

# SCHOOL BOARD notes

## Assembly OKs November Elections and Super Superintendents



### Battle Moves to the Senate

The state Assembly passed a bill Monday night that would move school board elections to November, beginning in 2008, and create “super” county superintendents with sweeping powers over local school district operations.

The Senate is set to vote on the legislation A-4/S-3 on Dec. 14. NJSBA has mounted an effort to stop the bill. (See box below.)

**April Election in 2007** A4/S3 would not change school board member elections until 2008. Therefore, in 2007, board members

### Check Web for Action Plan

NJSBA members have mobilized to fight Assembly Bill 4/Senate Bill 3, a proposal that came from the Legislature’s special session on property tax reform, but which will do nothing to lower property taxes:

- President Kevin E. Ciak sent two automated telephone messages to board members this week. He urged them to call legislative leaders to express opposition to the bills.
- Executive Director Edwina M. Lee issued a call to action, which is available for viewing at [www.njsba.org](http://www.njsba.org).
- Vice President for Legislation Eva M. Nagy and School Finance Committee chairman Roger Butler appeared before legislative panels to express concern about special session proposals.

**Visit [www.njsba.org](http://www.njsba.org) for information and resources on the special session.**

still would run for office on April 17.

The legislation also would extend the term of office, by about eight months, for board members who were elected in 2005 and 2006 and for those who will be elected in April 2007. The extension would accommodate the new November 2008, 2009 and 2010 board member election dates. School boards would reorganize in January.

**No Tax Impact** “Moving school board elections to the partisan November general election would have no bearing on property tax rates,” Eva M. Nagy, vice president of legislation and resolutions for NJSBA, testified last week before the Joint Legislative Committee on Government Consolidation and Shared Services. “It would only serve to place local education policy in a partisan political environment.”

**Budgets off Ballot** A-4/S-3 would eliminate immediately the required public vote on a district’s proposed annual base  
*continued on page 2*

## House Approves County Pilot

A proposal to create a pilot county school district, which would result in turning local school boards into advisory panels, passed in the Assembly on Monday by a vote of 46-33.

The bill, A-8, would organize a 5-year pilot county administrative school district, with the goal to evaluate the administrative and educational effectiveness of the county school district model.

The state Senate is scheduled to vote on A-8 and its Senate counterpart, S-49, on Dec. 14.

**Governance at Issue** Appearing before the Joint Legislative Committee on Consolidation and Shared Services last week, Mike Vrancik, NJSBA director of governmental relations, expressed concern about the impact of the pilot program on educational services, as well as the inability of school districts in the affected county to return to local governance if the experi-  
*continued on page 4*

### School Officials Meet with Lawmakers



School officials from the 34th legislative district (Essex and Passaic counties) met with Sen. Nia H. Gill, and Assemblyman Thomas P. Giblin last week to discuss special session issues. Left to right: Dr. Michael F. Rice, superintendent, Clifton; Senator Gill; Assemblyman Giblin; Marie L. Hakim, Clifton school board president; Dr. Daniel Fishbein, superintendent, Glen Ridge; and Elisabeth Ginsburg, Glen Ridge board president.

PHOTO BY CHERYL AMACKER

# Join in NJSBA's 'Day on the Hill'

Last year's turnout for the annual Federal Relations Network Conference resulted in significant strides for advocacy on behalf of New Jersey's school children. This year, NJSBA hopes to bring an even larger delegation to the 34th annual conference scheduled for Jan. 28 to Jan. 30 in Washington, D.C.

The theme of FRN 2007, sponsored by

the National School Boards Association, is *Pledge to America's Schoolchildren*.

For FRN Conference information, visit [www.njsba.org/govrel/frn](http://www.njsba.org/govrel/frn). For more information on how to join New Jersey's active and growing FRN delegation or to register for the conference, contact Sarah Kohl toll free at (888) 886-5722, ext. 5215 or at [skohl@njsba.org](mailto:skohl@njsba.org). 🍏



## Resolutions Cutoff

The cutoff for submission of resolutions for the next NJSBA Delegate Assembly will be 5 p.m., Monday, March 5. (The Delegate Assembly will take place on May 19.)

