

**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
May 1, 2024**

Presiding: Kathy Goldenberg, President

Secretary: Kevin Dehmer, Acting Commissioner

Present Constituting a Quorum

Mr. Andrew Mulvihill

Dr. Ronald Butcher

Mr. Arcelio Aponte

Mr. Jack Fornaro

Ms. Mary Beth Berry

Dr. Nedd Johnson

Dr. Joseph Ricca

Mrs. Elaine Bobrove

Ms. Fatimah Burnam-Watkins

Ms. Mary Bennett

Ms. Jeanette Peña

Absent

Ms. Sylvia Sylvia

Convening

State Board of Education President Kathy Goldenberg convened the public meeting at 9:15 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 May 1, 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 May 1, 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 Mary Bennett.

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 Meeting

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board members approved the minutes of the public meeting conducted on April 3, 2024. State Board members Arcelio Aponte and Mary Beth Berry abstained.

President's Reports

Public Testimony

President Goldenberg stated that for the month of May, the State Board will receive open topic public testimony, in addition to testimony on the proposed amendments to Chapter 12, Interdistrict Public School Choice. For the month of June, the State Board will receive public testimony on the Regulatory and Waiver Code and Chapter 23A, Fiscal Accountability, Efficiency and Budgeting Procedures (subchapters 16-22).

Welcome of the Permanent Student Representative

President Goldenberg introduced the State Board of Education's permanent student representative, Miss Nilanjana (Nillie) Ghosh. Miss Ghosh is a rising junior at West Windsor Plainsboro High School North.

Ms. Nilanjana Ghosh (Nillie) spoke about the end of year celebrations happening in the schools by way of the Student Council. She introduced the incoming student representative, Anna Paszkiewicz, a junior at Palmyra High School in Burlington County and her advisor, Ms. Kelly Jones.

Resolution in Recognition of Physical Fitness and Sport Month in New Jersey

President Goldenberg requested that the State Board adopt a ceremonial Resolution in Recognition of Physical Fitness and Sport Month in New Jersey. The State Board unanimously adopted the following resolution read by Mary Beth Berry recognizing the Physical Fitness and Sport Month in New Jersey.

Resolution in Recognition of Physical Education Fitness and Sports Month in New Jersey

Whereas, childhood obesity has reached epidemic proportions in the United States; and

Whereas, today's childhood obesity rates are putting our children on course to be the first generation in this country to live shorter and less healthy lives than their parents; and

Whereas, children spend many of their waking hours on their devices or at school, and therefore need to be active during the school day to meet the recommendations of the Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans; and

Whereas, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recommends that young people aged 6–17 years participate in at least 60 minutes of physical activity daily; and

Whereas, N.J.S.A. 18A:35-7 and 8 require all students in grades 1-12 to participate in at least two and one-half hours per week in health, safety and physical education; and

Whereas, research shows that physically active children are more likely to thrive academically and have improved behavior in school; and

Whereas, research shows that regular physical activity in childhood and adolescence improves strength and endurance, helps build healthy bones and muscles, helps control weight, reduces depression, anxiety and stress, increases self-esteem, increases academic performance, improves behavior, leads to better school attendance and may improve blood pressure and cholesterol levels; and

Whereas, schools can promote physical activity through comprehensive school physical activity programs, including recess, classroom-based physical activity, intramural physical activity clubs, interscholastic sports, and physical education; and

Whereas, participation in sports teams and physical activity clubs can improve grade point average, school attachment, educational aspirations, and the likelihood of graduation; and

Whereas, higher physical fitness levels are associated with better school attendance rates and fewer disciplinary incidents involving drugs, alcohol, violence or truancy; and

Whereas, the New Jersey State Board of Education strongly supports efforts to increase physical education, physical activity and participation in youth sports, recognizes the month of May as National Physical Education and Sports Month; now therefore be it

Resolved, that the New Jersey State Board of Education and Acting Commissioner of Education acknowledge the week of May 1-7, 2024, as National Physical Education and Sports

Week and recognize National Physical Fitness and Sports Month and the central role of physical education and sports in creating a healthy lifestyle for all children in the State of New Jersey.

President Goldenberg stated that Mr. Bruce Peragallo, Executive Director of the New Jersey Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (NJAPERD), is here today to accept the resolution and to say a few words.

