

**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
June 3, 2026**

Presiding: Kathy Goldenberg, President

Secretary: Dr. Lily Laux, Commissioner

Present Constituting A Quorum

Dr. Nedd Johnson
Mr. Arcelio Aponte
Dr. Joseph Ricca
Ms. Mary Beth Berry
Ms. Mary Bennett
Ms. Jeanette Peña
Dr. Claudine Keenan

Absent

Dr. Ronald Butcher
Mr. Jack Fornaro
Mr. Ahmed Shehata
Mr. James Williams

Convening

State Board of Education President Kathy Goldenberg convened the public meeting at 9:16 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 June 3, 2026, 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 June 3, 2026.

Reconvening

President Goldenberg reconvened the open meeting at 10:03 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 Claudine Keenan.

Welcome

President Goldenberg stated the State Board meetings are accessible to the public for viewing on the 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 May 6, 2026. Vice President Nedd Johnson and Board member Arcelio Aponte abstained.

President's Reports

Public Testimony

President Goldenberg stated that there is no public testimony this month as there are no educational topics for discussion.

President Goldenberg stated that will hold three regional public testimony sessions on corrections to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in four content areas: Career Readiness, Life Literacies and Key Skills, Computer Science and Design Thinking, World Languages, and Visual and Performing Arts as well as the New Jersey Preschool Teaching and Learning Standards.

The *Northern Regional Public Hearing* will be held at Hudson County Community College on Tuesday, June 16, 2026. Members of the public seeking to testify in person may register online by noon on Thursday, June 11, 2026.

The *Southern Regional Public Hearing* will be held at Camden County College on Tuesday, June 23, 2026. Members of the public seeking to testify in person may register online by noon on Thursday, June 18, 2026.

The *Central Regional Public Hearing* will be held at the Department of Education here in Trenton on Wednesday, July 1, 2026. Members of the public seeking to testify in person may register online by noon on Thursday, June 25, 2026.

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. She further stated this is Kailynn's last meeting as the student representative and that Kailynn has some final words for us.

Kailynn reflected on her experiences during her term as permanent student representative to the State Board of Education.

Resolution in Honor of Kailynn DuRose, the 2025-2026 State Board Permanent Student Representative

President Goldenberg stated that the State Board and the Commissioner would like to consider a ceremonial resolution in honor of Kailynn DuRose, the 2025-2026 Permanent Student Representative to the State Board.

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the State Board unanimously approved the following resolution read by State Board President Kathy Goldenberg.

Resolution in Honor of Kailynn Durose, the 2025-2026 Permanent Student Representative to the New Jersey State Board of Education

Whereas, Kailynn DuRose, a student at East Brunswick High School in Middlesex County, has served with distinction as the student representative to the New Jersey State Board of Education (State Board) from July 2025 to June 2026; and

Whereas, Kailynn has steadfastly and effectively fulfilled her responsibilities as the State Board's liaison to the student community and has represented both the New Jersey Association of Student Councils (NJASC) and East Brunswick High School with the utmost professionalism and authenticity; and

Whereas, Kailynn contributed meaningfully to State Board meetings through monthly presentations that were student focused, informed by research and analysis, and relevant to the work of the State Board; and

Whereas, Kailynn actively engaged student leaders and other peers to inform her monthly State Board presentations, which included topics such as high school start times, student opinion of tests and assessments, student advocacy for parameters and support to navigate artificial intelligence (AI), and the benefits of block scheduling; and

Whereas, Kailynn further elevated the student voice by offering her insights as a panelist alongside members of the State Board at the New Jersey School Boards Association's Workshop 2025, as well as the opening speaker for the State Board's session at the New Jersey Education Association's annual conference in 2025; and

Whereas, Kailynn has demonstrated her leadership abilities by not only taking advantage of every opportunity afforded to her as the State Board student representative but also

by creating exceptional moments to share the New Jersey student perspective, including meeting education advocate and Nobel Peace Prize recipient Malala Yousafzai; and

Whereas, Kailynn’s academic career, extracurricular activities, community service and innovative spirit demonstrate that Kailynn is an accomplished student and a respected student leader locally and on the State level; now therefore be it

Resolved, that the members of the New Jersey State Board of Education and Commissioner of Education Dr. Lily Laux extend their sincere congratulations and appreciation to Kailynn DuRose for a job well done; and be it further

Resolved, that the New Jersey State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education commend Kailynn DuRose for her personal and academic achievements, as well as her dedicated service, and that they wish her continued success in all of her future endeavors.

Commissioner Laux extended her gratitude to Kailynn’s advisor, Ms. Bonnie Benkard, whose help and guidance this year have been invaluable and greatly appreciated by all at the Department.

Report of the State Board Nominating Committee

Ms. Jeanette Peña, chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the committee’s nominations for the 2026-2027 school year: Mrs. Kathy Goldenberg for president and Mrs. Mary Bennett and Mrs. Jeanette Peña for vice president. The vote will occur next month. State Board members Dr. Claudine Keenan and Mr. Ahmed Shehata also served on the committee.

