

New Jersey State Board of Education
Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of the New Jersey State Board of Education
December 2, 2020

Presiding: Kathy Goldenberg, President

Secretary: Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed.D., Acting Commissioner

Present Constituting A Quorum

Mrs. Mary Beth Berry
Mrs. Elaine Bobrove
Mrs. Fatimah Burnam-Watkins
Mr. Jack Fornaro
Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Gazi
Dr. Nedd J. Johnson
Mr. Andrew Mulvihill
Dr. Joseph Ricca
Mrs. Sylvia Sylvia-Cioffi

Absent

Mr. Arcelio Aponte
Dr. Ernest Lepore
Dr. Ronald Butcher

Convening

State Board of Education President Kathy Goldenberg convened the public meeting at 9:09 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 insure 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, 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 December 2, 2020, 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 December 2, 2020.

Reconvening

President Kathy Goldenberg reconvened the open meeting at 10:09 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

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 November 4, 2020. State Board member Fatimah Burnam-Watkins abstained.

President's Reports

President Goldenberg welcomed everyone to the State Board's virtual meeting and extended her best wishes on behalf of the State Board that all are safe and healthy.

Public Testimony

President Goldenberg stated that the State Board would receive testimony today on the readoption with amendments pertaining to Chapter 16, Programs to Support Student Development. She also stated that going forward the State Board would only accept written testimony on administrative code items currently pending before the State Board.

Report of the Permanent Student Representative

President Goldenberg introduced and welcomed the State Board of Education's permanent student representative, Sabrina Capoli. Sabrina is a senior at Seneca High School in Burlington County. President Goldenberg stated that Sabrina would not provide a report this month.

State Board Committee Reports

Social Emotional Committee

Fatimah Burnam-Watkins, chair, Social Emotional Committee, stated that the Social Emotional Committee met on October 28, 2020. She stated that the State Board members in attendance via Microsoft Teams for the meeting, including herself, were Kathy Goldenberg, ex officio, Mary

Beth Berry, and Elaine Bobrove. Ms. Burnam-Watkins also stated that the Department staff in attendance were Acting Commissioner Angelica Allen-McMillan, Paula Bloom, Kelly Allen, Diane Shoener, Beth Auerswald and Stephanie Russo.

Mrs. Burnam-Watkins stated that they met to discuss the Department's concerns surrounding the emotional well-being of our students. She stated the Department has put together a compilation of resources targeted toward how educators and parents can help students during this uncertain time. Mrs. Burnam-Watkins stated some of the data centered around student's anxiety, depression and potential increased suicide rates that are similar to data collected after Hurricane Sandy. She stated the data showed impact of trauma, job loss, and increases in substance abuse and child abuse. She stated the Department partnered with law enforcement to make sure they were on top of and aware of the numbers that are surging at this time. Mrs. Burnam-Watkins stated that the Department collaborated with the Department of Children and Families, the Department of Health, education associations and county offices, and they have added resources the Department's website. She stated there has been a lot of positive feedback on the resources that are available. Mrs. Burnam-Watkins stated they talked about the need to reach out to the school teams who are expressing the stress that teachers are experiencing since last spring with all that has been happening in their world as educators. She stated the Department facilitated a series of community meetings where they met with school teams and provided them with instruction in a place of collaboration and community support around all things social and emotional. She stated they discussed how educators can build upon their social and emotional skills, as well as how students can increase their skills. Mrs. Burnam-Watkins stated they talked about a few of the initiatives that the Department is working on. She stated they are focusing on the school climate survey, which was developed in 2012 and since has been revised to better align with things like growth mindset, empathy, relationships and student voice. She stated it is a research-based survey in which they are in a partnership with Rutgers University, and they will be giving us an update on the data from the school climate survey. Mrs. Burnam-Watkins stated they are also working on the "Handle with Care" initiative, which is a collaboration between the Department, the Office of the Attorney General, and law enforcement. A symposium took place on November 17 that provided a toolkit that introduces SEL competencies and on how to embed SEL in instruction. She stated the goal is to build out foundational support and planning, and to strengthen adult SEL competencies and capacity to promote SEL with their students. She stated that the committee talked about how they can increase SEL resources for parents since they are home with their children a lot more. She stated that the committee discussed not only how to teach educators and school leaders, but how to engage parents so they recognize some of the signs of trauma and can be educated about the available tools and resources. She also stated they talked about ways of engaging with students directly and ways to partner with the State Board's student representative, Sabrina Capoli. She stated that Sabrina could reach out to students so the committee can better understand how students are doing while living in the virtual/hybrid world, and how it is affecting their social and emotional learning and what needs they have that may have been missed. Mrs. Burnam-Watkins stated that she is looking forward to scheduling a follow up meeting to learn about the symposium, as well as discussing ways they can build out plans for 2021.

