.

### **D. Religious Holiday Calendar**

- Approved the resolution pertaining to the annual calendar of religious holidays for the 2008-2009 school year. State board member Ilan Plawker abstained from voting.

## **WORK SESSION**

President Hernandez announced there would be no public testimony today.

Assistant Commissioner Jay Doolan, Janis Jensen, director of the Office of Academic Standards and Sandra Alberti, director of the Office of Math and Science Education provided an overview of the Core Content Curriculum Standards for preschool. Sue Sullivan discussed the standards for technology and demonstrated how the standards will look on the website.

President Hernandez introduced Mr. George Laskaris, Executive Director of NJEDge.Net, and Tom Lancaster of NJEDge.Net who discussed the company's desire to expand their technology services into the K-12 community. Mr. Laskaris explained that NJEDge.Net is New Jersey's state research and education network that provides statewide technology infrastructure for 55 colleges, universities and several K-12 schools.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

State Board member Edithe Fulton recommended going back to meeting two meetings per month and suggested discussing this topic at the state board retreat.

President Hernandez asked state board members to consider June for the retreat. In addition, in an effort to conserve funds, the State Board Office will investigate the use of flash drives and eliminate mailing the disks monthly.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion duly seconded and carried the State Board of Education adjourned its March 18, 2009 public meeting at 2:50 p.m.

---

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