

SCHOOL BOARD notes

Focusing on Federal Education Issues

More than 900 school board members – including a 30-member New Jersey delegation – traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with their congressmen, key legislative aides and U.S. Department of Education officials during the annual Federal Relations Network (FRN) conference. The local board members pressed their views on federal education funding and the impact of No Child Left Behind (NCLB).

The FRN conference, February 5 – 7, was sponsored by the National School Boards Association.

During meetings with New Jersey board members and NJSBA staff, Congressman

Jim Saxton (R-3) and Congressman Rush Holt (D-12) both expressed their support for increased federal funding of education and amendments to the No Child Left Behind Act. They also noted their opposition to public school vouchers.

FRN attendees also met with key aides to New Jersey's other House of Representatives members. (Many congressmen had cancelled travel plans to Washington after postponement of the House voting session in recognition of the death of Coretta Scott King.)

In addition, the New Jersey delegation

continued on page 4



At the Federal Relations Network Conference are (left to right) Patti J. Pawling, NJSBA president; Dana Richter, aide to Congressman Frank LoBiondo; and Glenn B. Ewan, NJSBA immediate past president.

NJSBA Applauds Governor's Steps On School Construction

NJSBA last week thanked Governor Jon Corzine for ordering a review of the New Jersey Schools Construction Corporation, calling it an important first step for New Jersey to recharge its lagging school construction program in poor communities.

"Governor Corzine's executive order creating a special counsel to oversee New Jersey's school construction program and his appointment of six new members to the board of directors of the New Jersey Schools Construction Corporation (SCC) represent a positive and necessary step," said Edwina M. Lee, executive director of

the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA). "His actions move the state closer to restoring public confidence, recharging the school construction program, and rebuilding our aging school facilities."

The Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act of 2000 appropriated \$8.6 billion toward school construction. Of that amount, \$6 billion was earmarked to fund 100% of school construction in the 31 Abbott districts. The remainder funded up-front grants that covered a minimum of 40% of eligible costs in all other school

continued on page 6

Education by the Numbers

Facts About New Jersey's Public Schools

Local Support for Public Schools

- 50** Percentage of public education costs paid by the average state, 2003-04
- 38** Percentage that the State of New Jersey pays toward the cost of public schools, 2003-04
- 43.5%** Average *local* share of public school costs among all 50 states, 2003-04
- 59.1%** Share of education costs provided through *local* property taxes in New Jersey, 2003-04

(Source: National Education Association, Rankings of the States 2004 and Estimates of School Statistics 2005)



Assembly Voting Session On 2/9/2006

Budget Message Delay The Assembly approved A-2288, which would extend the deadline for Governor Corzine to deliver his first budget address to no later than March 23. Although the budget address is typically delivered in February, traditionally the deadline has been extended for a new administration. The bill passed the Assembly 78-0 and is expected to be approved in the Senate.

NJSIAA The Assembly passed legislation, A-2051, which would prohibit public schools from joining the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association if it charges “high” ticket prices for playoff games or increases broadcast licensing fees. A-2051 would enforce the prohibition if NJSIAA raised playoff ticket prices by more than the regional consumer price index. The NJSIAA oversees sports competitions among 425 public, private, and parochial high schools in New Jersey.

The bill would also allow parents of high school athletes to attend their children’s NJSIAA tournament competitions free of charge. The bill passed 60 to 18. It now goes to the Senate.

Prepaid Lunches A-370 (Chatzidakis, Bodine) would allow a board of education to establish a pre-paid lunch program for its school cafeterias. The bill would enable local school districts to offer an option to parents and guardians who want to ensure that their children receive more nutritious meals.

Similar legislation, S-338 (Bark, Allen), was released by the Senate Education committee on January 26.

Assembly Education Committee On 2/6/2006

Gang Violence Education The Assembly Education Committee released A-1650, which would require school districts to provide elementary school students with instruction about the dangers of gang violence. The instruction would be part of the school district’s effort to implement the Core Curriculum Content Standards in the area of Comprehensive Health and Physical Education.

A-1650 is now in position for a vote by the full Assembly.



Nominating Committee Issues Report

The NJSBA Nominating Committee has selected the candidates for positions of president, vice president for county activities, vice president for finance, and vice president for county activities.

The committee interviewed seven applicants and prepared a report naming candidates for the 2006-08 term. The election will take place at the Annual Delegate Assembly meeting on May 20.

The Nominating Committee is submitting the following candidates: President – Kevin E. Ciak, Sayreville, Middlesex County; Vice President for County Activities – Harry J. Delgado, South Brunswick, Middlesex; Vice President for Finance – John Bulina, Tabernacle, Burlington; and Vice President for Legislation/Resolutions –Eva M. Nagy, Franklin Township, Somerset.

Nomination by Petition NJSBA Bylaws also provide for candidates to be nominated by petition, signed by at least ten members from at least five different district boards of education and filed with the Executive Director. On February 21, 2006, petitions may be obtained by visiting NJSBA’s Web site (www.njsba.org). Petitions may not be circulated prior to February 21 *and must be received by the Executive Director no later than April 5.*

Signatures need not all appear upon a single petition and any number of petitions may be filed on behalf of a candidate, but no petition shall contain the endorsement of more than one candidate.

