



TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: William P. Murphy *William Murphy*

SUBJECT: Appointments and Reappointments to the State Professional Standards and Practices Board for Teaching

DATE: May 27, 2021

AUTHORIZATION(S): *Betty Moran*

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)

Should the Board of Regents approve the appointments and reappointments to the State Professional Standards and Practices Board for Teaching (PSPB)?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State regulation.

Proposed Handling

This issue will come before the Full Board for consideration at its June 2021 meeting, where it will be voted on and action taken.

Procedural History

Terms for members of the PSPB are set forth in section 3.14 of the Rules of the Board of Regents. The Board of Regents appoints members to four-year terms, with the exception of the teacher education student member, who is appointed to a two-year term. PSPB co-chairs are appointed for two-year terms. There are administrator, higher education, P-12 teacher, teacher education student, and public seats on the PSPB.

There are currently six vacancies on the PSPB. One administrative member resigned before the completion of the four-year term, creating a vacancy in the unexpired term. There are also two vacant teacher seats, one vacant public seat, one vacant higher education seat, and one vacant teacher education seat. The individuals below are recommended for appointment to these vacancies. Additionally, there are three current PSPB members recommended for reappointments.

Background Information

The Department is recommending the following appointments and reappointments to the PSPB.

- Brooke Burnett, Juanita Dyer, Amy Hysick, and Sheilah Paul are recommended for four-year appointments to fill two vacant teacher seats, one public seat, and one higher education seat, respectively.
- Amaya DiGiovanni is recommended for a two-year appointment to fill a vacant teacher education seat.
- Cindy Walter is recommended to fill a vacant administrator seat, due to a resignation, that expires on December 31, 2024.
- David Cantaffa (higher education), Amanda Silvestri (teacher), and Keith Wiley (teacher) are current PSPB members who are recommended for reappointment for four-year terms.
- Kathleen Ferguson (teacher), a current PSPB member, is recommended as the co-chair of the PSPB until her term ends on March 31, 2023.

Biographical information on the recommended individuals for appointment and reappointment is included as Attachment A. A list of the current PSPB members is included as Attachment B.

Related Regents Items

Not applicable.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Regents take the following action:

VOTED: That the Board of Regents appoint or reappoint the following individuals to the PSPB pursuant to section 3.14 of the Rules of the Board of Regents and the PSPB Bylaws: Brooke Burnett (teacher), Juanita Dyer (teacher), Amy Hysick (public), and Sheilah Paul (higher education), each for a four-year term commencing July 1, 2021 and expiring June 30, 2025; Amaya DiGiovanni (teacher education student) for a two-year term commencing July 1, 2021 and expiring June 30, 2023; and Cindy Walter (administrator) to complete the unexpired portion of a four-year term commencing July 1, 2021 and expiring December 31, 2024.

VOTED: That the Board of Regents reappoint David Cantaffa (higher education), Amanda Silvestri (teacher), and Keith Wiley (teacher), each for a four-year term commencing July 1, 2021 and expiring June 30, 2025.

VOTED: That the Board of Regents appoint Kathleen Ferguson (teacher) as the P-12 co-chair of the PSPB pursuant to section 3.14 of the Rules of the Board of Regents and the PSPB Bylaws commencing July 1, 2021 and expiring March 31, 2023.

Timetable for Implementation

If approved, the above individuals' terms will commence on July 1, 2021.

**The University of the State of New York The State Education Department
State Professional Standards and Practices Board for Teaching**

Appointments

Brooke Burnett

**Membership Category: Teacher
Ithaca City School District
Ithaca, New York**

Brooke Burnett is a 3rd grade teacher at Beverly J. Martin Elementary School. She has been with this school district for 17 wonderful years, starting out as a 5th grade teacher, then 3rd grade, then as a teacher on special assignment. Her niche is 3rd grade and she is happy to be back in her favorite place.

