



State Board of Education Elects President and Vice President for 2011-12 Academic Year

For Immediate Release

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The State Board of Education has re-elected Arcelio Aponte as president and Mr. Ilan Plawker as vice president for the 2011-12 academic year, at the July meeting.

A resident of Piscataway, Aponte has served on the State Board since 2005. He previously served as vice president from 2006 until being elected president in 2010.

"I am very proud of the work the State Board has accomplished during the past several years and I am eager to work with my fellow board members, Acting Commissioner Cerf and the Department of Education's leadership to continue to make great strides in public education," Aponte said. "It is imperative that we prepare students to be successful in school and to be able to work in a 21st century economy driven by information, knowledge and innovation."

Aponte is the director of operations and management for the City of Newark's Department of Economic and Housing Development. He holds a master of arts in business administration from Rutgers University and a bachelor of science in electronic engineering technology from The College of New Jersey.

Vice President Plawker was appointed to the State Board in 2009 and has also recently been nominated to serve on the National Association of State Board's of Education (NASBE) Board of Directors for the Northeastern Area Directors.

"The education of all our children is the single most important function of government. We are committed as a Board to closing the extant achievement gap. That is our mission and I certainly am excited to be part of the process." He said.

Plawker lives in Englewood Cliffs and is now retired from his own creative marketing business. He is married, has three sons and seven grandchildren, all residents of New Jersey.

He served in the U.S. Marines during the Korean Conflict and then attended Columbia University on the GI Bill. He currently is serving his sixth term as an Englewood Cliffs Councilman. He previously served for fifteen years on the Englewood Cliffs Board of Education.

The State Board is responsible for adopting the administrative code, which sets the rules needed to implement state education law. The 13-member board is appointed by the Governor with advice and consent of the New Jersey Senate. Members serve six-year terms without compensation.



The State Board of Education recently held elections for officers to serve during the 2011-2012 school year. Arcelio Aponte, right, was re-elected to serve as president. Ilan Plawker, left, was elected to serve as vice president.



Former Board Vice President Ronald Butcher, left, congratulates Ilan Plawker as the newly elected vice president of the State Board of Education.



Ilan Plawker, newly elected vice president of the State Board of Education.