

**New Jersey State Board of Education**  
**Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of the New Jersey State Board of Education**  
**August 3, 2022**

**Presiding:** Kathy Goldenberg, President

**Secretary:** Dr. Angelica Allen-McMillan, Acting Commissioner

**Present Constituting a Quorum**

Mr. Andrew Mulvihill  
Mrs. Elaine Bobrove  
Mrs. Mary Beth Berry  
Mr. Jack Fornaro  
Dr. Joseph Ricca  
Dr. Nedd Johnson  
Mrs. Mary Beth Gazi  
Mrs. Sylvia Sylvia

**Absent**

Dr. Ronald Butcher  
Mrs. Fatimah Burnam-Watkins  
Dr. Ernest Lepore  
Mr. Arcelio Aponte

**Convening**

State Board of Education President Kathy Goldenberg convened the public meeting at 9:10 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 August 3, 2022, 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 August 3, 2022.

### **Reconvening**

President Kathy Goldenberg reconvened the open meeting at 11:11 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**

President Goldenberg welcomed the public and thanked everyone for joining the State Board for another virtual meeting.

### **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 July 6, 2022. State Board member Nedd Johnson abstained.

President Goldenberg stated that she requested some adjustments in the typical order of the agenda. She stated the board would first address the proposed regulatory changes to the rules at Chapters 9, 9A, 9B and 9C and then proceed in the normal course of the remaining items on the agenda beginning with the President's report. She asked the Commissioner to begin with Item C, Professional Standards.

### **Items for Consideration**

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

#### **C. Chapter 9, Professional Standards**

- Discussed the readoption with amendments to the rules pertaining to educator preparation, certification, and professional development at N.J.A.C. 6A:9, Professional Standards, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-15, 18A:6-34, 18A:6-38, 18A:26-2.7; and P.L. 2013, c.68.

#### **D. Chapter 9A, New Jersey Educator Preparation Programs**

- Discussed the readoption with amendments to the rules pertaining to educator preparation, certification, and professional development at N.J.A.C. 6A:9, Professional Standards, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-15, 18A:6-34, 18A:6-38, 18A:26-2.7; and P.L. 2013, c.68.

**E. Chapter 9B, Board of Examiners and Certification**

- Discussed the readoption with amendments to the rules pertaining to educator certification at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B, State Board of Examiners and Certification, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-15, 18A:6-34 and 38, and 18A:26-1, 2.7, and 10; and P.L. 2012, c. 11.

**F. Chapter 9C, Professional Development**

- Discussed the readoption with amendments to the rules pertaining to professional development at N.J.A.C. 6A:9C, Professional Development, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-15, 18A:6- 128, 18A:26-2.7 and 10, and P.L. 2012, c. 11.

**Commissioner’s Reports**

**Annual Report of the State Operated School District of Camden**

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan welcomed State Superintendent Katrina McCombs, who provided the annual report on Camden City School District growth and progress and the plan to continue to move the district forward.

Superintendent McCombs introduced her executive leadership team and the board of education members present below prior to making her presentation:

**Executive Leadership Team**

Katrina McCombs, State Superintendent  
Ray Coxe, School Business Administrator  
Samantha Price, General Counsel  
Marilyn Martinez, Chief Schools Officer  
Allison Hester Solomon, Chief Talent Officer

**Board of Education Members**

Minister Wasim Muhammad, President of the Board  
N’Namdee Nelson, Vice President of the Board

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan stated that Superintendent McCombs may now proceed with her presentation to the State Board.

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 as well as the district’s priorities and goals. The four overarching priorities include increasing student achievement in English Language Arts and Mathematics as well as improving the Graduation Rate; improving and increasing staff retention; increasing and improving family accessibility to resources; and continuing to increase and improve fiscal sustainability and resources to the district schools. Ms. McCombs also presented the highlights and gaps including the first clean Audit Report since 2015, the transportation contract to ensure all students will be bussed to school and the balanced budget. Ms. McCombs also presented progress in the areas of instruction and programs as noted by increased performance over time using the State monitoring tool (DPR) of the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum.