Assessment Committee

President Goldenberg stated that the Assessment Committee met on November 18, 2020, and that Mr. Arcelio Aponte, chair would provide a report at the next meeting.

Commissioner's Reports

Annual Report of the State Operated School District of Camden

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan welcomed Katrina McCombs, Superintendent of Camden City School District, to the State Board meeting.

Ms. McCombs presented a report to the State Board members outlining the vision, initiatives and supports in place in the Camden City School District. The presentation included the vision for the district and why as well as the district's priorities and goals. The four overarching priorities include accelerating student achievement; ensuring great teachers and staff are in all roles; building safe schools for 21st century success; and ensuring a financially responsible and fiscally sustainable school district. Ms. McCombs also presented the highlights and gaps for the last 18 months. Ms. McCombs also presented progress in the areas of instruction and programs and fiscal management as noted by increased performance over time using the State monitoring tool (DPR) of the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum.

Items for Consideration:

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

***A. Appointments**

- Approved the following appointment pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-32-35 and N.J.A.C. 6A:2-1.1 et seq.:
 - Ms. Hanifa Barnes, Esq, Chief of Staff, effective December 14, 2020

***B. Certification of School Districts**

- There were no districts for certification.

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

- Adopted the following the resolution approving the acceptance of up to \$10,215 in donated funds.

Resolution to Accept Donated Funds

Whereas, the Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf, administered by the New Jersey Department of Education, is the recipient of donations to meet the needs of students resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic; and

Whereas, N.J.S.A. 18A:4-26 requires the approval of the New Jersey State Board of Education in order for the Commissioner of Education to accept donated funds; and

Whereas, donations totaling \$8,415 were made this school year from Sorenson, the Lions Katzenbach Committee, and the Katzenbach Alumni Association, through the Katzenbach Foundation, for seven laptop computers; and

Whereas, donations totaling \$1,800 were also made by the Katzenbach Parents Staff Education Foundation for the purchase of 20 accounts for an online platform; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the New Jersey State Board of Education approves the acceptance of \$10,215 in donated funds listed for the aforementioned specified purposes for the 2020-2021 school year.

***D. Resolution to Approve Appointments to the State Board of Examiners**

- On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board adopted the resolution approving the appointment(s) and reappointments to the State Board of Examiners in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:6-34 and 35.

Resolution to Approve Appointments to the State Board of Examiners

Whereas, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-38, the State Board of Examiners is responsible for issuing, revoking and suspending educational certificates under rules prescribed by the State Board of Education; and

Whereas, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-34, members of the State Board of Examiners are appointed by the Commissioner of Education with the approval of the State Board of Education; and

Whereas, the Acting Commissioner, after consulting with members of the education community, has recommended the re-appointments of seven members to the Board of Examiners and appointment of two new members; and

Whereas, the persons whom the Acting Commissioner has recommended have established a reputation for distinguished service in their profession; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the State Board of Education hereby approves the reappointments and appointments of the following persons:

Dr. Jonathan Dauber
High School Principal
West Windsor – Plainsboro School District
Term Expires September 2022

Ms. Kristen Ludman
Teacher

Pemberton School District
Term Expires September 2022

Ms. Thelma Ramsey
Elementary School Principal
East Orange School District
Term Expires September 2022

Ms. Suzana Roque Zeitz
Teacher
Woodbridge School District
Term Expires September 2022

Mr. Derek Jess
School Business Administrator
Perth Amboy School District
Term Expires September 2022

Dr. Mary Jane McNally
Librarian
Bernards Township School District
Term Expires September 2022

Ms. Dayna Desiderio Orlak
Teacher
Waldwick School District
Term Expires September 2022

Mr. AbdulSaleem Hasan
Superintendent Type I
East Orange School District
Term Expires September 2022

Ms. Melissa Pearce
Interim Executive County Superintendent
Hudson County
Term Expires September 2022

D. Programs to Support Student Development

- Discussed the proposed readoption with amendments at Chapter 16 to establish policies and procedures and to operate programs to support the social, emotional, and physical development of students pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 2A:4A-60, 2C:33-19, 18A:4-15, 18A:17-46, 18A:25-2, 18A:36-5.1, 18A:36-19, 18A:36-19a, 18A:36-25, 18A:37-1 through 12, 18A:37-13 et seq., 18A:38-25 through 31, 18A:40A-7.1, and 18A:46A-1 et seq.; 20 U.S.C. § 1232g, 20 U.S.C. § 1232h, and 20 U.S.C. § 1400; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Health Insurance and Portability and

Accountability Act; and the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (P.L. 115-141).

New Business

There was no new business.

Public Testimony

The State Board did not accept written testimony today as there were no administrative code topics scheduled for testimony.

Adjournment

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education adjourned its December 2, 2020, public meeting at 12:27 p.m.

Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed.D., Acting Commissioner
Acting Secretary, N.J. State Board of Education