

# SCHOOL BOARD notes

## Leadership Project in Works

NJSBA and the New Jersey Association of School Administrators have developed an intensive training program to improve school district governance. The state Department of Education has endorsed the project, which was unveiled at the Workshop 2006 closing session Oct. 27 in Atlantic City.

Now being piloted in three school districts, the Readiness Curriculum, or Collaborative Governance Project, will prepare school boards and superintendents to work as teams so they can successfully engage in long-term goal-setting and strategic planning.

“Before they take on the monumental task of strategic planning, boards and superintendents must gel so they can better shape the way their districts operate

and, ultimately, improve student achievement,” said Edwina M. Lee, NJSBA executive director.

**Collaboration** The project will later include the participation of the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association. The Princeton Center for Leadership, a non-profit organization that offers leadership training to schools and communities, serves as a consultant for the Readiness Curriculum project.

“Academic success will require collaboration among boards of education, chief school administrators and principals,” said Lee. “That’s why the three sponsoring associations, which represent these leadership constituencies, are proud to work in unison on this program.”

*continued on page 2*

## NJSBA Creates New Funding Panel

NJSBA President Kevin E. Ciak has appointed a nine-member ad hoc committee to monitor changes to public school funding expected to result from the Legislature’s special session on property tax reform. As part of its responsibilities, the Ad Hoc School Funding Reform Committee will also make recommendations for the sunset review of NJSBA policy on school funding and state aid to education.

The NJSBA ad hoc committee will focus on recommendations expected to be issued this month by one of the special session panels, the Joint Legislative Commit-

tee on School Funding Reform. Corzine administration officials have indicated that they expect a new funding formula to be in place for 2007-2008.

**Membership** The ad hoc committee members include – Roger Butler, Burlington Township Board of Education, chairman; Margaret Berlin, West Morris Reg.; Tanya M. Dickerson, Burlington City; Diane Holzberg, Demarest; Janet Lucas, Newton; Robert Martino, Toms River Reg.; Ava T. Mitchell, Bayonne; Harry E. Shea, Cinnaminson; and Donald Shelton, Trenton. 🍎

### CAPITOL



### WATCH

#### Tax Reform Recommendations Expected

The four joint legislative committees on property tax reform are expected to release recommendations in their respective areas – school funding, government consolidation and shared services, employee benefits and pensions, and a constitutional convention – on or about Nov. 15.

NJSBA lobbyists remain in close contact with the lawmakers who serve on these committees. Developments will be reported in the print and electronic versions of School Board Notes.

**Hearing Scheduled** The Joint Legislative Committee on Government Consolidation and Shared Services was scheduled to meet Thursday night, Nov. 9 in Freehold Borough. The panel has been hearing public testimony on shared services and consolidation at the state, county, municipal and school district levels.

As of publication time, no other joint committees have scheduled further meetings.

#### QSAC Amendments Proposed

In other business, the Senate Education Committee is scheduled to meet 10 a.m. Nov. 13 to discuss legislation to amend implementation of the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum. Known as QSAC, the system will serve as the state’s new method to monitor public school districts.

On Monday, the committee will serve as S-2136 (Rice), which would place monitoring of the majority of districts on a three-year, rather than a one-year, cycle. NJSBA and the state Department of Education support the changes.

## School Leadership Project

continued

**Nationwide Initiative** New Jersey is one of 21 states to participate in the governance project through grants from the Wallace Foundation, a private organization dedicated to improving public school governance and management. The program is part of Wallace's nationwide State Action for Educational Leadership Project.

The effort identified a need to address board and superintendent turnover and to identify best practices to increase student

achievement, explained Cathy Weber, an NJSBA field service representative.

"High functioning teams result in higher student achievement. Conversely, the opposite is true," she said.

**Pilot Districts** An essential part of the project involves field testing in school districts in central, northern and southern New Jersey. Weber and fellow field service staff members, Joanne Borin and Jane Kershner, are teaming up with representatives of NJASA to organize the pilot project in

the Keyport School District in Monmouth County, North Warren Regional in Warren County, and Elmer in Salem County.

Last summer, the training teams held focus group sessions in the pilot districts and followed up with retreats in September. They now are developing action plans, will hold second retreats in January, and then will determine school district long-range goals.

**Future Growth** If the pilot projects prove to be effective, the program might become part of a new model offered to all New Jersey school districts and be incorporated into the state's new monitoring process, Weber said. So far, it's too early to tell.

"If a district is not meeting its governance criteria, then this would be a model that they could go to for remediation," she said. "In addition, it may be a model for boards and superintendents in transition... when a new superintendent is appointed or a significant number of new board members are elected.

