

**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**

**September 16, 2009**

**Presiding:** Arcelio Aponte, Vice President

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

**PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM**

Ms. Kathleen Deitz  
Mr. Robert Haney  
Dr. Ernest Lepore  
Ms. Florence McGinn  
Mr. Ilan Plawker  
Dr. Dorothy Strickland  
Ms. Edithe Fulton

**ABSENT**

Ms. Josephine Hernandez  
Dr. Ronald Butcher

**CONVENING**

Arcelio Aponte, vice president, State Board of Education, convened the public meeting at 10:04 a.m. with the reading of the statement pertaining to the public session of the State Board meeting as it complies with the Open Public Meetings Act.

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.

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 September 16, 2009, was called to order.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**STUDENT SPEAKERS**

Devon McRimmon, the student representative for the 2009-10 school year introduced Casey Dougan who is a junior at J.P. Stevens High School (Middlesex County). Casey discussed the numerous opportunities available at her high school to develop leadership skills through such activities as athletics, student council, Family, Career and Community Leaders of America. She stated that leadership is about encouragement and motivation.

On behalf of the State Board, Vice President Aponte thanked Casey for her comments and wished her well in the future.

## **INTRODUCTIONS**

Commissioner Davy recognized Dr. Samuel Stewart, Executive County Superintendent of Schools (Mercer County), who represented the county superintendents.

### **Student Recognition Program**

Commissioner Davy announced there was no student recognition this month. Student recognition will resume in October.

## **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 August 19, 2009. Edithe Fulton, Arcelio Aponte and Florence McGinn abstained from the vote.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Vice President Aponte announced the list of committees proposed by President Hernandez.

Mr. Aponte also shared that the Attorney General's office has confirmed that the law that repealed the State Board's authority to hear appeals does not sunset. Therefore, new legislation is required to reinstate that authority. State Board member Ilan Plawker encouraged the State Board to pursue new legislation that would allow the State Board to hear cases on a limited basis.

Kathleen Dietz recommended that the legal/legislative committees meet and make recommendations to the full State Board on a course of action. Ms. Deitz also recommended that the Attorney General or her representative should be included in this meeting. Robert Haney recommended that a group of State Board members meet to review the list of Commissioner's decisions and identify cases that might impact educational policy and inform the full State Board. Florence McGinn urged caution in proceeding in an area in which the State Board does not have authority; the State Board has a policy making role during a time of tremendous educational transformation. Edithe Fulton stated that she felt strongly that the legal committee should be restored and she endorsed the idea of having the ability to hear only those cases that impact educational policy. Vice President Aponte recommended that both committees meet together before the October State Board meeting.

## **COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS**

### **H1N1**

Commissioner Davy stated that the H1N1 conference held last month was a tremendous success. It was attended by over 600 health and school officials. The latest update is that only one shot of the vaccine is needed. It is not yet available but perhaps by October. The priority groups for the vaccine are: pregnant women, caretakers of children under the age of six months, children six

months to 24 years of age, and older adults with underlying medical conditions. Parents are encouraged to get the normal seasonal flu vaccine for their school age children. Public schools are likely to be vaccination sites.

### **Governor's Visit to Schools**

Commissioner Davy reported that Governor Corzine visited several of the 12 new schools that opened recently. These schools were constructed by the School Development Authority.

### **ARRA Funds**

Commissioner Davy shared that the department has been working on the application for the federal funds and collecting the data required by the federal government.

### **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:**

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

#### **A. Appointments**

- There were no appointments.

#### **B. Student Transportation**

- Approved the proposal to readopt the regulations with amendments related to the student transportation regulations.

#### **C. CCCS/Social Studies Standards**

- Adopted the resolution to adopt the social studies standards.

### **RESOLUTION TO ADOPT REVISED CORE CURRICULUM CONTENT STANDARDS, INCLUDING THE PRESCHOOL TEACHING AND LEARNING STANDARDS OF QUALITY, FOR SOCIAL STUDIES**

**WHEREAS**, the State Board of Education has adopted rigorous Core Curriculum Content Standards and associated cumulative progress indicators which establish the basis for local curriculum and instruction for all students, the Statewide assessment system, and the evaluation of local district boards of education; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Board of Education is responsible under N.J.A.C. 6A:8-2.1(a)5 for initiating a review and readoption process for the Core Curriculum Content Standards, including the Preschool Teaching and Learning Standards of Quality, every five years, based on recommendations by the Commissioner of Education; and