Ms. Burnett received her Liberal Arts degree from Corning Community College. She was a dual major at Elmira College for Childhood Education and Social Studies. She then earned her master's degree at Elmira College in General Education.

Ms. Burnett has served as the Chair and Co-chair of the Ithaca Teachers Association Social Justice Committee for several years. She worked with students at Ithaca College to develop the Student to Student mentoring program. This program matched college students of color with elementary students at Beverly J. Martin Elementary School. The elementary students and their siblings spent Saturdays learning and playing with college students. Many of the former elementary students still have relationships with their college student mentors, now as adults. She currently mentors future teachers of color at SUNY Cortland for the C.U.R.E. program. She also helps lead all the student teachers from SUNY Cortland placed at Beverly J. Martin Elementary School. She often works with Southside Community Center and GIAC (local community centers) to help with literacy.

When she is not working with students, Ms. Burnett is spending time with her goddaughter, reading, enjoying nature and any excuse to go get coffee or tea!

Juanita Dyer

**Membership Category: Teacher
Syracuse City School District
Syracuse, New York**

Juanita Dyer has been teaching for 25 years in the Syracuse City School District (SCSD). She is an alumni of the district and graduated from Corcoran High School, where she was involved with the Yearbook Committee and Student Government. After graduating from high school, she worked as a bank teller, telephone operator, and machinist at R.E. Dietz, before returning to school to become a teacher.

In 1990, Ms. Dyer attended Education Opportunity Center (EOC) and completed college preparatory courses. She received an Associates in Humanities from Onondaga Community College (OCC) in 1992. In 1994, she earned a B.S. in Elementary Education and an M.S. in Reading in 1996 from SUNY at Oswego.

Ms. Dyer taught grades 2 through 5 at Bellevue Elementary from 1996 to 2005. From 2005 until 2016, she taught ELA, math, social studies, AIS, AVID, and science. In 2016, she began teaching at Grant Middle School, where she taught 6th grade math and 7th grade science. In addition, she has been teaching summer school for the past 22 years.

Currently, Ms. Dyer is teaching 6th grade science as a SyraFuse Fellow Cohort 3, Urban Educator Mentor. She is an STA building representative, 6th Grade Team Leader, AVID Site Team member, Science NYSSLS member, PAR Panel member, and a School Leadership Team member who hosts practicum and student teachers. She is also an after school coordinator and teacher. She is a member of the SCSD Coordinating Committee of Professional Development (CCPD) that provides professional development to SCSD staff. She is currently enrolled in Engaged Classroom PD and Jim Knight's Coaching Institute.

Amaya DiGiovanni
Membership Category: Teacher Education Student
SUNY Geneseo
Geneseo, New York

Amaya DiGiovanni grew up in the small town of Delanson, New York. She attended Lincoln Elementary School in the Schenectady School District from PreK to 4th grade and later moved to Schalmont School District, where she participated in athletics, honor societies, and community service events. Throughout her academic career, she was a determined and hardworking student who enjoyed swimming and reading in her free time.

After graduating top ten in her class in 2020, Ms. DiGiovanni went on to SUNY Geneseo in Geneseo, New York, to study English Adolescent Education. Since she was young, she knew that she wanted to do something in the field of education because she grew up watching her mother teach students and saw the impact that a teacher could have. In her spare time, she has worked as a swim lesson instructor for young kids through the local YMCA and has served as an assistant swim coach for multiple age groups on her home team. She is looking forward to future opportunities to grow as both a person and an educator.

Amy Hysick
Membership Category: Public
New York State PTA
Albany, New York

A lifelong resident of the central NY area, Amy Hysick is certified in both biology and chemistry and proudly teaches science at her alma mater, Cicero-North Syracuse High School in the North Syracuse Central School District. She attended Binghamton University to earn both her Bachelor of Science in Biology and a Master of Arts in Teaching.