"It enables a school board to take a proactive, rather than a reactive approach." 🍏

## Reaching Out to Congress



U.S. Rep. Donald Payne (D-10), second from right, meets with NJSBA's FRN delegates Arthur Griffa, Orange BOE; Mila Jasey, South Orange-Maplewood; and Eva M. Nagy, vice president for legislation/resolutions.

New Jersey school board members are continuing their meetings with Congressional representatives to discuss the impact of No Child Left Behind Act and funding shortfalls in Title I and IDEA. The board members participate in the Federal Relations Network, organized by the National School Boards Association.

FRN delegates met with U.S. Representatives Mike Ferguson (R-7), Rush Holt (D-12), Jim Saxton (R-3) and Donald Payne (D-10) and, most recently, with U.S. Sen. Frank Lautenberg. Additional meetings are planned.

To learn more about the Federal Relations Network and its annual conference/Day-on-Capitol Hill in January, visit [www.njsba.org/govrel/frn](http://www.njsba.org/govrel/frn) or call the NJSBA Governmental Relations Department at (888) 886-5722.



From left, Stuart Campo, NJSBA intern and Princeton University student; Pat Walsh, Middletown BOE; Attilio de Falco, South Brunswick; Congressman Holt; Sarah Kohl, NJSBA lobbyist; and Eva M. Nagy, NJSBA Vice President for Legislation/Resolutions.

NJSBA's FRN delegation met with U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg in late September. From left, Stuart Campo, NJSBA intern; Mila Jasey, South Orange-Maplewood BOE; Mary Chyb, Piscataway; Attilio de Falco, South Brunswick; Sen. Lautenberg; Sarah Kohl, NJSBA lobbyist; Eva M. Nagy, vice president for legislation/resolutions; and Bill Barnaskas, Lyndhurst.



## CONFERENCE NOTES

**NJSBA will sponsor its annual Advanced Bargaining program on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 18-19, at the Sheraton Parsippany, Parsippany.**

This weekend workshop will provide hands-on instruction in planning bargaining strategies and in face-to-face negotiations. The program includes an all-day bargaining simulation and evaluation of bargaining effectiveness. Four Board Member Academy Credits will be awarded for completion of program.

Registration fees are \$395 (single occupancy); \$355 (double occupancy); and \$315 (commuter).

To register or to obtain further information, call the NJSBA Labor Relations Department toll free at (888) 886-5722, ext. 5224.

# Hone Your Leadership Skills

A hallmark of insightful leadership is communication.

These two Certificated Board Leader courses offer strategies to be a more effective board and to garner public support for your district through enhanced communication skills.

## Engaging the Public *New!*

The time to educate and connect with the public is now—not just during times of crisis or selling the annual budget. Learn how to inform the community of your district's goals and plans, and encourage public participation and involvement. In this highly interactive session, you will:

- Examine your district's information-sharing tools
- Develop public engagement initiatives
- Identify and activate the opinion leaders in your community to help open a two-way flow of information

**NEW COURSE**  
for the Certified  
Board Leader (CBL)  
designation.

The public is a powerful ally in promoting your district's efforts. Invite them to the table so they will not only understand your district's needs, but will stand by you in good times and bad.

## Communicating Effectively

Every board has been there. Something is said, but how it is said and how it is received can drastically change its meaning, intent and impact. Learn how to avoid communication pitfalls and enhance skills to enable you to connect with your fellow board members, administrators and others.

As part of the new Certified Board Leader (CBL) curriculum, this interactive, hands-on training program is designed to help you:

- Learn active listening techniques
- Recognize one-way vs. two-way communication
- Give and receive feedback
- Avoid emotional triggers
- Create a non-threatening environment to confront the brutal facts

***Remember: You can take CBL courses now and bank them for the future.***

To register or for more information, call NJSBA's Inservice Education Department at 1-888-886-5722, extension 5232, or complete the coupon below and fax it to 609-695-0413.



