




**TO:** The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

**FROM:** John L. D'Agati 

**SUBJECT:** Appointment and Reappointments to the State Professional Standards and Practices Board

**DATE:** June 6, 2016

**AUTHORIZATION(S):** 

**SUMMARY**

**Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)**

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

**Reason(s) for Consideration**

Required by State regulation.

**Proposed Handling**

This question will come before the full Board for consideration at its June 2016 meeting, where it will be voted on and action taken.

**Procedural History**

Terms for members of the State Professional Standards and Practices Board for Teaching are set forth in Regents Rule 3.14. 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. Board co-chairs are appointed for two-year terms.

There currently are two higher education, five teacher, one public or administrator and one student vacancies on the Standards Board. Additionally, there are two Board members up for reappointment. The individuals below are recommended for appointment to fill these vacancies.

## **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board of Regents approve the following appointments to the State Professional Standards and Practices Board for Teaching: Colleen McDonald (public member), Pilar Sokol (public member); Dwight Manning (higher education member), Virginia Goatley (higher education), Heather Buskirk (teacher member), and Elizabeth Waite (teacher member), each for a four-year term beginning July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2020;

It is recommended that the Board of Regents approve the following reappointments to the State Professional Standards and Practices Board for Teaching: David Babikian (teacher member); and Charles Khoury (administrator member) to complete the terms beginning July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2020.

Each one of the members seeking reappointment has made valuable contributions to the Board and is eager to continue working with the Regents in this capacity.

A brief biographical sketch of these recommended members seeking appointment and reappointment is included as Attachment A, and a list of the current membership is included at Attachment B.

## **Timetable for Implementation**

Members' terms will begin immediately upon appointment.

Attachments

**The University of the State of New York  
The State Education Department**

**State Professional Standards and Practices Board for Teaching**

**Colleen McDonald**

**Membership Category: Public**

**English Teacher/Grant Writer/Professional Developer**

**Cambridge Central School District**

**Cambridge, New York**

Colleen McDonald is a native of New York, educated in New York State public school system from kindergarten through graduation. She then continued in NY with her undergraduate and master's degrees from the College of St. Rose. During her 29-year NYS career, Colleen has worked as a special education teacher with BOCES and as both a special educator and an English teacher in a small rural public school in upstate New York. At one point, Colleen moved into administration as Director of Pupil Services but was drawn, by the desire to interact more directly with students, back to the classroom.

After, teaching in a middle school inclusionary special education model, Colleen pursued National Board Certification in English Language Arts and moved into a new stage of her career as a middle school and high school English teacher where she has served as a classroom teacher, department chairperson, and professional developer.

Colleen currently teaches both middle school and high school level English courses, directs the Cambridge Central summer school program, writes competitive grants for the district, and works with the Greater Capital Region Teacher Center on projects related to professional development around the implementation of both the APPR and CCLS.

**Ms. Pilar Sokol, Esq.**

**Membership Category: Public**

**Deputy General Counsel**

**New York State School Boards Association**

**Albany, New York**

Pilar Sokol, Esq. is deputy general counsel to the New York State School Boards Association. She holds a B.A. Degree in History from the College of the Sacred Heart in Santurce, Puerto Rico and a J.D. degree from Albany Law School, Albany, New York where she was a member of the *Albany Law Review*. First joining the Association in 1989, she returned following a two year absence to work in private practice representing school districts. Prior to joining the Association, Ms. Sokol clerked for the New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Third Department. Before attending law school, she worked on Wall Street, primarily in the area of investor relations.

Ms. Sokol is the editor of the Association's *School Law* publication, and a frequent lecturer for the Association and other organizations on legal issues related to public education. She has been a member of the State Education Department's NCLB committee of practitioners since its inception. Throughout the years, she also has served as a member of the Department's ESEA Think Tank, APPR Task Force and Race to the Top Sustainability workgroup, among others. Ms. Sokol is also a member of the Council of School Attorneys of the National School Boards Association where she serves as an officer of the Council's board of directors, and as a member of the Council's Special Education Task Force. She sits, as well, on the board of directors of the New York State Association of School Attorneys.

**Dr. Virginia Goatley**

**Membership Category: Higher Education**

**Professor, Department of Literacy Teaching and Learning**

**University at Albany**

**Albany, New York**

Dr. Virginia Goatley is the Department Chair and a Professor in the Department of Literacy Teaching and Learning at the University at Albany-SUNY. With a goal to prevent reading and writing difficulties for children, her recent research focused on teacher preparation and professional development that supports effective classroom practice, including the accreditation and assessment of teacher preparation. In collaboration with colleagues at the Child Research and Study Center, she was co-investigator for two recent federally funded grants through IES and FIPSE, focused on the early literacy coursework in teacher preparation programs. From 2011-15, she was a co-investigator on a graduate level clinically rich teacher preparation grant funded by the New York State Education Department. In her recent role as a member of the International Literacy Association's Literacy Research Panel, she participated in efforts to use research as a framework for improving classroom practice and the policies that influence it.

