

**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
July 10, 2024**

Presiding: Kathy Goldenberg, President

Secretary: Kevin Dehmer, Acting Commissioner

Present Constituting a Quorum

Dr. Ronald Butcher
Mr. Arcelio Aponte
Mr. Jack Fornaro
Ms. Mary Beth Berry
Ms. Elaine Bobrove
Dr. Joseph Ricca
Dr. Nedd Johnson
Ms. Mary Bennett
Ms. Jeanette Peña
Dr. Claudine Keenan

Absent

Mr. Ahmed Shehata

Convening

State Board of Education President Kathy Goldenberg convened the public meeting at 9:22 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 July 10, 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 July 10, 2024.

Reconvening

President Kathy Goldenberg reconvened the open meeting at 10:08 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 board member Ronald Butcher.

Swearing in of State Board Member(s)

President Goldenberg introduced the Honorable Robert Lougy, a judge of the New Jersey Superior Court in Mercer County. Judge Lougy administered the oath of office to new State Board member Dr. Claudine Keenan of Galloway, Atlantic County. Dr. Keenan's term expires June 30, 2027.

Election of State Board Officers

Acting Commissioner Kevin Dehmer, acting secretary to the State Board, conducted the annual election of State Board officers. On motions duly seconded and carried, the State Board members unanimously elected Kathy Goldenberg as State Board President and Nedd Johnson as State Board Vice President. Both were elected for a one-year term.

President Goldenberg and Vice President Johnson expressed their gratitude to the members of the State Board for electing them to their leadership positions.

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 Meetings

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board members approved the minutes of the public meeting conducted on June 5, 2024. State Board members Ronald Butcher and Joseph Ricca abstained.

President's Reports

Public Testimony

President Goldenberg stated that for the month of July, the State Board will receive public testimony on the resolution to revise the implementation schedule for New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLs)

in Mathematics For the month of August, the State Board will receive public testimony on Chapter 30, Evaluation of the Performance of School Districts, and Chapter 5, Regulatory Equivalency and Waiver.

Welcome of the Permanent Student Representative

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

Miss Pasziewicz introduced herself to the State Board members. She stated she is honored to be chosen as the 2024-2025 permanent student representative for the State Board of Education. She further stated her goal is to use the experience she has gained from previous leadership and service roles to speak on behalf of the students in our State.

State Board Committee Reports

Policy Committee

Elaine Bobrove, chair of the Policy Committee, stated the Policy Committee met on June 19, 2024, to discuss the readoption with amendments of Chapter 30, the Evaluation of the Performance of School Districts, which is on today’s agenda. She further stated we also discussed the Department’s review of the current State ESSA Plan and some of the changes that the Department intends to explore.

Ms. Bobrove also stated the Policy Committee met again on July 1, 2024, to discuss the readoption with amendments of Chapter 30, the Evaluation of the Performance of School Districts. She further stated since this topic is on today’s agenda, she will forgo her full report.

Ad Hoc Committee

Nedd Johnson, chair of the Ad Hoc Committee, stated the Ad Hoc Committee met on March 19, 2024, to discuss public testimony procedures. He stated the State Board is required by the Administrative Procedure Act to receive public comment on all rulemakings under its authority, and that the State Board may receive comments through oral or written testimony, per the statute. He further stated it is important to note that the State Board is not required to hold Open Topic Sessions, per any regulation or statute. Dr. Johnson stated that, because we have certain procedures that must be used for public testimony, the committee was charged with discussing current procedures used by the State Board for public testimony and any possible changes that may be needed, and making recommended changes to the full State Board to implement to the public testimony process going forward.

Dr. Johnson stated a survey was conducted with the entirety of the State Board. He further stated the committee recommends that the members of the State Board amend its oral public comment and open topic public testimony procedures policy so that it may begin an estimated 30 minutes following the conclusion of the regular public business meeting agenda rather than at 2:00 p.m. He further stated the committee recommends the removal of the previously established two-hour time limit. He stated they feel that these minor changes will assist in a more efficient and effective process.

Resolution to Amend State Board of Education Public Comment and Open Topic Public Testimony Procedures

Whereas, the New Jersey State Board of Education recognizes its responsibility as the entity authorized to enact statewide policy governing the supervision and control of public education in this State; and

Whereas, within that responsibility, it is the State Board’s duty to make its statewide policy enactments, including those pertaining to rulemaking, subject to comment from the public; and

Whereas, the Administrative Procedure Act requires that the State Board receive public comment on a rulemaking during the formal comment period; and

Whereas, in addition to accepting written public comment on rulemaking, the State Board previously established a process for accepting oral public comment on rulemaking from the public,

Whereas, the State Board also has established a process for scheduling three open topic public testimony opportunities each year; and

Whereas, that policy implementing a process to allow for oral public comment on rulemaking and to schedule separate open topic public testimony sessions before the State Board was originally adopted on September 2, 1987; and revised on June 6, 2012, and March 6, 2013; and

Whereas, the State Board has currently deemed it necessary to reconsider its policy for oral public comment on rulemaking and open topic public testimony sessions; now therefore be it

Resolved, that the members of the New Jersey State Board of Education amend its oral public comment and open topic public testimony procedures policy so that it may begin an estimated 30 minutes following the conclusion of the regular public business meeting agenda rather than at 2:00 pm; and be it further

Resolved, that the members of the New Jersey State Board of Education further amend its oral public comment and open topic public testimony procedures policy and remove the previously established two-hour time limit; and be it further

Resolved, that this policy will take effect immediately beginning with the first public testimony session following adoption of this resolution.

Commissioner’s Reports

There were no Commissioner’s reports.

Items for Consideration

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

- *A. Appointments** - There were no appointments.
- *B. Certification of School District**
 - 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.

Districts	County
Closter Public School District	Bergen
East Rutherford School District	Bergen
Ho-Ho-Kus School District	Bergen
Lodi School District	Bergen
Mahwah Township Public School District	Bergen

Montvale Board of Education School District	Bergen
Woodcliff Lake School District	Bergen
Burlington County Institute of Technology School District	Burlington
Cumberland County Board of Vocational Education	Cumberland
Clearview Regional High School District	Gloucester
Clinton Township School District	Hunterdon
Clinton-Glen Gardner School District	Hunterdon
Hampton Borough School District	Hunterdon
Lebanon Borough School District	Hunterdon
East Windsor Regional School District	Mercer
Area Vocational Technical School District of Mercer County	Mercer
Millstone Township School District	Monmouth
Green Township School District	Sussex
Stanhope School District	Sussex
Cranford Public School District	Union
Hackettstown Public School District	Warren

***C. Resolution to Accept Donated Funds**

- Adopted the following resolution approving the acceptance of donated funds, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-26.

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 from two separate and distinct sources; and

Whereas, the funds are provided to the Department of Education, Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf to use to support the Drama Club; and

Whereas, a donation in the amount of \$25.00 was given by Denise Ross; and

Whereas, a donation in the amount of \$50.00 was given by Joan P. Krasinsky; and now therefore but it

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

D. Evaluation of the Performance of School Districts

- Discussed the readoption with amendments pertaining to monitoring and evaluation of school districts, set forth in Chapter 30, Evaluation of the Performance of School Districts pursuant to P.L. 2005, c. 235, P.L. 2007, c. 16, and N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-1 et seq.

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 July 10, 2024, public meeting at 11:56 a.m.

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