While searching for a teaching position, Ms. Hysick worked in an environmental chemistry and microbiology laboratory. She performed chemical analyses on water, soil, and air samples; analyzed municipal drinking water; performed mold investigations and created mold remediation plans; and implemented a protocol for *Anthrax* detection. Though she loved her role as the technical director of the microbiology laboratory, she still longed for the classroom.

Ms. Hysick's teaching adventures began in the fall of 2004, where she embraced the role of lead learner in her classroom. She reads books about pedagogy constantly, goes to professional development sessions often, and is pursuing a Ph.D. in Education with a specialization in Learning, Instruction, and Innovation through Walden University. In her classroom, growth mindset and mastery learning are the priority, and mistakes are opportunities to learn.

Ms. Hysick has been honored as the 2015 North Syracuse District Teacher of the Year, the 2017 NY State Teacher of the Year, 2018 California Casualty Teacher of Excellence, and 2019 PAEMST NY State Finalist. She has served on the NYS PTA's Board of Directors for three years as the Education Coordinator, now serves as the Wellness Coordinator, and will continue to be a strong advocate for all of NY's children.

Sheilah Paul
Membership Category: Higher Education
Dean, Medgar Evers College of CUNY
Brooklyn, New York

Dr. Sheilah Marion Paul, the Founding Dean of the nationally accredited School of Education at Medgar Evers College (MEC) of the City University of New York, is a former Acting Dean, Associate Dean, Department Chair, and Professor of Education. She provides oversight and guidance for the School's undergraduate teacher preparation associate and baccalaureate degrees and certification programs.

Dr. Paul is the Board Chair for the Ella Baker/Charles Romain Child Development Center. She also has primary responsibility for the College's Student Success Academy and its P-12 partnership initiatives. The initiatives include the MEC Brooklyn Pipeline Initiative that enhances the college-ready experiences of P-12 learners, as well as the

College Now and Smart Scholars programs that provide dual-credit opportunities for high school students.

Dr. Paul is an active member of several divisions of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), and made feature presentations at conferences in Trinidad, Jamaica, Grenada, Spain, Italy, Portugal, Dubai, and South Africa. Her peer-reviewed published manuscripts on Outcomes of Students with Disabilities in Developing Countries earned her the invitation as a Speaker to the UN Council Chambers on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in 2014.

Dr. Paul's emphasis on culturally responsive pedagogy aided in the transformation of special education in developing countries, evidenced by her roles on External Advisory Boards, as well as her contributions as Program Developer, Program Reviewer, and Professional Development Workshop Facilitator in several Caribbean countries, with features both on television and in print media. Other international contributions include serving as an Accreditation Assessor for teacher education programs and being one of five International Assessors for the Institutional Accreditation of the University of the West Indies (2019). Nationally, Dr. Paul served as a Program Reviewer for institutional undergraduate and graduate degree teacher preparation programs, and on the New York State Teacher Certification Examinations (NYSTCE) Students with Disabilities Standard Setting Committee. She also worked as a habilitation specialist, counselor, and diagnostician for children, youth, and adults with developmental disabilities in provider agencies in New York City.

After graduating from Brooklyn College with a Bachelor of Arts (honors) in Psychology and English, Dr. Paul completed her graduate studies at Columbia University Teachers College. She holds three Master's degrees: Master of Arts (M.A.) in Developmental Psychology, Master of Education (Ed.M.) and Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.) in Special Education. She earned a Ph.D. in Education with a concentration in Special Education from Columbia University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Paul has a unique blend as a leader, educator, and practitioner: an experienced administrator, teacher educator, special educator, program and institutional accreditation coordinator, as well as a former clinician in educational and psychological assessments, interventions, and habilitation services for individuals with disabilities.

Cindy Walter

Membership Category: Administrator

Executive Director of Career Education TST BOCES

Ithaca, New York

As the Executive Director of Career Education at TST BOCES in Ithaca, New York, Ms. Walter oversees the career and technical education of eight school districts across the region, the PTECH high school, and Adult Education. She is passionate about helping all students use their intelligence to find their purpose and contribution to society.

