

**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**  
**November 5, 2025**

**Presiding:** Kathy Goldenberg, President

**Secretary:** Kevin Dehmer, Commissioner

**Present Constituting a Quorum**

Dr. Ronald Butcher

Mr. Arcelio Aponte

Mrs. Mary Beth Berry

Ms. Mary Bennett

Ms. Jeanette Peña

Dr. Claudine Keenan

Mr. Ahmed Shehata

**Absent**

Dr. Nedd Johnson

Dr. Joseph Ricca

Mr. Jack Fornaro

Ms. Elaine Bobrove

**Convening**

State Board of Education President Kathy Goldenberg convened the public meeting at 9:20 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 November 5, 2025, 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 November 5, 2025.

### **Reconvening**

President Goldenberg reconvened the open meeting at 10:02 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 State Board member 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 October 8, 2025.

### **President's Reports**

#### **Public Testimony**

President Goldenberg did not make any formal announcements regarding public testimony, however, for the months of November and December the State Board will not hold public testimony as there are no educational topics for discussion.

#### **Permanent Student Representative**

President Goldenberg stated that this year's student representative to the board is Kailynn DuRose, a junior at East Brunswick High School in Middlesex County, and that her advisor is Bonnie Benkard.

Miss DuRose spoke about the importance of teaching new technology and building policies around Artificial Intelligence (AI) usage for students.

### **State Board Committee Reports**

#### **Instructional Policy Committee Meeting**

Dr. Nedd Johnson, Chair of the Instructional Policy Committee, was not present. Ex-Officio, chair, and Kathy Goldenberg, stated that the committee met on October 20, 2025, to begin a series of

discussions on the draft revisions to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. She further stated they discussed two content areas – Career Readiness, Life Literacies and Key Skills or (CLKS) and Science. President Goldenberg stated that since this item is on today's agenda for discussion, she will refrain from providing a longer report.

### **Resolution in Recognition of Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Membership Month in New Jersey**

President Goldenberg requested that the State Board adopt a resolution recognizing November as Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Membership Month in New Jersey.

The State Board unanimously adopted the following resolution read by State Board member Ronald Butcher recognizing November as Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Membership Month in New Jersey.

### **Resolution in Recognition of Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Membership Month in New Jersey**

**Whereas**, the New Jersey Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is an association advocating for the benefit of children's education and well-being by focusing attention on issues affecting youth and public education; and

**Whereas**, for more than 125 years, the New Jersey PTA has served the needs of children, teachers, parents, and schools through active volunteerism; and

**Whereas**, the New Jersey PTA promotes family engagement in schools and communities, advocates for public education, and provides a network of local, State, and national voices speaking together on behalf of all children; and

**Whereas**, among the millions of members of the National PTA, the New Jersey PTA has more than 91,000 members in more than 600 local PTAs; and

**Whereas**, the strength of the PTA lies in its membership -- the volunteers who tirelessly devote themselves to making the world better for children and youth; now, therefore, be it

**Resolved**, that the New Jersey State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education encourage everyone to become advocates for children and show their support for their local PTA or the Garden State PTA, which is the Statewide local PTA; and be it further

**Resolved**, that the New Jersey State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education commend the hardworking individuals and members serving in their local, State, and national roles in PTA and recognize November 2025 as New Jersey PTA Membership Month.

President Goldenberg introduced Ms. Jackie Gibbs, President, New Jersey Parent Teacher Association (PTA) to accept the resolution.

### **Petition for Rulemaking – David Fishkin – Special Education**

President Goldenberg stated that the State Board of Education received a petition for rulemaking on August 29, 2025, from David Fishkin. She stated the petitioner requested amendments to Chapter 14, Special Education, to reduce the age at which a student with a disability is invited to attend, and participate in, the meeting of the individualized education program (or IEP) team to discuss transition services for the student. She further stated the Commissioner and she reviewed the petition and determined that the proper course of action is to deny the request because the existing

regulations at N.J.A.C. 6A:14 allow a student to be invited to an IEP team meeting younger than age 14, if appropriate. President Goldenberg stated more details regarding this petition may be found on the Department's website at [www.nj.gov/education/code/petitions/final/25/](http://www.nj.gov/education/code/petitions/final/25/).