## **President's Reports**

### **Public Testimony**

President Goldenberg stated that the State Board will receive written testimony on the proposed readoption of the School Ethics Commission regulations. She further stated that in September, the State Board will receive Open Public testimony on any educational topic of choice as well as testimony on the second discussion of the readoption of Chapter 9 (Professional Standards), 9A (New Jersey Educator Preparation Programs), 9B (State Board of Examiners and Certification) and 9C (Professional Development).

### **Report of the Permanent Student Representative**

President Goldenberg introduced the State Board of Education's permanent student representative, Miss Lauren Knopp. Miss Knopp is a rising senior at Ocean High School in Cape May county. She asked Miss Knopp to present her report for the month of August.

Miss Knopp discussed her experience at the annual Leadership Training Conference (LTC) held in July. She stated the feedback she received from the program was positive and that the favorite among the attendees was the event planning workshop. She further stated the most important part of the LTC is the family aspect and that the staff, consisting of NJASC executives and prior LTC attendees, are very close to each other and celebrate every success of their coworkers. She stated she is excited to see it continue and that student leaders have struggled with the absence of direction from their predecessors on basic protocols within school districts.

## **State Board Committee Reports**

### **Policy Committee**

Ms. Elaine Bobrove, chair of the Policy committee, stated that the committee met with Department staff on July 20, 2022 to discuss the upcoming readoption of Chapter 9C, which relates to professional development. She stated they reviewed Chapter 9C and the proposed changes to the chapter. She further stated the proposed rulemaking was discussed today, and she looks forward to the continued discussions with the Department, the committee, and full State Board.

### **Policy Committee**

Ms. Elaine Bobrove, chair of the Policy committee, stated that the committee met with Department staff on July 27, 2022 to discuss the upcoming readoption of Chapter 9B, which relates to the Board of Examiners and certification of teachers, administrators, and educational services personnel. She stated the Policy committee and Department staff reviewed Chapter 9B and the proposed changes to the chapter and also had a follow-up discussion about a few items in Chapters 9 and 9C.

### **Assessment Committee**

Mr. Arcelio Aponte, chair of the Assessment committee, was not in attendance. President Kathy Goldenberg, ex-officio, stated that the committee met with Department staff on July 27, 2022 to discuss the upcoming administration of the Start Strong assessment in September. She stated the Department

reviewed the type of student-level data that will be available to teachers and administrators in real time, and they also discussed the need to administer it again in the 2022-2023 school year to have a better view of where and how the COVID-19 pandemic and related disruptions continue to impact student learning. She further stated the Department also reviewed the change in state law that resulted in the spring administration of the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment (NJGPA) being a field test, and due to the new law, students in the class of 2023 – our rising seniors – will not be required to pass the NJGPA, a substitute competency test or a portfolio appeal to graduate.

### **Petition for Rulemaking**

**Petition for Rulemaking-17 Petitioners** American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey; Disability Rights New Jersey; Education Law Center; Make the Road New Jersey; NAACP New Jersey State Conference; Newark Communities United for Accountable Policing; New Jersey Institute for Social Justice; New Jersey Policy Perspective; New Jersey Coalition for Bullying Awareness and Prevention; New Jersey Communities United; NJ21United; People’s Organization for Progress; Save Our Schools NJ; Social-Emotional Learning Alliance for New Jersey (SEL4NJ); SPAN Parent Advocacy Network; Students for Prison Education, Abolition and Reform; The Inclusion Project; The Kennedy Forum; and The School Culture and Climate Initiative.

