

**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  
June 5, 2024**

**Presiding:** Kathy Goldenberg, President

**Secretary:** Kevin Dehmer, Acting Commissioner

**Present Constituting a Quorum**

Mr. Andrew Mulvihill

Mr. Jack Fornaro

Ms. Mary Beth Berry

Ms. Elaine Bobrove

Dr. Nedd Johnson

Ms. Mary Bennett

Ms. Jeanette Peña

**Absent**

Dr. Ronald Butcher

Mr. Arcelio Aponte

Dr. Joseph Ricca

Ms. Sylvia Sylvia

Ms. Fatimah Burnam-Watkins

**Convening**

State Board of Education President Kathy Goldenberg convened the public meeting at 9:16 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 June 5, 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 June 5, 2024.

### **Reconvening**

President Kathy Goldenberg reconvened the open meeting at 10:16 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 Mary Beth Berry.

### **Welcome**

President Goldenberg stated the State Board meetings are accessible to the public for viewing on the 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 approved the minutes of the public meeting conducted on May 1, 2024.

### **President's Reports**

#### **Public Testimony**

President Goldenberg stated that for the month of June, the State Board will receive public testimony on the proposed amendments to Chapter 5, Regulatory Equivalency and Waiver and Chapter 23A, Fiscal Accountability, Efficiency and Budgeting Procedures (Subchapters 16-22). For the month of July, the State Board will receive public testimony on the resolution to revise the implementation schedule for the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) in Mathematics.

### **Resolution in Honor of Mary Beth Gazi**

President Goldenberg stated she would like to honor her former colleague, Mary Beth Gazi, who faithfully served as a board member since July 2017.

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board unanimously approved the following resolution read by state board President Goldenberg.

#### **Resolution in Honor of Mary Beth Gazi**

**Whereas**, Ms. Mary Beth Gazi served with distinction as a member of the New Jersey State Board of Education from July 2017 through January 2024 and is being honored for her distinguished tenure of service; and

**Whereas**, Ms. Gazi strongly believed in the State Board of Education's role and responsibility in the development of education policy; and

**Whereas**, Ms. Gazi contributed significantly to the work of the State Board through her service on various committees that examined critical issues in public education related to student assessment, special education, teacher certification, school choice and career and technical education; and

**Whereas**, Ms. Gazi, as a member of the Career and Technical Education Committee, consistently advocated for the provision of high-quality programs aimed at ensuring and enhancing viable career opportunities for all of New Jersey's students; and

**Whereas**, Ms. Gazi, a long-standing member of the Policy Committee is held in high regard by the State Board of Education for her ability to analyze educational policy and issues and to effectively express her concerns regarding their impacts on all of New Jersey's children; and

**Whereas**, the State Board of Education and the Acting Commissioner of Education, Kevin Dehmer, recognize Ms. Gazi's many accomplishments and appreciate her qualities as an astute, forward-looking policymaker and strategic thinker that help guide the board to enact education policy that effectuated meaningful change and supported successful practices in New Jersey's public education system; now therefore be it

**Resolved**, it is both fitting and proper that the New Jersey State Board of Education and the Acting Commissioner of Education extend their sincerest gratitude to Ms. Gazi for her leadership and steadfast commitment to the children of New Jersey through her service on the State Board of Education; and be it further

**Resolved**, the New Jersey State Board of Education and the Acting Commissioner of Education hereby honor Ms. Mary Beth Gazi for devoting her time and energy to the State Board and to the oversight of public education in New Jersey.

### **Welcome of the Permanent Student Representative**

President Goldenberg stated that this year's student representative to the board is Nilanjana (Nillie) Ghosh, a junior at West Windsor-Plainsboro High School in Mercer County. She further stated this is Nillie's last meeting as the student representative and that Nillie has some final words for us.

Nilanjana (Nillie) Ghosh reflected on her experiences and the growth she has made throughout the past year as the 2023-2024 permanent student representative.

President Goldenberg expressed her deepest appreciation to Miss Ghosh for serving as the student representative for the State Board for the past year and wished her continued academic as she enters her senior year.

### **Resolution in Honor of Nilanjana Ghosh, the 2023-2024 State Board Permanent Student Representative**

President Goldenberg stated that the State Board and the Commissioner would like to consider a ceremonial resolution in honor of Nilanjana Ghosh, the 2023-2024 Permanent Student Representative to the State Board.

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board unanimously approved the following resolution read by state board member Mary Beth Berry.