Dr. Goatley is currently the Chair of the IB Commission and a Board member (ex-officio) for the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP). She is a committee member for the International Literacy Association's *Standards for Specialized Literacy Professionals* (2017 edition) and is chair of the Standard #3 Assessment and Evaluation sub-committee. She is an associate editor of the *Journal of Literacy Research*, a publication of the Literacy Research Association. Her publications have appeared in several journals including the *Journal of Educational Research*, *Language Arts*, *Language and Literacy Spectrum*, *Reading Research Quarterly*, *Reading and Writing Quarterly*, and *The Reading Teacher*. She is a co-author of *Engaging Elementary Students in Disciplinary Learning and Literacy* (TC Press, 2014).

After teaching first grade for three years, she received her MS in Reading Instruction and PhD in Educational Psychology/Literacy from Michigan State University. A faculty member at the University at Albany since 1995, Dr. Goatley also served as the Associate Dean for Professional Studies (2003-08) and Vice Dean (2008) in the University at Albany School of Education. In 2011-12, she was the Director of Research for the International Reading Association.

**Dr. Dwight Manning**  
**Membership Category: Higher Education**  
**Associate Director, Office of Teacher Education,**  
**Teachers College**  
**New York, New York**

Dr. Dwight Manning has over twenty years of experience as a teacher, teacher educator, and administrator. He holds Lifetime Teacher Certification from the Texas Education Agency and taught middle school in the Garland Independent School District. While still in graduate school, he was appointed Assistant Professor at the University of Georgia and rose to the rank of tenured Associate Professor and Graduate Faculty. In 2008, he won a competitive Excellence in Teaching Award presented by the University of Georgia Franklin College of Arts and Sciences. In 2010, he relocated to New York to accept a position as Senior Lecturer and Program Coordinator in the Arts and Humanities Department at Teachers College, Columbia University.

Dr. Manning currently serves as Associate Director for Assessment, Outreach and Programming Support, and edTPA Coordinator in the Office of Teacher Education at Teachers College, where he supports teacher candidate preparation of certification assessments; serves as liaison between internal offices and the New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE), the New York State Education Department (NYSED) edTPA Task Force, the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities (clcu) and various external vendors; collaborates with the Vice Dean of Teacher Education on international projects; and engages in research presentations disseminating institutional findings in wider educational contexts.

Manning earned a Bachelor degree in education (cum laude) at the University of Texas at El Paso; Masters degree at the University of Georgia; and his Doctorate degree at the University of North Texas. His research, peer-reviewed articles, and critical editions appear in four languages in professional journals and in over 200 library holdings worldwide. He has served on conference selection committees and presented at professional conferences of the American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education (AACTE), American Educational Research Association (AERA), and European Educational Research Association (EERA), and NYACTE-NYSATE.

**Heather Buskirk**  
**Membership Category: Teacher**  
**Physics and Mathematics Teacher**  
**Greater Johnston School District**  
**Johnston, New York**

Originally from St. Louis, Heather Buskirk earned her BA in astronomy-physics and Master of Arts in Teaching from the University of Virginia. She became a Knowles Science Teaching Fellow in 2004, and continues to work with KSTF as a Senior Fellow and a member of their Board of Trustees. After earning her National Board Certification in 2010, Mrs. Buskirk became a candidate support provider and served on the

committee to revise the National Board's Standards for Accomplished Science Teaching. In the classroom for eleven years, she teaches physics and math at Johnstown High School, and is an integral part of designing and teaching at the Learning Project, a STEM academy for Johnstown students. The Learning Project is a fully integrated project based learning program for seniors for which they receive credit for math, physics, participation in government, economics and English through real-world project experiences. In addition to her school responsibilities, Mrs. Buskirk is an instructional coach in the Hamilton-Fulton-Montgomery P-TECH program where she works with students and provides support for teachers using project based learning to design and deliver curriculum. Beyond the school year, Heather provides professional development in project-based learning, standards-based grading, and differentiated instruction. She is also a NYS Master Teacher and served on their delegation to the TeachNY Advisory Council, the Common Core Task Force, and the State Education Department's National Board Certification Work Group.

**Elizabeth Waite**

**Membership Category: Teacher**

**Mathematics Teacher**

**Union-Endicott Central School District**

**Endicott, New York**

Ms. Waite has been teaching mathematics for 25 years, most recently at Union-Endicott High School for 7 years. Prior to teaching at Union-Endicott she was a mathematics teacher at Binghamton High School and East Middle School in Binghamton, New York. Elizabeth also spent 3 semesters as an adjunct professor of mathematics at SUNY Broome. Ms. Waite has experience teaching all levels and types of mathematics, ranging from 7th grade math to AP Calculus. She has taught math to students in co-taught classrooms, classrooms consisting entirely of English language learners, classrooms with adult learners, and classrooms filled with students on an accelerated math pathway. Throughout these diverse experiences she has had the opportunity to teach using traditional schedules, semester block schedules, and double period lab based schedules.