State Board Committee Reports

Administrative Policy Committee Meeting

State Board member Mary Bennett, chair of the Administrative Policy Committee, stated that the committee met on May 28, 2026, to discuss a resolution to adopt a revised Praxis content knowledge assessment specifically for middle school social studies. Since this item is on today’s agenda, I will forego a detailed report.

Instructional Policy Committee Meeting

Vice President Nedd Johnson, chair of the Instructional Policy Committee, stated that the committee met on May 28, 2026, to discuss the revisions to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Science. The committee also discussed the corrections to the proposed New Jersey Student Learning Standards documents in four content areas: Career Readiness, Life Literacy and Key Skills (CLKS), Computer Science, Innovation and Society (CSIS), World Languages and Visual and Performing Arts. Since both topics are on today’s agenda, I will forego a detailed report.

School Visits

President Goldenberg stated this month State Board members once again had the opportunity to accompany Commissioner Laux on visits to schools across the state. She stated she would like to again offer my thanks to Commissioner Laux for the invitations and to the host school district of Lower Cape May. She further stated we were so warmly welcomed into the schools to observe the wonderful opportunities provided for students.

Commissioner’s Reports

Honoring the Lighthouse Districts

Commissioner Lily Laux stated that The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) launched the Lighthouse Awards program in 2017 to recognize the advancements made by New Jersey Local Education Associations towards educational improvement and equitable outcomes. She further stated that New Jersey recognizes a new cohort of Lighthouse LEAs every two years and today's group of nine LEAs comprise the fifth cohort.

Dr. Jorden Schiff, Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Teaching and Learning, introduced this year's recipients and provided brief remarks. Commissioner Laux and President Goldenberg presented Paterson Charter School for Science and Technology, Penns Grove-Carney's Point School District, Saddle Brook Public School District, Emerson Public School District, Hamilton Township School District, Lower Cape May Regional School District, Salem City School District and South Hunterdon Regional School District with plaques.

New Jersey Learning Standards Presentation

Commissioner Laux stated that she was presenting corrections to selected New Jersey Student Learning Standards. She also stated that following the release of draft standards last fall, issues were identified across four content areas—Career Readiness, Life Literacies and Key Skills, Computer Science, Innovation and Society, World Languages, and Visual and Performing Arts that may have made changes appear more extensive than intended, or create some confusion about what was new, revised, or unchanged.

She further stated that the corrections address those concerns by improving clarity, accuracy, and transparency and reflects our commitment to ensuring that educators, families, and stakeholders can clearly and confidently understand the standards under review.

Commissioner Laux stated these corrected documents are posted on our website and available for comment through July 31, 2026.

Commissioner Laux introduced Jorden Schiff, Assistant Commissioner and Lisa Haberl Executive Director, for the Division of Teaching and Learning Services who provided an overview of the necessary corrections to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

Monthly Literacy Update

Commissioner Laux stated that the Learning Equity and Academic Recovery Team recently planned a professional development training experience attended by the county office staff in order to provide feedback. She stated that she had planned to bring that information to the State Board this month. She further stated she would plan it for a future meeting where she would talk through the various training opportunities developed for teachers across the state.

Items for Consideration

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

***A. Appointments**

- There were no appointments.

***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 Mary Beth Berry abstained from voting on the Union Township School District in Hunterdon County.

Districts	County
Northvale Public School District	Bergen
Burlington City Public School District	Burlington
Medford Township School District	Burlington
Bethlehem Township School District	Hunterdon
Califon Borough School District	Hunterdon
Delaware Township School District	Hunterdon
Franklin Township School District	Hunterdon
Holland Township School District	Hunterdon
Tewksbury Township School District	Hunterdon
Union Township School District	Hunterdon
Red Bank Borough Public School District	Monmouth
Toms River Regional School District	Ocean
Franklin Township Public School District	Somerset
Frelinghuysen Township School District	Warren
Knowlton Township School District	Warren
Warren Hills Regional School District	Warren
Washington Township School District	Warren

***C. Resolution to Adopt the Annual State Board Calendar of Meeting Dates**

- Adopted the following resolution establishing the annual calendar of 2026-2027 meeting dates of the State Board of Education set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:1-2.2, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-7 and 10:4-6 et seq.

Resolution

Annual Calendar of State Board Meeting/Public Testimony Dates

Whereas, N.J.S.A. 18A:4-7 states that, the State Board of Education shall hold public meetings at least once each month at such times as its rules may prescribe and at such other times and such places within the state as in its judgment may be necessary, but no meeting may commence later than 8:00 p.m.; and

Whereas, N.J.A.C. 6A:1-2.2 requires that such meetings be held at such time, place, and on such dates as established by the State Board, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., Open Public Meetings Act, and notice of such meetings shall be made in a manner consistent with the law; now therefore be it

Resolved, that the State Board establishes the following dates for its monthly business meetings and public testimony sessions for the 2026-2027 school year and directs

that a copy of the dates be sent to the Governor, the Secretary of State, the news media, the executive county superintendents, and the State Board agenda subscribers.