On Dec. 5, NJSBA notified school business administrators, board presidents and county association presidents about the cutoff date. The mailing included a description of the proper resolutions format.

Resolutions must be submitted in the proper format. They should be mailed to:

Resolutions, May 19, 2007 Delegate Assembly  
c/o Edwina M. Lee, Executive Director  
New Jersey School Boards Association  
413 West State Street, P.O. Box 909  
Trenton, NJ 08605-0909

To obtain a description of the format for submitting resolutions, contact Barbara Deveney toll free at 1(888) 886-5722, ext. 5256, or by email at [bdeveney@njsba.org](mailto:bdeveney@njsba.org).

## Executive Committee to Meet

In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice is hereby provided of a meeting of the New Jersey School Boards Association's Executive Committee. The meeting will be held 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2007 at NJSBA Headquarters, 413 West State St., Trenton.

The meeting is open to the public.

The agenda, to the extent known at this time, will include action/discussion of minutes of the Nov. 1, 2006 meeting; vouchers past 60 days; ratification of officers' vouchers; Advocacy update-2007 Legislative Agenda; proposed agenda for the Jan. 12, 2007 Board of Directors meeting; Long Range Plan Committee updates; parameters of 2007-2008 budget; ratification of *Bylaws*; Construction Review Committee/Facility update; Learning First Alliance Seminar; officers' committee reports and concerns; debriefing of Northeast Region Executive Director's meeting and November 2006 Delegate Assembly; and updates on NSBA 2007 Leadership/Federal Relations Network and Annual Conferences.

For further information, contact Mary Alice Durham at (609) 278-5206 or [mdurham@njsba.org](mailto:mdurham@njsba.org).

## Special Meeting with State Board

In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice is hereby provided of a special meeting of the New Jersey School Boards Association's Executive Committee with members of the New Jersey State Board of Education. The meeting will be held 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2007 at NJSBA Headquarters, 413 West State St., Trenton.

The Executive Committee and State Board members will discuss issues of mutual concern about education issues.

For further information, contact Mary Alice Durham at (609) 278-5206 or [mdurham@njsba.org](mailto:mdurham@njsba.org).

## 'Super' Superintendents

continued

budget. Therefore, the only finance questions in the April 17, 2007 annual school election would be proposals to spend above the budget cap and bond issues.

'Super' Superintendents A-4/S-3 would also give the governor authority to appoint executive, or "super" county superintendents, in each of New Jersey's 21 counties, at the recommendation of the state education commissioner and with consent of the Senate.

"This proposal would create a bloated county-level bureaucracy, increase costs by wiping out savings already achieved by local school districts, and distance education policy from parents and voters," Nagy testified.

"Think about it: Executive county superintendents—appointed by the governor, beholden to no voter—with near-dictatorial power over local school budgets, and with control over purchasing and human resources."

**Regionalization** The super county superintendent would immediately eliminate send-all, or non-operating, districts. Within three years, he would develop a plan to consolidate all school districts into K-12 systems and require the affected communities to conduct referenda on the proposals. 🍏



R. David Pettit, president of the Montgomery Township Board of Education, is pictured with Eva M. Nagy, NJSBA vice president for legislation/resolutions. Pettit testified on behalf of his district before the joint committee on consolidation, which addressed legislation to create the position of executive, or "super," county superintendent.

# DEVELOP YOUR LEADERSHIP SKILLS

## Parliamentary Procedure



Learn the secrets of Robert's Rules of Order and make your board meetings more efficient, effective, and satisfying.