Over the years, Elizabeth has been an active leader in mathematics education, volunteering in numerous positions for the Association of Mathematics Teachers of New York State. Ms. Waite has served on the AMTNYS Executive Board many times, and since 1997 her service to AMTNYS has included a multitude of capacities such as presenting workshops to other teachers, coordinating the Annual Fall Conference in 2012, and serving as President for the 2015-2016 academic year. In addition to volunteering in the state level professional organization for mathematics teachers, Ms. Waite has worked with the New York State Education Department on various projects including being a member of the Math Content Advisory Panel for the Common Core, reviewing Algebra 1 modules, working on the Integrated Algebra Format Committee, and being involved in the review process for several Regents exams.

Elizabeth Waite has a B.A. in both Mathematics/Statistics and Mathematics Education from Canisius College and a M.S.Ed in Mathematics Adolescence from Binghamton University.

## Reappointments

### **Mr. David Babikian**

**Membership Category: Teacher**

**Social Studies Teacher**

**North Syracuse Central School District**

**North Syracuse, New York**

David Babikian has taught social studies at Cicero-North Syracuse High School for 15 years. Prior to that he was a social studies and ELL teacher at Proctor High School in Utica, New York. He has taught nearly every social studies course from seventh through twelfth grade including Global Studies, American History, Participation in Government, and Modern European History. Babikian created the Modern European History elective to fill a void in traditional social studies curricula. The course views history through the eyes of the Europeans who lived it by integrating history, film, and other primary sources. He has served on multiple committees and has been selected for various initiatives throughout the district. Babikian has participated in curriculum mapping and data analysis of Regents tests for the district. He has dedicated time to students outside of school by becoming a coach for both Mock Trial and Lacrosse. A dedicated Union member, Babikian also has been involved in raising awareness through Vote Cope and negotiating fair contracts.

As part of Babikian's work with NYSUT's Innovation Fund, he has helped to shape the way that teachers are evaluated and supported throughout the state. When North Syracuse was chosen as one of five New York State districts to pilot the new teacher evaluation system, he was selected as just one of five teachers to serve on the district's PAR (Peer Assisted Review) panel. The PAR panel, a group of administrators and teachers, is committed to supporting and nurturing new and developing teachers throughout the district, recommending teachers for tenure, and supervising the consultant teacher program. Babikian has traveled to districts throughout the country to research the best possible programs while supporting this new and exciting initiative. Babikian has a B.S. from Butler University in Indiana in Secondary Education and a M.A. from Oswego State University in History.

### **Dr. Charles Khoury**

**Membership Category: Administrator**

**District Superintendent**

**Ulster BOCES**

**New Paltz, New York**

Dr. Charles V. Khoury has served as District Superintendent of Ulster BOCES since 2011. In addition to his role as Chief Executive Officer, he is the New York State Education Commissioner's representative in the field, the major liaison between local districts and the State Education Department, as well as the spokesperson for regional education issues. Working closely with his administrative team, Dr. Khoury oversees collaborative opportunities for districts to increase their capacity, provide support, and create possibilities for students to meet the changing requirements for graduation.

Dr. Khoury began his career in education as a Social Studies teacher at Ridgewood High School, where he served as the Director of Guidance, Chairperson of the Child Study Team, and was an athletic coach, among other duties during his 19 year tenure. Thereafter, Dr. Khoury was the principal of two high schools, served as the Assistant Superintendent of Fair Lawn Public Schools, the Superintendent of Cresskill Public Schools, as well as the Superintendent of Ardsley Union Free School District.

Dr. Khoury holds an Ed.D. in Educational Policy and Administration from Rutgers University, an M.A. in Student Personnel Services from Montclair State University and a B.A. in Social Studies from Wagner College.



**Attachment B**

<b>State Professional Standards and Practices Board for Teaching</b> <i>As of July 2016</i>	
<b>Ms. Debra Calvino</b> <b>Administrator</b> <b>Valley Central High School</b>	<b>Dr. Kathleen DaBoll-Lavoie</b> <b>Higher Education- Professor in the</b> <b>School of Education/Department</b> <b>Chair</b> <b>Nazareth College</b>
Dr. Julius Gregg Adams University at Buffalo, SUNY	Dr. Jane Ashdown Adelphi University
Mr. David Babikian North Syracuse Central School District	Ms. Trudy Bantle * Fairport Central School District
Ms. Grace Barrett Commack Central School District	Dr. April Bedford CUNY Brooklyn College
Mr. Jack (Jay) Boak, Jr. Retired District Superintendent	Dr. Stephen Danna SUNY Plattsburgh
Ms. Maria DeWald Dutchess County BOCES	Mr. Charles Giglio* Gloversville Enlarged School District
Ms. Andrea Fortin-Nossavage Niagara Falls City School District	Dr. Charles Khoury Ulster BOCES
Dr. Margaret Madden SUNY College at Potsdam	Ms. Yvette Malavé Diaz NYS & CSEA Partnership for Ed & Training
Ms. Colleen McDonald * Cambridge Central School	Dr. Lesli Myers Brockport Central School District
Ms. Pilar Sokol, Esq. New York State School Boards Association	Ms. Ellen Sullivan Greater Capital Region Teacher Center
Ms. Therese Torchon Westbury Middle School	Mr. James Vasquez Newcomers High School New York City Department of Education

\*Members who are being replaced by recommended appointees.