Ms. Walter believes in the importance of teachers understanding the science behind teaching and being monitored on how to be impactful for students as a whole. She is the mother of four children with all different intelligences and wife to a husband who is in the trades. Through her experience as a mother, wife, teacher, special education coach (bringing best practices to all students), literacy coach, regional staff developer, elementary principal, and now a leader of leaders and program developer, she has developed a deep understanding of the impact of teaching and learning.

It is vital to reach all students and tap into their given intelligence. Intelligence should not be defined one way! If she could impact on one thing over the course of her career, it would be to impact teaching and learning for ALL students and to help them find the career they were meant to be in. This impact starts with engaging students in the essential elements of instruction to spark their interest in learning. Ms. Walter is a continuous learner, a coach and a mentor to help others become the best they can be.

Reappointments

David T. Cantaffa

Membership Category: Higher Education

Associate Provost for Academic Programs, Planning, and Assessment

System Administration of the State University of New York

Albany, New York

David Cantaffa is Associate Provost for Academic Programs, Planning, and Assessment within System Administration of the State University of New York. In this role, he leads the office charged to support all 64 SUNY campuses in their development of academic programs, including through the program registration process via the New York State Education Department. In addition to academic program development, Dr. Cantaffa is a key participant in policy and practice development and implementation for a range of academic matters, and on behalf of SUNY, he regularly represents System Administration within the State and nationally.

Prior to his current position, Dr. Cantaffa served as Assistant Provost for Educator Preparation at SUNY System Administration, through which his focus was educator preparation programs and policies. Prior to his work at SUNY, he served as Assistant Dean for Teacher Education and Director of the Teacher Education Institute for the Graduate School of Education within the University at Buffalo. In addition to his administrative roles, he also served as an adjunct instructor for several education courses, and while at the University at Buffalo, he was a member of the Board (and past chair) of the Enterprise Charter School.

Prior to the University at Buffalo, Dr. Cantaffa began his career in education as a high school biology teacher at The Nichols School. His graduate studies were all completed at the University at Buffalo, where he earned a Ph.D. in Social Foundations of Education, Ed.M. in General Education within the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy, and an M.A. in Biochemistry, as well as completed the

nondegree initial teacher education program. His undergraduate studies were completed at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pennsylvania, where he studied biology and philosophy.

Amanda Silvestri
Membership Category: Teacher
Shenendehowa Central School District
Clifton Park, New York

Amanda Silvestri is originally from Fredericksburg, Virginia. She earned her B.S. in Human Development and Learning from Lynchburg College, and her M.S. in Teacher Education from SUNY Plattsburgh. Immediately following graduation from Lynchburg College, she began her career in elementary education teaching kindergarten at Smith Station Elementary School, located in the Spotsylvania County School District, in Spotsylvania, Virginia. After moving to New York State, Ms. Silvestri became the Director of the Thelma P. Lally Childcare Center in Scotia, New York. In the fall of 2008, she began teaching kindergarten in the Hudson Falls Central School District. Beginning in 2012, she took on the role of kindergarten grade level coordinator. While in this role, she enjoyed working with fellow colleagues to help strengthen and foster faculty and student engagement practices and assist in the process of effective teacher development. During this time, she appreciated her administrative teacher leadership roles in addition to her teaching, as she truly loved to share her limitless passion for teaching and learning with others.

While serving in her role as a kindergarten teacher, as well as her administrative role as grade level coordinator, Ms. Silvestri also created, presented, and participated in a vast array of faculty development initiatives and other professional development opportunities within her district, region, and the State. She served as a mentor teacher within the Hudson Falls Central School District. She was also selected to be a contributing member of the Washington County School District Collaborative in 2015. In addition, she was a member of the Hudson Falls Central School District's Learning Team during this time.