## **Commissioner's Reports**

### **Snap Benefits Announcement**

Commissioner Dehmer stated that the SNAP Benefits Program many of our students and families receive is being delayed and in response, Governor Phil Murphy has created a task force to coordinate State efforts to help address the needs of our students and families who are facing hunger. He further stated the delay in getting those SNAP benefits out to those individuals impacts approximately 300,000 students directly and with the holiday and half days coming up in the month of November, school meals are a main source of food to students. Commissioner Dehmer stated the Department of Education is working closely with all our partner agencies to help address this need both directly and indirectly and to serve in any role we can. He made a request for monetary donations as well as contributions to food banks. He also encouraged anyone able to offer their time to volunteer efforts. He stated that the Department will continue to put resources on its web page to share and update information over the next several days. He further requested school districts to help in any way possible to support students in their community.

### **Resolution in Recognition of New Jersey Blue Ribbon Schools**

Commissioner Dehmer requested that the State Board adopt a resolution recognizing eleven schools as 2025 New Jersey Blue Ribbon Schools.

The State Board unanimously adopted the following resolution read by State Board member Jeanette Peña recognizing eleven schools as 2025 New Jersey Blue Ribbon Schools.

#### **Resolution in Recognition of New Jersey Blue Ribbon Schools**

**Whereas**, the New Jersey Department of Education identified nine public schools and the Council for American Private Education identified two private schools that met the federal requirements for the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program in 2025, and all 11 schools successfully completed the application process with the United States Department of Education and were certified in August 2025 as meeting the requirements to be recognized as 2025 National Blue Ribbon Schools; and

**Whereas**, nine of the nominated New Jersey schools were identified in the Exemplary High Performing Schools category, one of the schools was identified in the Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing category, and one of the schools was identified in both the Exemplary High Performing and Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing categories based on 2023-2024 school performance; and

**Whereas**, the United States Department of Education notified states on August 29, 2025, of the discontinuation of the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program; now, therefore, be it

**Resolved**, that the New Jersey State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education recognize the following 11 schools as 2025 New Jersey Blue Ribbon Schools based on their exemplary performance:

#### **Exemplary High Performing**

Bergen County Technical High School – Teterboro  
Mansion Avenue School, Audubon  
Ridgewood Avenue School, Glen Ridge  
Liberty High School, Jersey City  
Littlebrook Elementary School, Princeton  
Hatikvah International Academy Charter School  
Indian Hill School, Holmdel  
The Elisabeth Morrow School, Englewood  
Our Lady of Czestochowa School, Jersey City

**Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing**

Ventnor Elementary School, Ventnor

**Exemplary High Performing and Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing**

Roosevelt School, Lodi

**Items for Consideration**

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

**\*A. Appointments**

- There were no appointments.

**\*B. Certification of School Districts**

- There were no districts for certification.

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

- Adopted the resolution approving the acceptance of \$150.00 in donated funds from the Toms River Jazercise Organization.

**\*D. Student Transportation**

- Adopted the amendments to N.J.A.C. 6A:27, Student Transportation, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-15 and 18A:39-1, and P.L. 2023, c. 326 and P.L. 2024, c. 81.

**\*E. State Board of Examiners and Certification**

- Approved for publication in the *New Jersey Register* the amendments to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7.5, 14.3, and 14.4 to add a valid multistate registered professional nurse license issued by the licensing board of a state that is a member of the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) as an option for the required professional license, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-15 and 18A:40-3.6, 3.7, 3.8, and 3.9; and N.J.A.C. 1:30-4.2(a)3.

**F. Resolution to Adopt the New Jersey Student Learning Standards**

- Discussed the readoption of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards as revised, specifically, Career Readiness, Life Literacies and Key Skills and Science, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-2.1.

**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 November 5, 2025, public meeting at 11:28 a.m.

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