

SCHOOL BOARD notes

Delegates Elect Officers for 2006-08

A 12-year veteran of the Sayreville Board of Education in Middlesex County was elected president of the New Jersey School Boards Association at the organization's semi-annual meeting in Monroe Township on Saturday.

"There has never been a more critical time for our organization to build partnerships at all levels to enable us to focus on quality, accessible public education for all children," said Kevin E. Ciak, the new NJSBA president. He will serve a two-year term.

Ciak noted that state-level proposals dealing with education finance, property tax reform, high school curriculum and cost-efficiency will dominate the Association's agenda during the next two years.

NJSBA's outgoing president, Patti J. Pawling of the Barrington Board of

Education, will assume the position of Immediate Past President. Ciak won the election by a vote of 90 to 43. Tanya Dickerson of Burlington City, who had served as Vice President for Finance, was nominated from the floor for the position of president.

Prior to his election, Ciak served as Vice President for Legislation/Resolutions and Vice President for County Activities. He is a former president of the Middlesex County School Boards Association.

Ciak holds a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from Rutgers. He is employed by General Electric. Ciak became a school board member at age 19 while still in college.

One hundred thirty-four delegates attended Saturday's meeting.

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NJSBA's new president, Kevin Ciak, addresses the Delegate Assembly.



PHOTOS BY MIKE YAPLE

Immediate Past President Glenn B. Ewan administers the oath of office to NJSBA newly elected officers for 2006-08. From left are Patti J. Pawling, who now assumes the office of immediate past president; John Bulina, vice president for finance; Eva Nagy, vice president for legislation/resolutions; and Harry J. Delgado, vice president for county activities.

NJSBA Adopts New Policy on School Elections

With the Legislature honing in on major changes in school elections, the NJSBA Board of Directors on May 19 adopted new policies that will give the Association more flexibility in representing school boards' concerns.

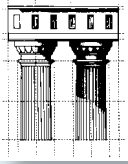
The new policies (3100 and 9112) eliminate previous statements, which supported the conduct of the Annual School Election on no other date than the third

Tuesday in April. The new NJSBA policy states that the election of school board members should *not* take place on or near the date of any partisan election, such as the November General Election. It will give NJSBA the flexibility to support the conduct of non-partisan board member elections on a date other than the third Tuesday in April.

Legislation that would change the elec-

tion date for school board members from April to November and eliminate votes on district budgets at or below cap, S-1546 (Turner), is now in position for a vote by the full Senate.

Association policy already supports eliminating budget votes on district spending plans that are at or below cap. That policy remains in place. 🍓



Academy Announces New Certification Designations

Effective July 1, NJSBA will add two new levels of certification to the Board Member Academy – Board Recertification and Master Board Certification.

“With these additions, we are expanding opportunities for boards to receive recognition for their efforts to continuously improve the way they function and serve the children of their communities,” said Edwina M. Lee, NJSBA executive director.

When NJSBA founded the academy in 1992, it planned to eventually limit the life of individual Board Certification (BC) awards. The intention was to make the BC award effective for a minimum of three years, with expiration when board turnover equaled one-third of the members seated at the time certification was granted. NJSBA’s new Association Management System will allow the tracking necessary to adhere to this standard.

Board Recertification To earn the new Board Recertification (BR) award, a certified board must complete an additional 12 credits, **and** participate in at least one full-day retreat, **and** conduct a board self-evaluation. As with initial board certification, the board must meet attendance requirements (e.g., seven of nine board members, five of seven, or four of five) for each of these activities. Upon completion of the requirements, NJSBA will affix a recertification seal to the board’s certification plaque.

Master Board Certification To earn Master Board Certification (MBC), a certified or recertified board must attend the Board-Superintendent Institute with its chief school administrator. Attendance by members at the Board-Superintendent Institute must meet the Academy’s minimum requirements. A special plaque will be presented to MBC recipients.

Implementation School boards earning certification after July 1, 2006 will fall under the three-year minimum, one-third turnover rule immediately. Boards that earned the BC designation prior to 2000 will maintain their certification through December 31, 2007. For boards that were certified from 2000 through June 30, 2006, the BC designation will remain in effect until June 2009.