Selection of the State Board Nominating Committee

President Goldenberg announced the members of the State Board Nominating Committee. She stated Mary Beth Berry will serve as Chair of the committee and State Board members Arcelio Aponte and Elaine Bobrove will serve on the committee. She stated the committee will present the slate of officers for the 2024-2025 school year at the June 5, 2024 meeting and in accordance with the bylaws the elections for the State Board leadership will be held after June 30.

State Board Annual Calendar Announcement

President Goldenberg stated that a list of State Board meeting dates and public testimony schedule for 2024-2025 are included in the agenda, and she asked that the Board share their thoughts on the dates as they will vote on the resolution to adopt the dates at the June 5, 2024 monthly public meeting. She further stated that included are four alternative dates in the winter months (Dec., Jan., Feb. and March) for the third Wednesday, in the event of weather cancellations.

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

**December 11	**January 15	**February 12	**March 12
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State Board Committee Reports

Policy Committee

Elaine Bobrove, chair of the Policy committee, stated that the committee met on April 24, 2024. She stated they discussed the readoption with amendments of Chapter 5, Regulatory Equivalency and Waiver.

She stated this chapter lives in the State Board Office and grants the Commissioner the authority to provide some flexibility to regulations, except for the certification rules (Chapter 9s) and special education rules (Chapter 14). She further stated this chapter is very technical in nature and the amendments are not big policy changes. Ms. Bobrove stated the proposal is on today's agenda at first discussion, so she will forgo providing a full report.

Commissioner’s Reports

Recognition of the 2023 Milken Honorees

Acting Commissioner Kevin Dehmer stated that next week is Teacher Appreciation Week and that today we are honoring three outstanding teachers.

Acting Commissioner Dehmer stated that this past October, the New Jersey Department of Education had the pleasure to surprise these three extraordinary New Jersey teachers with Milken awards of \$25,000. The educators honored today are Ms. Riley Gartland of Cinnaminson School District, Ms. Virginia Fasulo of Lodi School District, and Ms. Taylor Trost, of East Windsor Regional School District.

Mr. Jordan Schiff, Assistant Commissioner, provided brief remarks and presented 2023 Milken award winners Virginia Fasulo, Riley Gartland and Taylor Trost with an obelisk.

Items for Consideration

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

*A. Appointments

- Approved the following appointment(s) pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-32-35 and N.J.A.C. 6A:2-1.1 et seq.:
 - Mr. Thomas McMahon, Director, Office of Fiscal Policy and Planning, Division of Finance and Business Services.

*B. Certification of School Districts

- 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
Readington Township School District	Hunterdon
Warren Township School District	Somerset

*C. Religious Holidays Calendar Resolution

- Adopted the following resolution pertaining to the annual calendar of religious holidays for the 2024-2025 school year as established at N.J.A.C. 6A:32-8.3(j), pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:36-14 to 16.

2024-25 School Year Observances

July 2024

Date	Observance
July 2	Foundation Stone of Shri Akal Takht Sahib Ji (Sikh)

July 7	1 st Muharram (Islamic New Year, Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
July 7-16	Ashara Mubaraka (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
July 9	Martyrdom of the Bab (Baha'i)
July 16	Yawm Aashura (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
July 17	Ashura (Islam)
July 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guru Purnima • Asalha Puja Day (Buddhist)

August 2024

Date	Observance
August 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fast in Honor of the Holy Mother of Lord Jesus (Eastern Orthodox Christian) • Lammass (Christian and Wicca)
August 6	Transfiguration of the Lord (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
August 9	Naga Panchami (Hindu)*
August 13	Tish'a B'Av (Jewish)
August 14-16	Obon (Buddhist)
August 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Catholic Christian) • Dormition of the Theotokos (Orthodox Christian)
August 18	Ullambana (Buddhist)
August 19	Raksha Bandhan (Hindu)*
August 25	Chehlum Imam Hussain (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
August 26	Krishna Janmashtami (Hindu)*
August 31-September 7	Paryushan (Jain)*