In 2017, Ms. Silvestri began a new role within the Hudson Falls Central School District. She was appointed to the position of Instructional Coach and Coordinator for the district. In this role, her focus was strengthening the literacy programming for the primary grade levels. This new position took her out of the classroom and allowed her to focus on building relationships with teachers throughout the district while supporting their instructional needs.

In 2019, Ms. Silvestri began teaching Fifth Grade in the Shenendehowa Central School District. This role allowed her to continue to pursue her passion for teaching and learning in a new and exciting school district. Currently, she is a member of the Karigon Elementary School's "School Climate and Culture Committee" as well as the School's "Parent Teacher Partnership Committee."

Keith Wiley
Membership Category: Teacher
Houghton Academy
Buffalo, New York

Keith Wiley has taught 7th and 8th grade mathematics at Houghton Academy for 16 years. Prior to that, he was in venture capital and investment banking. In response to growing concern with helping Buffalo's inner-city students pass the New York State Math A Regents exam, Mr. Wiley began tutoring high school students in preparation for the exam. His 100 percent success rate was noticed by parents, students, and members of the Buffalo Board of Education. He has experience teaching all levels of mathematics from 7th grade to college calculus. He has taught in co-teaching environments, 8th grade advanced algebra classes, single gender classes, and semester block schedules.

In 2013, Mr. Wiley led Houghton Academy students, with an 85 percent poverty rate, in the Buffalo City School Middle School Math League competition and toppled one of the top ranked schools in the nation, City Honors. This tremendous accomplishment was recognized and featured on the front page of the Buffalo News Sunday, September 22, 2013 edition entitled, "An Underdog Story of Academic Glory." Four years later, on May 19, 2017, Houghton Academy won the League Championship again. Over the past seven years, Mr. Wiley has served as an Adjunct Professor at Medaille College, teaching math methods for undergraduate and graduate teacher candidates. He has won numerous awards, including the Buffalo News 2014 Outstanding Citizen Award.

Mr. Wiley has a B.A. in Mathematics and Economics from Canisius College, an M.B.A. in Finance from Canisius College, and a Secondary Mathematics certificate from Canisius College.

Appointment as PSPB Co-chair

Kathleen Ferguson
Membership Category: Teacher
Schenectady City School District
Schenectady, New York

Kathleen Ferguson is a National Board-certified 2nd grade teacher in Schenectady City School District. She grew up in Schenectady and proudly graduated from Mont Pleasant High School in 1992. Her college of choice was SUNY Oneonta, where she graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. Upon returning to Schenectady, she attended Sage Graduate School to achieve her Master of Science in Education, became certified in Special Education, and began her career in teaching.

Ms. Ferguson has had a passion for teaching since she joined Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Magnet School of Math, Science, Technology, and Invention as a 1st grade teacher in 1998. She began her career by embracing professional development (PD) and taking

numerous additional PD courses. During this time, she was recognized for her extensive work with videoconferencing through Project VIEW. In 2007, she became a part of the Jessie T. Zoller Elementary School community as a 2nd grade teacher, where she was lucky enough to join the teachers in participating in a grant that enabled her to learn and grow as a literacy educator and to lead PD in literacy. Throughout her career, she has mentored new teachers.

In May 2010, Ms. Ferguson was awarded Teacher of the Year by the Schenectady City School District, which led to her being selected as the 2012 New York State Teacher of the Year. In her role as New York State Teacher of the Year, she had the opportunity to speak at colleges across the State, as well as nationally, and lead PD at numerous conferences. She was fortunate to have several television appearances, including Connect NY with Susan Arbetter and the WMHT American Graduate Project. She has also been named an NEA Pearson Global Learning Fellow and received the California Casualty Award for Excellence. She is a proud member of Delta Kappa Gamma and was recognized as the Delta Kappa Woman of Distinction for her chapter in 2015. Most recently, she was fortunate to participate in a talk with teachers from around the nation hosted by Gerard Robinson called “The Culture of Educating Our Youngest Students” and to post a blog titled “Live, Work, and Play with our Littlest to Build Community” on the CultureFeed website.