Credits: 1  
Core Area for CBM: None  
Core Area for MBM: None  
Core Area for CBL: Elective

Please register me for:

**Engaging the Public**

- December 9, 2006,  
9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Clifton HS, Clifton  
 January 6, 2007, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.,  
Williamstown HS, Williamstown

- Bill Board (Voucher enclosed)\*  
 Member \$50 per person

**Communicating Effectively**

- December 9, 2006  
9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Clifton HS, Clifton  
 January 6, 2007, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.,  
Williamstown HS, Williamstown

- Payment enclosed (Make check payable to NJSBA)  
 Non-member \$100 per person

Cancellation Policy: A fee of \$25 will be charged for cancellations made within 10 working days of the program. Cancellations made within 72 hours and no-shows will be charged the full fee. For possible program cancellations due to inclement weather, call 609-392-2000.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

DISTRICT: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (b) \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: New Jersey School Boards Association, Inservice Department, 413 W. State Street, P.O. Box 909, Trenton, NJ 08605-0909 or FAX: 609-695-0413  
\*If you wish to be billed and a voucher is required for your records, please send it with your registration to avoid duplication. Travel directions will be provided when your registration is confirmed.



## Board of Directors to Meet

In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice is hereby provided of a meeting of the Board of Directors of the New Jersey School Boards Association. The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn/National Conference Center, 399 Monmouth Street, Exit 8, New Jersey Turnpike, in East Windsor, on Friday, Nov. 17, 2006 at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting is open to the public.

The agenda, to the extent known at this time, will include discussion and/or action on: open and closed session minutes of the Oct. 13, 2006 meeting; relocation of field offices; NJSBA Legislative Campaign; Governance and Operations Policy File Code 4131.3, Tuition Reimbursement; Governance and Operations Policy File Code 1400, *Membership on Joint Committees and Education-Related Organizations*; Governance and Operations Policy File Code 4155, *Attendance*; and Governance and Operations Policy File Code 3323, *Soliciting Prices (Bids and Quotations)*; officer reports; a Construction Review Committee report; and Workshop debriefing.

For further information, contact Linda Rottloff at (609) 278-5284.

## A Critical Time for Legislative Committee

With the state Legislature preparing to take on school funding, school district consolidation and employee benefits reform, now is the time to join NJSBA's advocacy team.

Several openings remain on NJSBA's Legislative Committee for board members who want to volunteer their time to communicate with state and federal lawmakers about the critical issues facing New Jersey's school districts.

The committee meets approximately six times a year to review and to adopt positions on proposals that affect boards of education. The committee also is responsible for promoting grassroots advocacy. Members are also often called upon to testify at hearings before the Legislature and the state Board of Education.

**Members are needed in** District 4 –Camden and Gloucester counties, District 8 –Burlington County, District 9 –Atlantic, Burlington and Ocean counties, and District 10 –Monmouth and Ocean counties.

**Alternate members are needed in** District 9 –Atlantic and Ocean counties, District 10 –Ocean and Monmouth counties, District 15 – Mercer County, District 27 – Essex County, District 31 – Hudson County, and District 34 – Essex and Passaic counties.

For further information, contact Katy Hague at (609) 278-5215 or by e-mail at [khague@njsba.org](mailto:khague@njsba.org).

## Book Charts Impact of AIDS

The National School Boards Association recently released a new book, *Living with HIV/AIDS: Students Tell Their Stories of Stigma, Courage, and Resilience*. The book focuses on the challenges facing students affected by the diseases. It also delves into problems students encounter in school and how school officials have contributed to their well-being, as well as HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention.

This book is a timely reminder that, 25 years after the first reports of AIDS in the U.S., schools still have a significant role to play.

**Time to Assess** “It is time to explore how well children affected by HIV and AIDS are doing in schools and how well schools

are doing in fulfilling their responsibility to ensure all students have the opportunity to learn,” Anne Bryant, executive director of NSBA, stated in the preface of the book.

The book contains firsthand accounts of children, including stories from a 15 year-old New Jersey boy living with HIV/AIDS. It also includes recommendations on school district policies and procedures.

The book is funded through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Division of Adolescent and School Health. It can be accessed in PDF-format through NSBA School Health Programs Web site at [www.nsba.org/schoolhealth](http://www.nsba.org/schoolhealth).

## State Plans NJ-SMART Changes

The state Department of Education on Nov. 6 notified superintendents of modifications to the reporting requirements for NJ SMART – the state's new student tracking system.

Deputy Commissioner of Education Isaac Bryant indicated that the modifications, which apply to special enrollment situations, should bring NJ SMART in closer alignment with other state education department reporting processes.

Modifications address the reporting of students in charter schools; parent-paid tuition students in public schools; full-time and shared-time vocational education students; students attending out-of-county vocational schools; students in state institutions; students attending school in multiple districts; students sent to contracted non-public preschools; and students receiving in-home instruction provided by school district.

Districts are required to provide student-level data to the state Department of Education by Dec. 18. For information, visit [www.nj.gov/njded/njsmart](http://www.nj.gov/njded/njsmart).