Nominations by petition should be sent via *Federal Express or registered/receipt-requested mail*. The written consent of the candidate for nomination by petition must be filed with the Executive Director within the same time limit.

Information with Petition When submitting nominations by petition, candidates should include a black-and-white “head and shoulders” photo and a resume that includes a 200-word statement explaining why they are seeking the position. Resumes should contain information under the following headings: Local Board Activities; County Activities; NJSBA Activities; Education; and Employment/Community Activities. The statement should address public education issues, Association governance, and the candidate’s qualifications for the position sought. Names of, and comments about, individuals – including other candidates – will be deleted. (A sample resume may be obtained at www.njsba.org) A report of all candidates nominated by petition will be made no later than April 10, 2006. The report will appear in *School Board Notes* and on NJSBA’s Web site.

Nominations from Floor NJSBA Bylaws also permit nominations to be made from the floor at the annual meeting. The nominator must have the written consent of the candidate for nomination and present it to the presiding officer at the time the nomination is made.

2006 Legislative Conference

For the first time ever, NJSBA is bringing its Legislative Conference to Trenton to give its members a chance to participate directly in the legislative process. On **Monday, March 6, 2006**, NJSBA’s 41st Annual Legislative Conference will set aside time for board members to meet with their legislators.

The theme of this year’s conference is “**Call to Action.**” The all-day conference will begin at the War Memorial and then convene at the State House. Following registration and a continental breakfast, NJSBA lobbyists will brief attendees on the top issues in education before the Legislature. There will also be an opportunity to attend committee meetings scheduled that day. The goal is to advocate for New Jersey’s children by promoting the hard work of school board members and to discuss the “local level” impact of legislative decisions.

For more information or to register for this year’s conference, visit www.njsba.org or contact Kristen Gucker at 1-888-886-5722, extension 5271 or by E-mail at kgucker@njsba.org

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Here are just a few of the positions in this edition:

- Athletic Trainer
- Early Childhood Education Teacher
- Security Guard
- Security Director
- ...and many more!



Please send me _____ copies of **NJSBA's Job Description Manual** at \$100 each for members (\$200 for nonmembers) plus \$3 shipping.

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Payment enclosed Bill Board (Voucher enclosed)

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FAX: _____ E-MAIL: _____

*If you wish to be billed and a voucher is required for your records, please send it with your form to avoid duplication.

Return to: New Jersey School Boards Association, Attn: LynDee Lalumiere
413 W. State Street, P.O. Box 909, Trenton, New Jersey 08605-0909 or FAX: 609-695-0413

CONFERENCE NOTES



Wellness/Nutrition Policy Workshops Six regional workshops sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture during March, with two sessions on each date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 1-3 p.m.

Workshops will offer guidance to school districts in developing their Wellness/Nutrition Policy, which must be in place by September 2006 as required by federal and state regulations. These regulations apply to all public and private schools that participate in any of the federally funded Child Nutrition Programs, and to any other public schools that have 5% or more of their students eligible for free or reduced price meals.

One or two members of a district's team should attend a workshop, including school nurses and/or health/physical education teachers, parents, students, school food service director, school administration, school board representative, and members of the community.

Light refreshments will be offered at morning and afternoon workshop sessions. If registration is insufficient on any date, the afternoon session may be cancelled. All attendees must register in advance and specify their preference of date and session. For registration information and directions, contact the Division of Food and Nutrition at 609-984-0692.

Workshop dates and locations:

March	7	Gloucester County Office of Education – Sewell
	8	Morris County Police and Fire Academy – Parsippany
	9	NJ Association of School Business Officials – Robbinsville
	14	Monmouth County Superintendent's Office – Freehold
	16	Archdiocesan Center – Newark
	21	Egg Harbor Township Intermediate School

For an updated sample policy on this topic, go to the NJSBA Web site, www.njsba.org, click on *Critical Policy Reference Manual*, and refer to File Code 3542.

Administration Budget Will Leave Children Behind

The failure of President Bush's \$2.77 trillion budget request to Congress to fully fund No Child Left Behind (NCLB) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) would result in a \$25 billion burden on communities that would have to be made up by increased property taxes or by drawing funds away from programs, according to the National School Boards Association.

3.7 million students affected The President is proposing \$12.7 billion for Title I grants. The recommendations would underfund the account by some \$12.3 billion, affecting 3.7 million disadvantaged students.

For federal special education funding, the President is proposing a \$100 million increase in grants to states. That amount still falls more than \$14 billion short of the funding level promised by Congress, that is, 40 percent of the cost per special education student. Congress had readjusted annual funding levels for IDEA in an effort to meet that target by FY 2007. However, the President's proposed FY 2007 budget would provide \$6.2 billion less than that reauthorized funding level.

Chopping block The FY07 budget request would also eliminate Education Technology Grants, which provide online courses to rural and urban students. It would eliminate \$1.3 billion for Vocational Education State Grants.