**WHEREAS**, expert panels of PreK-12 educators and representatives from higher education have reviewed the Core Curriculum Content Standards for social studies, including the Preschool Teaching and Learning Standards of Quality for social studies; and

**WHEREAS**, the expert panels have elicited extensive public input through regional feedback sessions, written comments, and electronic feedback submitted through the Department’s website; and,

**WHEREAS**, the P-12 social studies standards have been revised to reflect the demands of postsecondary education and the twenty-first century workplace; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the State Board of Education hereby directs that these revised Preschool Teaching and Learning Standards of Quality for social studies will immediately serve as standards of quality for public school preschool students and programs in New Jersey; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the New Jersey State Board of Education hereby directs that school district curricula for all students be aligned with these revised K-12 standards for social studies, along with the accompanying cumulative progress indicators, by September 1, 2012; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the revised Core Curriculum Content Standards and accompanying cumulative progress indicators for social studies, dated August 19, 2009, will serve as the basis for any state or local assessments deemed appropriate by the Department of Education and the State Board of Education; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the State Board of Education commends the individuals and organizations, both within the State and beyond its borders, who have contributed to this revision of the Core Curriculum Content Standards for social studies.

D. **Evaluation of School Districts**

- Discussed the proposed amendments and new rule of the regulations regarding the NJ Quality Single Accountability Continuum. Deputy commissioner Willa Spicer, special assistant to the Commissioner Donna Arons and assistant commissioner Gerald Vernotica provided a history of the regulations and described the monitoring and evaluation process.

E. **Requirements for Standard Certificates**

- Adopted the amendments to the requirements for out-of-state applicants.

F. **Resolution to Adopt a Revised School Leaders Assessment Test and Passing Score**

- Adopted the resolution approving the assessment test and minimum passing score.

## **ADOPTING A SCHOOL LEADERSHIP LICENSURE ASSESSMENT TEST AND ESTABLISHING A QUALIFYING SCORE FOR THE TEST**

**WHEREAS**, the State Board of Education has required a subject matter test for the Principal endorsement to the administrative certificate in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:9-12.5(a)4, effective January 7, 2009; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Board of Education approves the department's selection of the new School Leadership Licensure Assessment (SLLA) test for the Principal endorsement and the establishment of an initial qualifying score; and

**WHEREAS**, the department has participated in a multi-state standard setting study held by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) to determine the validity of and the theoretically appropriate qualifying score for the SLLA test; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the State Board of Education hereby supports the department's selection of the new School Leadership Licensure Assessment (SLLA) test for the Principal endorsement; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the State Board of Education hereby acknowledges and accepts the department's establishment of a qualifying score of 163 for said test; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that any person who has qualified under the most recent version of the SLLA will be allowed to use that qualifying score for the Principal endorsement.

### **G. Charter Schools**

- Approved the proposal to provide an early action approval process for Charter School applications.

### **H. Section 15 Grants for Regular Operating Districts**

- Discussed the readoption and amendment to the grant funding code for regular operating school districts including county vocational schools. Director of school facilities Bernard Piaia and chief of staff John Hart provided background information on the grants and the approval process.

### **WORK SESSION**

- Commissioner Davy announced that State Board member Dorothy Strickland was nominated by the Governor and selected to be a member of the National Validation Panel for the Common Core Standards Initiative.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Ilan Plawker shared that a science professor at FDU would like to speak to the State Board to present her ideas on science education. Vice President Aponte recommended that she register to speak at a public testimony session.

- Mr. Plawker presented a letter received from the admissions officer at the College of NJ to discuss graduation rates and requirements. Ms. Dietz recommended that requests from the public should be vetted through the commissioner and Board President.
- Edith Fulton discussed what is occurring in Toms River (Ocean County) schools. Specifically, students who are not residents are being enrolled into the Toms River schools from other districts free of charge. Mrs. Fulton was not aware that this could be done. The commissioner stated that she was aware of it also and that there is a law that allows school districts to admit students without charging tuition.
- Mrs. Fulton also expressed her disappointment that the Tom Rivers schools did not allow the students to view President Obama's speech last week. Commissioner Davy responded that the department sent out a letter encouraging districts to air it but it was a local decision.
- Bob Haney asked for follow up on information regarding the use of technology in the classroom and best practices. Deputy commissioner Willa Spicer stated there is a technology report that is collected each year from all districts in addition to the great effort into new technology resources that are coming to us from ARRA. We will be able to collect the information and hopefully award substantial grants this year.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion duly seconded and carried the State Board of Education adjourned its September 16, 2009 public meeting at 1:30 p.m.

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