Regular Public Business Meetings/Public Testimony Sessions 2026-2027

July 1	November 4	March 3
August 5	December 2	April 7
September 2	January 6	May 5
October 7	February 3	June 2

****Open Topic Testimony Sessions 2026-2027**

*September 2 *January 6 *May 5

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

**December 9 **January 13 **February 10 **March 10

***D. Resolution to Accept Donated Funds**

- Adopted the resolution approving acceptance of donated funds.

Resolution to Accept Donated Funds

Whereas, the New Jersey Department of Education, Marie H Katzenbach School for the Deaf is the recipient of a donation from Ms. Mary Ann Lenkel; 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, a donation in the amount of \$100.00 was made by Ms. Mary Ann Lenkel. These funds are to provide the Department of Education, Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf to use for student activity funds which are for the sole use of supporting student activities such as field trips, yearbooks and student clubs, now therefore be it

Resolved, that the New Jersey State Board of Education approves the acceptance of the donated funds to the aforementioned specified purposes.

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

- Adopted the amendments to the rules at N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7.5, 14.3 and 14.4, 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**

- Adopted the readoption of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Science as revised, specifically, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-2.1.

Resolution to Adopt the New Jersey Student Learning Standards – Science

Whereas, the New Jersey State Board of Education is empowered, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:4-10, 18A:7C-1, and 18A:7F-4.2 and 46, with the authority to establish the State's educational goals and standards; and

Whereas, the State Board of Education is responsible, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-46.a and N.J.A.C. 6A:8-2.1(a), for initiating every five years a review and readoption process for the New Jersey Student Learning Standards and the Preschool Teaching and Learning Standards based on recommendations by the Commissioner of Education; and

Whereas, the New Jersey Student Learning Standards and the New Jersey Preschool Teaching and Learning Standards define the knowledge, and skills that students need to acquire within their preschool through grade 12 education careers to graduate high school prepared for college and career, success in life, and work in an economy driven by information, knowledge, and innovation; and

Whereas, the Standards Review Committee comprised of kindergarten through grade 12 educators, representatives from higher education, business, industry, and stakeholders Statewide have provided focused expertise in reviewing the New Jersey Student Learning Standards–Science; and

Whereas, the New Jersey Department of Education has fully considered the recommendations of the Standards Review Committee, revised the standards accordingly, and presented them to the State Board of Education for review and adoption; and

Whereas, the State Board of Education reviewed the revised New Jersey Student Learning Standards–Science to ensure that the standards both set expectations for, and meet the needs of, New Jersey's students; and

Whereas, extensive public input was sought and thoughtfully considered through regional testimony sessions and written comments; and now therefore be it

Resolved, that the adoption of the revised New Jersey Student Learning Standards–Career Readiness, Life Literacies and Key Skills, Comprehensive Health and Physical Education, Computer Science and Design Thinking, Social Studies, Visual and Performing Arts, and World Languages and the New Jersey Preschool Teaching and Learning Standards will be addressed in a separate resolution; and be it further

Resolved, the State Board of Education reaffirms its commitment to ensuring the New Jersey Student Learning Standards both set expectations for, and meets the needs of, New Jersey's students and, by adoption of this resolution, hereby directs school districts to integrate the New Jersey Student Learning Standards–Science in kindergarten through grade 12; and be it further

Resolved, the State Board of Education hereby directs that the revised New Jersey Student Learning Standards–Science will serve as standards of quality for public school students in kindergarten through grade 12 programs in New Jersey; and be it further

Resolved, that district boards of education shall fully comply with this resolution by implementing the revised New Jersey Student Learning Standards–Science and aligning their curricula with the revised standards by September 2026; and be it further

Resolved, the State Board of Education commends and expresses its appreciation to the individuals and organizations within the State who have contributed to this revision of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards–Science.

G. Resolution to Adopt the Revised PRAXIS Test and Qualifying Score for Middle School Social Studies

- Discussed the revised Praxis Test and qualifying score for Middle School Social Studies, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B.

**Resolution to Adopt the Revised Praxis Test and Qualifying Score
for Middle School Social Studies**

Whereas, the State Board of Education requires teacher certification candidates to pass appropriate State test(s) of subject matter knowledge in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-8; and

Whereas, the Educational Testing Service (ETS) has revised its Middle School Social Studies test to modernize the content and format to better assess the skills necessary to teach social studies at the middle school level and will replace the current test in use by the New Jersey Department of Education (Department) effective September 1, 2026; and

Whereas, ETS completed a national standard-setting study that included 16 panelists from 10 ETS client states across the country to identify the minimum level of knowledge and skill required for entry into the teaching profession; and

Whereas, ETS has determined that this revised test requires the establishment of a new recommended qualifying score; now therefore be it

Resolved, that the State Board of Education hereby supports and accepts the selection of this revised Praxis test and the establishment of the following qualifying score effective September 1, 2026; and be it further

Praxis Test

Middle School Social Studies (5589)

Qualifying Score

149

Resolved, that the Department will monitor the impact of this revised test and qualifying score on the passing rate for the Middle School Social Studies endorsement and will report any concerns to the State Board of Education.

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 June 3, 2026, public meeting at 11:33 a.m.

Dr. Lily Laux, Commissioner
Secretary, N.J. State Board of Education