All credits that a board earned after its initial certification will count towards recertification. The Inservice Education Department will monitor credits and eligibility for the BR and MBC designations. Both awards will be presented at the Annual Workshop.

Look for details in the new Board Member Academy 2006-07 *Course Guide*, or go to www.njsba.org/training.

SCC Improving, but Not Ready for More Funding

The New Jersey Schools Construction Corporation has made marked improvement in the efficiency of its operations, according to a May 17 report from a gubernatorial task force. However, more work is needed before the agency could be allowed to issue new funding for construction projects.

Governor Corzine created the Inter-agency Working Group through a February 7 Executive Order. The panel has been reviewing the SCC, the agency that funds and manages school construction in the 31 Abbott districts and other poor school systems.

Funding Decision The working group

expects to make recommendations concerning future school construction funding in August. In the meantime, it will work with the SCC and the state Department of Education to develop a strategic plan for school construction, as well as project priorities.

The panel will also suggest changes in state law related to land acquisition, SCC collaboration with local school districts in construction management, and procurement flexibility.

For more information and to view a copy of the report, visit the Press Release section Governor Corzine’s Web page at www.nj.gov/governor.

School Ethics: Advisory Opinions vs. Complaints

Under the New Jersey School Ethics Act, any school board member or administrator may request an Advisory Opinion from, or may file a Complaint before, the School Ethics Commission (SEC). In addition, a member of the SEC or the general public may also file a complaint.

Advisory Opinion

- A school official may ask the SEC if his or her *proposed* activity would violate the Ethics Act. Such requests must detail the specific conduct or activity and the exact role to be played by the school board member or administrator.
- A board member or administrator may also seek an advisory opinion concerning proposed conduct of *another* school official. In such cases, he or she must send a copy of the request to the official whose proposed conduct is in question. The school official in question has ten days from the date of the request to respond.
- Advisory opinions are not made public, except when the SEC, by a vote of at least six of its members, believes that the opinion has widespread application. When it makes advisory opinions public, the commission deletes the name and district of the official.
- Advisory opinion requests involve conduct that *has not yet occurred*. When the SEC receives a request about conduct that has already taken place, it generally dismisses the request.

Complaints

- Complaints address *past*—not proposed—conduct or activity.
- Complaints must be filed within one year of notice of the alleged violation of the School Ethics Act, including the

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Request for Proposals: Shared Services Study

The New Jersey School Boards Association, a governmental entity established by N.J.S.A. 18A:6-45 et seq., is seeking proposals from private consultants and research organizations to conduct a study of the types of shared services among governmental entities, and between governmental entities and the private sector in New Jersey.

The study would address local school district policies and practices; systems for delivering shared services; and the actual cost and savings to local school districts resulting from sharing services. It would also identify best practices

Based on its findings, the study would make recommendations to promote cost-efficient and effective shared services through changes in state statute and regulation and local school district policies.

The project would conclude with delivery of a completed report to the New Jersey School Boards Association by January 2007 and a Best Practices publication by June 2007.

Interested parties must first contact Cynthia J. Jahn, Esq., NJSBA General Counsel/AED, at (609) 278-5254 or by email at cjahn@njsba.org to receive the formal Request for Proposals. NJSBA must receive completed, signed proposals no later than 5 p.m. (EDT), June 19, 2006.

The New Jersey School Boards Association expressly reserves the right to reject any

or all proposals. Consultants shall comply with the "Law Against Discrimination," P.L. 1975, Chapter 127, as amended.

Board of Directors Highlights

A regular meeting of NJSBA's Board of Directors took place on Friday, May 19, 2006 in Jamesburg. Action taken at the Board of Directors meeting included the following:

- Presented Board Certification Awards to Burlington Township (Burlington) and Sparta Township (Sussex). Representatives of the Pine Hill (Camden) and Wayne Township (Passaic) were unable to attend.
- Presented resolution and plaque to staff member Francine Case, director of field services, who is retiring after 14 years of service.
- Approved Consent Agenda Item: minutes of the March 17, 2006 Board of Directors meeting.
- Approved Roll Call Vote Items:
 - a. 2006-07 NJSBA budget
 - b. Bylaws amendments to the November 2006 Delegate Assembly
 - c. Positions and Policies on Education File Code 3100, "Timelines for School Budget Process," and File Code 9112, "Timing of School Elections."
- Heard an advocacy/communications report.
 - a. Upcoming projects involving data col-

lection/research on shared services and school elections.