September 2024

Date	Observance
September 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecclesiastical Year begins (Eastern Orthodox Christian) • First Prakash Shri Guru Granth Sahib Ji (Sikh)
September 5-17	Onam (Hindu)*
September 6	Ganesh Chaturthi (Hindu)*
September 7	His Holiness Sakya Trizin's Birthday (Buddhist)
September 8	Nativity of Mary (Christian)
September 15	Maulid al-Nabi (Islam, Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
September 19	Urus-Syedna Mohammed Burhanuddin (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
September 21	Nativity of the Theotokos (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
September 23	Mabon (Wicca/Pagan)
September 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jyoti Jot Guru Nanak Dev Ji (Sikh) • The Elevation of the Holy Cross (Eastern Orthodox Christian)

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October 2024

Date	Observance
October 3	Feast of Trumpets (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
October 3-4	Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)
October 3-12	Navaratri (Hindu)*
October 7	Milad Imam-uz-Zamaan (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
October 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yom Kippur (Jewish) Day of Atonement (Christian, Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
October 17-23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sukkot (Jewish) Feast of Tabernacles (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
October 20	Installation of the Scriptures as Guru Granth Sahib (Sikh)
October 23	Milad Syedna Mohammed Burhanuddin (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
October 24	Last Great Day (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
October 24-25	Sh'mini Atzeret (Jewish)
October 25	Simchat Torah (Jewish)
October 31	Samhain (Wicca)

November 2024

Date	Observance
November 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Saints Day (Christian) Bandi Chhor Diwas (Sikh) Diwali (Hindu, Jain, Puja and Deepavali)*
November 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Souls' Day (Christian) Birth of B'ab (Bah'i) Goverdhan Puja (Hindu)*
November 3	Birth of Baha'u'llah (Bah'i)
November 15	Nativity Fast begins (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
November 21	The Presentation of the Theotokos to the Temple (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
November 24	Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur (Sikh)
November 25	Day of Covenant (Baha'i)
November 27	Guru Nanak Dev Ji Birthday (Sikh)
November 28	Ascension of 'Abdul'l Baha (Baha'i)

December 2024

Date	Observance
December 1	First Sunday of Advent (Christian)

December 8	Bodhi Day (Buddhist)
December 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immaculate Conception (Christian) •
December 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yule (Wicca and Christian) • Martyrdom of Wadde Sahibzade (Sikh)
December 25	Christmas (Christian)
December 25-January 2	Hanukkah (Jewish)
December 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zarathosht Diso (Zoroastrian) • Martyrdom Chotte Sahibzade (Sikh)

January 2025

Date	Observance
January 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gantan-sai (Shinto) • Mary, Mother of God (Catholic Christian)
January 3-10	Holy Convocation (Church of God and Saints of Christ)
January 5	Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh Sahib (Sikh)
January 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feast of Epiphany (Christian) • Feast of Theophany (Eastern Orthodox Christian) • Nativity of Christ (Armenian Orthodox)
January 7	Feast of the Nativity (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
January 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maghi-Lohri (Sikh) • Foundation of Shri Darbar Sahib (Maghi)
January 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Makar Sankranti and Pongal (Hindu)* • Ayyam al Beez (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
January 18	Urus – Syedna Taher Saifuddin (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)
January 19	World Religion Day (Baha’i)
January 26	Yawm al-Mab’ath (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
January 27	Lailat al Miraj (Islam)*
January 29	Chinese/Lunar New Year (Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist)
January 31-February 9	Midwinter Ceremonies (Native American)*

February 2025

Date	Observance
February 1	Imbolic-Candlemas (Wicca and Christian)
February 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Presentation of Our Lord to the Temple (Eastern Orthodox Christian) • Vasant Panchami (Hindu)*
February 10-12	Jonah’s Passover (Eastern Orthodox Church)

February 13	Tu B'shvat (Jewish)
February 14	Lailat al Bara'ah (Islam)*
February 15	Nirvana Day (Buddhist)
February 26	Maha Shivaratri (Hindu)*
February 26 – March 1	Intercalary Days (Baha'i)
February 28-March 30	Ramadan (Islam)