President Goldenberg stated that on May 10, 2022, the New Jersey State Board of Education (State Board) received a petition for rulemaking from 17 petitioners, requesting the State Board and Commissioner of Education (Commissioner) amend N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.1 to promulgate regulations on the use of State categorical security aid provided, pursuant to the School Funding Reform Act (SFRA) at N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-56, to all school districts for the exclusive purpose of implementing effective school safety measures. She stated the petitioners requested that chapter 16 be amended to prescribe the specific allowable uses for security aid based on the current research on effective staffing, programs, and other interventions and to prohibit school districts from using security aid on specified expenditures. She further stated the petitioners also requested that chapter 16 be amended to require the following: the allocation of security aid by school districts to support implementation of their school safety plans; a collaborative decision-making process between school districts and families, students, educators, community partners, and other stakeholders to review school climate data and determine how security aid will be allocated to create a safe and supportive learning environment; the collection of data on the specific uses and expenditures of security aid by the Department of Education (Department), on an annual basis, from school districts; and the Department’s publication of the data and other relevant information collected on data districts’ security aid uses and expenditures in a timely manner. She stated a notice acknowledging receipt of the petition was published in the June 20, 2022, New Jersey Register at 54 N.J.R. 1200(a). President Goldenberg stated the petition has been considered and for various reasons described in detail on our Petitions for Rulemaking webpage, the petitioner’s request is denied.

### **Items for Consideration—(continued)**

*\*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.:
  - Ms. Jennifer Killough-Herrera, Executive Director, Division of Legal and External Services

- Mr. Gilbert Gonzalez, Director, Division of Teaching and Learning 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. State Board member Elaine Bobrove abstained.

<b>Districts</b>	<b>County</b>
Alpine	Bergen
Bergen Co. Spec. Serv.	Bergen
Cliffside Park	Bergen
Fair Lawn	Bergen
Glen Rock	Bergen
Northvale	Bergen
Wallington	Bergen
Bordentown Reg.	Burlington
Chesterfield Twp.	Burlington
Delran	Burlington
Florence Twp.	Burlington
Hainesport Twp.	Burlington
Mansfield Twp.	Burlington
Clementon	Camden
Haddon Twp.	Camden
Avalon	Cape May
Elk Twp.	Gloucester
Bloomsbury	Hunterdon
Delaware Valley Reg. HS	Hunterdon
East Amwell Twp.	Hunterdon
Hunterdon Central Reg. HS	Hunterdon
Kingwood Twp.	Hunterdon
Milford	Hunterdon
South Hunterdon Regional	Hunterdon
East Brunswick	Middlesex
Metuchen	Middlesex
Milltown	Middlesex
Monroe Twp.	Middlesex
Sayreville	Middlesex
South Brunswick	Middlesex
South River	Middlesex
Freehold Reg.	Monmouth
Manasquan	Monmouth
Matawan-Aberdeen Reg.	Monmouth
Bedminster Twp.	Somerset

## **New Business**

Dr. Joseph Ricca stated his concerns with the notification to the field by July 13 broadcast and the requirement of the mandated Start Strong assessment. He stated the scores from the last assessment in the spring won't even be back to school districts before the start of the window of the Start Strong administration begins. He stated the Department is discounting the fact that many school districts implement their own benchmark testing annually in the beginning of the school year to measure learning loss. He stated that in addition, there is a very small window in which to administer this test in an already short month that also includes holidays many districts observe. He stated he would like to know why this is being required and how is the data going to be used, and would like the Department of Education to consider allowing the administration of the Start Strong assessment only if a school district cannot demonstrate that they have a benchmarking assessment in place. He further stated that why not have the Department offer the Start Strong assessment for districts who haven't yet implemented a local benchmark assessment, and have the districts that already have assessments in place sign a statement of assurance and upload their results. Dr. Ricca stated that when feedback from the field is given to the Department, it appears that barriers are being put up in answering questions and no changes are being made.

Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan stated that due to the learning loss from the pandemic, the Department has a responsibility to understand the landscape and it's very difficult to gauge where students are if we are not requiring the Start Strong in all school districts as the Department cannot rely on what is self-reported. She stated giving teachers real time reporting at the State level is an advancement of what we were able to do in the past. She further stated it also allows us to look longitudinally at the data and although some may be disgruntled by this decision, the needs of the state must be paramount in looking at the effects of the pandemic. She stated Start Strong is a measure of data in the beginning of the school year that complements the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment (NJSLA) summative data at the end of the school year.

## **Public Testimony**

The State Board received written testimony on the proposed readoption of the School Ethics Commission regulations.

## **Adjournment**

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board of Education adjourned its August 3, 2022, public meeting at 4:14 p.m.

---

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