As a teacher dedicated to advocating for other teachers and their students, Ms. Ferguson has also had the privilege of collaborating with teachers from around the State on both the New York State Teacher of the Year Council and (previously) on the Commissioner’s Advisory Council at the New York State Education Department. In her spare time, she likes to volunteer for Kitten Angels, read, paint, and spend time with her family.

State Professional Standards and Practices Board for Teaching (PSPB)

2020-2021 PSPB Board Members

<p>April Bedford, Higher Education CUNY Brooklyn College Brooklyn, NY Term Expires: June 30, 2021</p>	<p>Kathleen Briggs, Teacher Lake Placid Elementary School Lake Placid, NY Term Expires: December 31, 2023</p>
<p>Scott Brown, Administrator Leptondal Elementary School Walkkill, NY Term Expires: June 30, 2023</p>	<p>Heather Buskirk, Public Stride, Inc. Scotia, NY Term Expires: June 30, 2024</p>
<p>David Cantaffa, Higher Education State University of New York System Administration Albany, NY Term Expires: June 30, 2021</p>	<p>Frank Chiachiere, Public Trustee, Valley Stream Board of Education Valley Stream, NY Term Expires: June 30, 2023</p>
<p>Ricardo Colon, Teacher UFT Teacher Center Instructional Coach PS/IS 30 Brooklyn, NY Term Expires: June 30, 2024</p>	<p>Kathleen Ferguson, Teacher Jessie T Zoller Elementary School Schenectady, NY Term Expires: March 31, 2023</p>
<p>Andrea Fortin-Nossavage, Teacher Niagara Falls City School District Niagara Falls, NY Term Expires: June 30, 2022</p>	<p>Virginia Goatley, co-chair, Higher Education SUNY Albany Albany, NY Term Expires: June 30, 2024</p>
<p>Julie Gorlewski, Higher Education University of Buffalo Buffalo, NY Term Expires: September 30, 2023</p>	<p>Katie Kurjakovic, Public UFT English Language Learner Specialist and Assistant to Vice President for Education for the United Federation of Teachers New York, NY Term Expires: June 30, 2024</p>
<p>Colleen Lester, Administrator Cambridge Central School District Cambridge, NY Term Expires: June 30, 2023</p>	<p>Edwin Lamboy, Higher Education The City College of New York New York, NY Term Expires: June 30, 2024</p>
<p>Katie Lobato, Teacher Plattekill Elementary School Plattekill, NY Term Expires: November 30, 2022</p>	<p>Angelina Maloney, Administrator Brunswick/Brittonkill CSD Troy, NY Term Expires: June 30, 2024</p>

<p>Dwight Manning, Higher Education Teachers College, Columbia University New York, NY Term Expires: June 30, 2020</p>	<p>Joanna Masingila, Higher Education Syracuse University Syracuse, NY 13224 Term Expires: September 30, 2023</p>
<p>Derek Pope, Teacher Commack High School Commack, NY Term Expires: November 30, 2022</p>	<p>Theresa Reynolds, co-chair, Administrator Orange-Ulster BOCES Goshen, NY Term Expires: December 31, 2024</p>
<p>David Rothfuss, Public NYS United Teachers Latham, NY Term Expires: June 30, 2023</p>	<p>Amanda Silvestri, Teacher Karigon Elementary Clifton Park, NY Term Expires: June 30, 2021</p>
<p>Pilar Sokol, Esq., Public New York State School Boards Association Latham, NY Term Expires: June 30, 2024</p>	<p>Elizabeth Waite, Teacher Union–Endicott Central Schools Endicott, NY Term Expires: June 30, 2024</p>
<p>Keith Wiley, Teacher Houghton Academy, PS 69 Houghton, NY Term Expires: June 30, 2021</p>	<p>Patrick Wong, Teacher International HS at LaGuardia Community College Long Island City, NY Term Expires December 31, 2023</p>