- b. Assembly Speaker Roberts' CORE proposal; and legislation to change the date of the annual school election to November and eliminate the vote on proposed budget amounts below cap. (See article, page 1.)

Board Member of the Year—Deadline Approaching

Do you know an outstanding board member—someone who regularly goes above and beyond the call of duty? If so, nominate him or her for the second annual Board Member of the Year Award. Nominations for this prestigious award will be accepted through June 15.

Sponsored by NJSBA, the award honors an individual board member who has made significant contributions to education; exemplified leadership in the field of education; demonstrated a strong commitment to personal and professional development as a board member; and shown active involvement in school governance at the local, county and state levels. Nominees must have five years experience as a board of education member and must hold NJSBA's Certificated Board Member designation.

The winner will be recognized at the 2006 Annual Workshop and Exhibition in October. In addition, he or she will be recognized in NJSBA's publications.

For information, visit www.njsba.org/award.

NJSBA Honors Francine Case on Retirement

Francine Case, NJSBA's director of field services, is retiring after 14 years on the Association's staff. Case's involvement with NJSBA spans more than 20 years. Before joining the NJSBA staff, she served on the Monroe Township Board of Education in Middlesex County for more than a decade. She was Middlesex County SBA president for two terms, served as a group leader for the Board Member Academy and was a member of the NJSBA Board of Directors.

At the May 19 Board of Directors meeting, Patti J. Pawling, NJSBA president, presented Case with a resolution acknowledging her efforts to advance

public school governance

"The members and staff of NJSBA know Francine Case for her dedication, fairness, professionalism and unflappable diplomacy," reads the resolution. "The Board of Directors expresses its profound gratitude to Francine Case for her contribution to her community, to public education and to the New Jersey School Boards Association."

Marie Bilik succeeds Case as director of field services. Bilik most recently served as NJSBA's Membership Advocacy Coordinator. She joined the Association staff 14 years ago and has been an NJSBA field service representative for Bergen and Sussex counties. 🍷



NJSBA retiring director of field services, Francine Case (at right), confers with her successor, Marie Bilik.

PHOTO BY CELESTE JORDAN

School Ethics
continued

school board member codes of conduct and ethics.

- The person issuing the complaint must set forth facts that led him to believe that the School Ethics Act was violated, the sections of the Act that the person believes were violated, as well as dates of the alleged violations.
- If an SEC member submits a complaint, he may not participate in subsequent proceedings on that same complaint.

For further information, visit the School Ethics Commission Web page at www.nj.gov/education/ethics or call the commission at 609-984-6941. Information is also available from the NJSBA Legal Department at 1-888-886-5722, extension 5254.

Delegates Elect Officers
continued

By acclamation, the delegates also elected the following school board members to serve as officers for 2006-08:

- Harry J. Delgado, South Brunswick Board of Education, Middlesex County—Vice President for County Activities.
- John Bulina, Tabernacle Township, Burlington County—Vice President for Finance.
- Eva M. Nagy, Franklin Township, Somerset County—Vice President for Legislation/Resolutions.

A summary of Delegate Assembly action will appear in next week's *School Board Notes*.

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

C A L E N D A R

June 2

- ✓ Weekend Orientation I, Princeton Marriott Hotel and Conference Center at Forrestal, Princeton, NJ
- Atlantic Spring Dinner, Blue Heron Golf Club, Cologne, 6:00 p.m.

June 3


CANCELLED – Legislative Committee Meeting

June 5

Warren 3R's for New Board Members & Presidents Meeting, Allamuchy Elementary School, Allamuchy, 7:00 p.m.

June 7

- Hudson Spring Dinner Meeting, Puccini's Restaurant, Jersey City, 6:00 p.m.
- Ocean Spring Dinner, Charlie Brown's Steakhouse, Forked River, 6:00 p.m.

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