Other items on the chopping block are Safe and Drug-Free Schools State Grants; Smaller Learning Communities grants, which help with class-size reduction initiatives in high schools; School Dropout Prevention; Comprehensive School Reform; and Elementary School Counseling. These programs were proposed for elimination by the President last year, but Congress voted to include them at a reduced funding level.

Federal Education Issues

continued

met with U.S. Senator Robert Menendez's staff to explore a wide range of topics, including the underfunding of federal education programs, the impact of NCLB on district finances and operations, and the threat that vouchers may enter federal programs disguised as tuition tax credits and Hurricane Relief packages.

School board members also learned the value of building relationships with congressional aides, who have a high level of knowledge about bills going through Congress. Aides have the ear of the Congressmen when communicating the impact of legislation on school districts and taxpayers.

For more information on federal education advocacy, contact NJSBA's Governmental Relations Department at 1-888-886-5722, extension 5215. ■



In the office of Congressman Frank Pallone Jr. are (left to right) Kevin Ciak, NJSBA vice president for Legislation/Resolutions; Catherine Greeley, Piscataway Board of Education; Tiffany Guarascio, aide to Congressman Pallone; Arthur Rittenhouse, Sayreville Board of Education; and Eva Nagy, Franklin Township (Somerset County) Board of Education.



In the office of Congressman Robert Andrews are (left to right) Marie Lavigne, Magnolia Board of Education; Carlos Fenwick, aide to Congressman Andrews; Karen Sorbello, Magnolia Board of Education; and Wayne Fox, Montgomery Township Board of Education.

Let Us Spotlight Your Successes

When your district creates an outstanding program, people notice. So does NJSBA. Our School Leader Award spotlights creative and innovative programs in New Jersey schools that improve student learning. If you have a unique program that has been in effect for at least two school years, let us know.

Programs will be judged on:

- Degree of innovation and challenge.
- How well the program addresses a need.
- How the program integrates into the curriculum and Core Curriculum Content Standards.
- Program evaluation strategies.
- Community involvement, if applicable.
- Future plans for improvement.
- Length of time in effect (at least two, but not more than five years old).

Each program should include:

- A typewritten description of the program, no longer than two double-spaced pages.
- A clear and concise goal statement indicating who is responsible for the program, when it began, the number of students served, how it is funded, who participates, and evidence of and/or statistics on the program's results.
- A separate list of the specific Core Curriculum Content Standards that the program covers and how.
- Photos that show the program in action with student involvement. (All photos must be original and of reproductive quality.)
- Supplemental materials, if available, including brochures, flyers, letters and announcements (no CDs, DVDs, videos or diskettes).

Winners of the School Leader Award will be honored at county school boards association meetings and will receive engraved plaques. The programs also will be featured in *School Leader* magazine.

Please enter our program in the 21st Annual School Leader Award Competition.

Program Title _____

Contact Person _____

Title _____

School District _____

County _____

Address _____

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Phone _____

E-mail Address (Necessary) _____

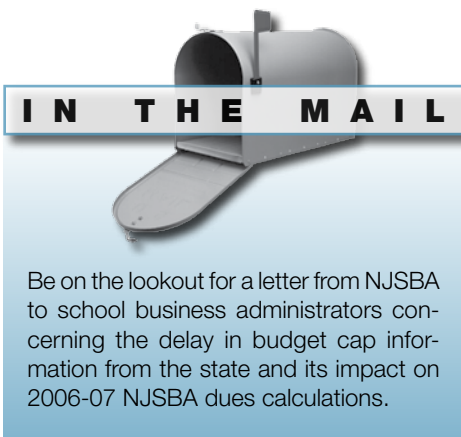
Superintendent _____

Board President _____

Check here if materials are to be returned

New Deadline! Entries must be postmarked by March 17, 2006

Mail to: NJSBA School Leader Award Competition, c/o Communications,
413 West State Street, P.O. Box 909, Trenton, NJ 08605-0909



Be on the lookout for a letter from NJSBA to school business administrators concerning the delay in budget cap information from the state and its impact on 2006-07 NJSBA dues calculations.

Legislative Conference – Page 2 –

School Construction continued

districts. The SCC oversees construction in the Abbott districts.

All of the Abbott funding has been spent or earmarked, and hundreds of projects remain unfinished. The funding for construction in non-Abbott districts has been depleted, and schools no longer receive cash grants—although schools anticipate receiving the 40% funding through debt-service aid, which is paid in installments over many years.

“The need to renovate old schools and construct new classrooms in growing communities has not diminished,” said Lee. “We trust the Corzine administration will seek to replenish funding for all districts, both Abbott and non-Abbott.”

CALENDAR

February 22

NJSBAIG, Forsgate Country Club, Jamesburg, 6:30 p.m.

Salem General Membership, Salem County Technical School, Woodstown, 6:30 p.m.

February 23

Mercer General Membership Meeting, Mercer County Technical Schools, Sypek Center, Pennington, 6:00 p.m.
NOTE: Rescheduled from February 9

February 25

School Finance Committee, NJSBA Headquarters, Trenton, 8:30 a.m.

For more information on county school boards association activities, log on to www.njsba.org and click on the appropriate county association.



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