NJSBA is aware that many districts are concerned about the reporting timelines. Association leaders have been in discussion with state education officials about the matter.

## State Expands Holiday Calendar

From the Korean New Year to the Armenian Christmas to the Islamic celebration of Prophet Muhammad's birthday, New Jersey's list of approved religious holidays excusable in public schools reflects the state's growing diversity in population.

The state Board of Education recently endorsed a calendar that represents the holidays of several religions. The state's list of religious holidays has nearly doubled, to 75, in the past 15 years.



## Scenes from Workshop 2006 October 25-27, Atlantic City



*Patti Pawling, immediate past president, talks with Karen Ginty, 2006-2007 New Jersey Teacher of the Year, prior to being recognized at the Opening Session. Ginty is a kindergarten teacher at Monmouth Beach Elementary School.*



*Eva M. Nagy, NJSBA vice president for legislation and resolutions, staffs Association Central on the exhibit floor with field service representative Gwen Thornton. A new concept, the booth provided members with information about NJSBA's mission and services.*



*Mike Vrancik, director of government relations, delivers opening remarks at the annual state Legislative Update. From left to right are Assemblymen David W. Wolfe, R-Ocean and Monmouth, Thomas P. Giblin, D-Passaic, and John J. Burzichelli, D-Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem.*



*The Elizabeth School District was one of several Award of Excellence winners in the Exhibits Category of the Annual School Communications Competition.*



*Dr. Phillip Boyle, an expert of school governance and keynote speaker for the Opening Session, speaks with Edwina M. Lee, NJSBA executive director. Boyle offered insight into problem-solving and fostering positive relationships with communities.*



*Arnold G. Hyndman, president of the New Jersey State Board of Education, and John Bulina, NJSBA vice president for finance, prior to the state board's annual discussion program.*



*Kevin E. Ciak, NJSBA president, stands with Dr. Pedro Noguera, a New York University professor, author, activist and former board member. Noguera energized the Thursday General Session audience with his address about the impact of social and economic factors on student achievement and how school boards can meet these challenges.*



*Students from the Dr. Herbert M. Richardson Elementary School in Perth Amboy, Middlesex County, get ready to dance with a Chinese dragon formed by classmates as part of their music performance on the Workshop exhibit floor.*



*Harry J. Delgado, vice president for county activities, speaks with New Jersey Commissioner of Education Lucille E. Davy before her Critical Issues presentation about the direction of the state's public schools.*



# NJSBA ONLINE

## Web Highlights This Week

Take advantage of these features of NJSBA's Web site, [www.njsba.org](http://www.njsba.org):

- *This Is Your NJSBA* (located on the homepage under the "What's New" heading) is President Kevin E. Ciak's presentation to new school board members about the mission and services of their Association.
- *Delegate Assembly page* ([www.njsba.org/del\\_assembly](http://www.njsba.org/del_assembly)) has a menu of agenda items and other information about NJSBA's semi-annual meeting Nov. 18, as well as an online registration form ([http://www.njsba.org/del\\_assembly/register.html](http://www.njsba.org/del_assembly/register.html)).
- *Special Session Resources* ([www.njsba.org/govrel/specialsession](http://www.njsba.org/govrel/specialsession)) provides tools school board members can use to address the issues before the special session on property tax reform, including school funding, consolidation, and public employee benefits reform.
- *Core Beliefs* (located under "What's New") provides brief summaries of NJSBA's position on critical concepts before the special session.
- *Workshop 2006 Photo Gallery* ([www.njsba.org/workshop/slideshow](http://www.njsba.org/workshop/slideshow)) contains pictures from the three-day event, including student performances on the Atlantic City Convention Center exhibit floor, guest speakers and award winners.
- *Daily Clips* (located on the home page under the "In the News" heading) offers the latest education-related news from New Jersey's daily newspapers and from newspapers throughout the nation.

# CALENDAR



### Nov. 17

- ✓ Board of Directors' Meeting, National Conference Center, East Windsor, 7:30 p.m.

### Nov. 18

- ✓ Delegate Assembly Meeting, National Conference Center, East Windsor, 8 a.m.

### Nov. 18 and 19

- ✓ Advanced Bargaining, Sheraton Hotel, Parsippany, 7 a.m.

### Nov. 23 and 24

Thanksgiving Holiday—NJSBA offices are closed

For information about county school boards association activities, visit [www.njsba.org](http://www.njsba.org) and click on the name of the appropriate county association.

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## SCHOOL BOARD NOTES

Kevin E. Ciak, president  
Edwina M. Lee, executive director

## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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