March 2025

Date	Observance
March 3	Clean Monday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
March 4	Shrove Tuesday (Christian)
March 5	Ash Wednesday (Christian)
March 10	Govinda Dwadashi (Hindu)*
March 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holika Dahan (Hindu)* • Palm Sunday • L. Ron Hubbard's Birthday (Church of Scientology)
March 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holi (Hindu)* • Meena Sankranthi (Hindu)* • Purim (Jewish)
March 15-16	Hola Mohalla (Sikh)*
March 18	Shahadat – Amirul Mumineen (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
March 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naw-Ryz (Baha'i) • Nowruz (Zoroastrian) • Ostara (Wicca)
March 21-22	Laylatul Qadr (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
March 22	Milad Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
March 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Annunciation of the Theotokos (Eastern Orthodox Christian) • The Annunciation of the Virgin Mary (Christian)
March 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Khordad Sal (Zoroastrian) • Laylatul Qadr (Islam)*
March 28	Aakhir Jumo'a (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
March 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Souramana Yugadi (Hindu)* • Chandramana Yugadi (Hindu)* • Eid al-Fitr (Islam, Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*

April 2025

Date	Observance
April 6	Ramnavami (Hindu)*
April 10	Mahavir Jayanti (Jain)*
April 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hanuman Jayanti (Hindu)*

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lazarus Saturday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 12-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passover (Jewish) • Passover (United Church of God) • Passover/Days of Unleavened Bread (Church of God and Saints of Christ)
April 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaisakhi (Sikh) • First Day of Unleavened Bread (Church of God) • Theravadin New Year (Buddhist) • Palm Sunday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 13-19	Days of Unleavened Bread (Philadelphia Church of God)
April 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lord's Evening Meal (Christian, Jehovah's Witness) • Holy Thursday (Christian, Eastern Orthodox Christian))
April 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prakash Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji (Sikh) • Holy Friday (Christian, Eastern Orthodox Christian) • The Last Friday of the Great Lent (Eastern Orthodox Church)
April 19	Last Day of Unleavened Bread (Church of God)
April 20	Easter (Christian, Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easter Monday (Christian) • First Day of Ridvan (Baha'i) • Bright Monday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
April 23-29	Memorial Feast of the Lords Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread (Church of God and Saints of Christ)
April 25	The 11 th Panchen Lama's Birthday (Buddhist)
April 29	Ninth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)

May 2025

Date	Observance
May 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beltane (Wicca) • Twelfth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
May 3	Yom Ha'Azmaut (Jewish)
May 5	Buddha's Birthday/Buddha Day*
May 12	Visakha Puja (Buddhist)
May 16	Lag B'Omer (Jewish)
May 23	Declaration of the Bab (Baha'i)
May 28	Ascension of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)
May 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascension of Our Lord (Christian) • Feast of Ascension (Eastern Orthodox Christian)

June 2025

Date	Observance
June 1-3	Shavuot (Jewish)
June 4-9	Hajj Day (Islam)*
June 5	Yawm al-Arafa (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
June 6	Eid al-Adha (Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
June 7	Eid al-Adha (Islam)*
June 8	Pentecost (Christian, Eastern Orthodox Christian)
June 14	Eid-e-Ghadeer (Muslim, Islam Dawoodi Bohra)*
June 16	Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Sahib (Sikh)
June 20	Litha (Wicca)
June 16	Fast of the Holy Apostles (Eastern Orthodox Christian)

***D. Chapter 14, Special Education**

- Approved the amendments to the rules at N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.9 and 5.1, pertaining to the provision of related services to students with disabilities, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-15, 18A:7B-1 et seq., 18A:7C-1 et seq., 18A:7F-1 et seq., 18A:39-1.1, 18A:40-4, 18A:46-1 et seq., and 18A:46A-1 et seq.; and U.S. P.L. 93-112, § 504; 94-142; 99-457; 101-476; 105-17; and 108-446. 18A:20-36; 18A:26-10; 18A:28-8; 18A:29-4 and 14; 18A:33-2; 18A:38-1 and 13; 18A:39-28 et seq.; 18A:54-4; and 18A:60-1; P.L. 2007, c. 260; and P.L. 2012, c. 26.

E. Chapter 5, Regulatory Equivalency and Waiver

- Discussed 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. The State Board members unanimously approved a motion by State Board member Mary Bennett and seconds by State Board member Ronald Butcher to move the rulemaking to proposal level at the June 5, 2024, meeting.

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 May 1, 2024, public meeting at 11:21 a.m.

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