## **Resolution in Honor of the 2023-2024 Permanent Student Representative, Nilanjana Ghosh**

**Whereas,** Nilanjana Ghosh, a student at West Windsor–Plainsboro High School North in Mercer County, has served with dedication as the student representative to the New Jersey State Board of Education from June 2023 to June 2024; and

**Whereas,** Nilanjana has performed her duties as the State Board’s liaison to the student community with commitment and has been an admirable representative of both the New Jersey Association of Student Councils and West Windsor-Plainsboro High School North; and

**Whereas,** Nilanjana participated in State Board meetings by making presentations which were articulate, informative, well-examined and a benefit to the State Board members; and

**Whereas,** Nilanjana’s school career demonstrates that she is an accomplished student of academics and her leadership activities and community services on the local and state level demonstrate that others have confidence in Nilanjana and value her contributions; now therefore be it

**Resolved,** that the members of the New Jersey State Board of Education and Acting Commissioner of Education Kevin Dehmer extend their sincere congratulations and appreciation to Nilanjana Ghosh for a job well done; and be it further

**Resolved,** that the New Jersey State Board of Education and the Acting Commissioner of Education wish to acknowledge Nilanjana Ghosh’s personal and academic excellence, as well as her leadership qualities, and that they wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

Acting Commissioner Dehmer thanked Miss Ghosh on behalf of the Department of Education and the State Board for serving as the student representative to the State Board for the past year. He stated that her commitment to the role and to ensuring the student voice is at the forefront and has been helpful to our work during the past year.

Acting Commissioner Dehmer extended her gratitude to Nillie’s advisors, Mr. Matthew Gore and Ms. Christine Newbury, whose help and guidance this year have been invaluable and greatly appreciated by all at the Department.

### **Report of the State Board Nominating Committee**

Mrs. Mary Beth Berry, chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the committee’s nominations for the 2024-2025 school year: Mrs. Kathy Goldenberg for president and Dr. Nedd Johson for vice president. The vote will occur next month. State Board members Mr. Arcelio Aponte and Mrs. Elaine Bobrove also served on the committee.

### **State Board Committee Reports**

#### **SEL Committee**

Fatimah Burnam-Watkins, chair of the SEL Committee, was not in attendance today. In her absence, President Goldenberg stated the committee met on May 16, 2024, to discuss the new discipline data on the use of restraint and seclusion in the state. She stated the information is expected to be released publicly following this meeting.

#### **Policy Committee**

Elaine Bobrove, chair of the Policy Committee, stated the Policy Committee met on May 28, 2024. to discuss the straight readoption without amendments of Chapter 21, the Marie H. Katzenbach

School for the Deaf regulations, and a resolution to review the timeline for implementation of the 2023 New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Mathematics from September 2024 to September 2025. She stated since this information is on today’s agenda, she will forego details of the report.

**Discussion Resolution to Amend State Board of Education Public Testimony Procedures**

This discussion was tabled.

**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.

<b>Districts</b>	<b>County</b>
Alpine Public School District	Bergen
North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District	Hunterdon
East Windsor Regional School District	Mercer
Branchburg Twp. School District	Somerset
Bridgewater-Raritan Regional School District	Somerset
Hillsborough Twp. Public School District	Somerset
Watchung Hills Regional High School District	Somerset
Franklin Tw. School District	Warren

**\*C. Resolution to Adopt the Annual State Board Calendar of Meeting Dates**

- Adopted the resolution establishing the annual calendar of 2024-2025 meeting dates of the State Board of Education set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:1-22, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-7 and 10:4-6 et seq.

**Annual Calendar of State Board Meeting/Public Testimony Dates**

**Whereas**, N.J.S.A. 18A:4-7 states that, the State Board of Education shall hold public meetings at least once each month at such times as its rules may prescribe and at such other times

and such places within the state as in its judgment may be necessary, but no meeting may commence later than 8:00 p.m.; and

**Whereas**, N.J.A.C. 6A:1-2.2 requires that such meetings be held at such time, place, and on such dates as established by the State Board, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., Open Public Meetings Act, and notice of such meetings shall be made in a manner consistent with the law; now therefore be it

**Resolved**, that the State Board establishes the following dates for its monthly business meetings and public testimony sessions for the 2024-2025 school year and directs that a copy of the dates be sent to the Governor, the Secretary of State, the news media, the executive county superintendents, and the State Board agenda subscribers.

**Regular Public Business Meetings/Public Testimony Sessions 2024-2025**

July 10	November 6	March 5
August 7	December 4	April 2
September 4	January 8	May 7
October 2	February 5	June 4

**\*Open Topic Testimony Sessions 2024-2025**

\*September 4      \*January 8      \*May 7

**\*\* Alternate Board Meeting Dates in the Event of Snow Cancellations**

\*\*December 11      \*\*January 15      \*\*February 12      \*\*March 12

Notice of State Board meeting changes in the above will be made in compliance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act.

**\*D. 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 four separate and distinct sources; 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 \$25.00 was made by Thomas and Diane Montemorano; and

**Whereas**, a donation in the amount of \$50.00 was made by William Merrihew Jr.; and

**Whereas**, a donation in the amount of \$100.00 was made by Janice L. Nierstedt-Keegan; and

**Whereas**, a donation in the amount of \$1,500.00 was made by the Lions Club of Warren Township Foundation; now therefore be it

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

**\*E. Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf**

- Approved the readoption without amendments of the rules at N.J.A.C. 6A:21; Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-15, and 18A:61-2(d).

**\*F. Regulatory Equivalency and Waiver**

- Approved for publication in the *New Jersey Register* 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.

**G. Resolution to Amend the 2023 New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) Mathematics Curriculum Implementation Schedule**

- Discussed the resolution to revise the New Jersey Student Learning Standards implementation timeline established for mathematics, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-2.1(a).

**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 June 5, 2024, public meeting at 11:15 a.m.

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