Upon completion of this program, you will be able to:

- Describe the roles of the meeting leader and participants
- Discuss why rules are necessary and how they enhance the decision-making process
- Relate the standard order of business to your board agenda
- Demonstrate how motions are introduced, debated, and disposed of
- Interpret the hierarchy of motions
- Explain the critical differences between/among motions—including reconsider and rescind; table, postpone and refer; and old business and unfinished business.

Through case studies, simulations, and hands-on activities, you will acquire a greater understanding of how to run meetings and how meetings you attend should be run.

## Focusing the Board on Student Achievement *New!*



All board members want students to achieve to their fullest potential. But what is "student achievement?" How do we prepare students for the next level of education or the world of work? How do we measure results? What information do we need from school administrators to make informed decisions? Get the answers to those and other critical questions all board members should be asking.

Upon completion of this program, you will be able to:

- Make student achievement part of your board's monthly business
- Discuss alternative assessment methods
- Mine for student achievement data beyond test scores
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- Lead your board in making decisions to promote increased student achievement

Through formal presentations and hands-on exercises, learn how to increase student achievement in your district.

To register or for more information, call Heidi Bullock, Business Department, at 1-888-886-5722 extension 5217 or direct line 609-278-5217 or complete the coupon below and fax to 609-695-2934.



Credits: 2  
Core Area for CBM: None  
Core Area for MBM: None  
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Please register me for:  **Parliamentary Procedure**

January 20, 2007  
9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

**Focusing the Board on Student Achievement**

January 20, 2007 *or*  March 31, 2007  
9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

All programs held at the Raritan Valley Academy, Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission, Piscataway

- Members: \$125 per person
- Bill Board (Voucher enclosed)\*

- Non-members: \$250 per person
- Payment enclosed (Make check payable to NJSBA)

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.

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

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

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

Return to: New Jersey School Boards Association, Business Department 413 W. State Street, P.O. Box 909, Trenton, New Jersey 08605-0909 or FAX: 609-695-2934

\*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.

**Assembly Approves County Pilot**  
continued

ment failed.

**Selection** Within 180 days of enactment of the bill, the state commissioner of education would approach a county board of freeholders with recommendations to create a pilot district.

County freeholder boards could also apply for the pilot.

Under the bill, 11 of New Jersey's 21 counties would be eligible to participate: Atlantic, Cape May, Gloucester, Hunterdon, Mercer, Morris, Ocean, Salem, Somerset, Sussex and Warren. The bill excludes counties of the first class – a designation determined by overall population and density – and those counties with two or more Abbott districts.

**Dissolving Districts** Under A-8/S-49, local districts under the jurisdiction of the new county pilot school district could vote to dissolve. Their superintendents, district-level administrators or supervisory personnel positions also would be eliminated.

**Appointed Board** At the beginning of the pilot project, the freeholder director, or county executive, would appoint a four-member county school board. No more than two members of the board could be from the same political party, and each of the four would be initially appointed either to a one-year, two-year, three-year or four-year term.

The governor also would appoint a chief school administrator for the selected county school district for a contract of three and five years duration. 🍏



Atlantic County School Boards Association President Bob Iannacone (left) recognizes Atlantic SBA Vice President Pete Castellano of Egg Harbor Township for earning the Master Board Member designation through the NJSBA Board Member Academy.

PHOTO BY SHARON SEYLER

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.

School Board Notes is printed on recycled paper using vegetable ink. ♻️

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Kevin E. Clark, president  
Edwina M. Lee, executive director  
**SCHOOL BOARD NOTES**  
Frank Belluscio, director of communications  
Rosa Ciranni and Mike Yapple, contributors  
Adriana DiGiacomantonio, manager, graphic design  
Stacy Pezzola, graphic design

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**NEW JERSEY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION**  
Headquarters: 413 West State Street, Trenton, New Jersey  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 909, Trenton, NJ 08605-0909  
Telephone: 1-888-88NJSBA • Web site: [www.njsba.org](http://www.njsba.org)



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