

SCHOOL BOARD notes

Voters Approve \$10.3 million in School Construction

Voters in two of nine New Jersey school districts approved \$10.35 million in school construction on Jan. 26, according to NJSBA.

A total of \$293.7 million was on the ballot in the nine districts. Of the total amount approved, \$3.64 million will qualify for state funds, either through one-time school-construction grants, annual

“debt service aid” payments to school districts, or rebates through the state’s Clean Energy program.

School bond referendums were approved in Cumberland Regional and Montague Township. Referendum questions were rejected in Wood-Ridge, Pennsauken Township, Edison Town-

ship, Jackson Township, High Point Regional, Knowlton Township, and Washington Borough (Warren County).

School boards may hold special elections on five specific dates a year. The next date on which a school board may schedule a bond referendum question is March 9. 🗳️



NJSBA's Belluscio Wins National School Boards Award

The National School Boards Association on Saturday honored Frank Belluscio, NJSBA's communications director, with the 2010 Thomas A. Shannon Award

for Excellence in School Boards Association Leadership.

Frank accepted the award, given each year to an outstanding individual from a state school boards association, at a luncheon with more than 200 colleagues and other education leaders at the annual NSBA Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. The award, named in honor of former NSBA executive director Thomas A. Shannon, was established in 1997.

Frank was nominated by Marie S. Bilik, NJSBA's executive director.

“In the movie “It’s a Wonderful Life,” an angel named Clarence tries to show George Bailey how different his hometown of Bedford Falls would be had he not been a part of it,” she wrote in her nomination letter to NSBA. “Public education in New Jersey would likely be different had

it not been for the decades of service of Frank Belluscio.”

Frank began his NJSBA career in 1979 as a writer, and since 1996 he has directed the association’s communications team. His achievements are many, including:

- NJSBA is viewed by the media as a trusted source of information. Frank has led research and information campaigns that have had a positive impact on school construction funding and local school governance.
- He has conducted multiple public information campaigns, with successful outcomes on all. His efforts have helped voters understand and support education spending.
- Each year, he oversees best practices programs including the School Leader Award, which recognizes effective curriculum, and “Innovations in Special Education,” which spotlights creative and successful programs for children with disabilities.
- He tapped U.S. Department of Education data to effectively counter claims

that the state’s local school boards do not direct sufficient resources to the classroom.

Anne L. Bryant, NSBA's executive director, said Frank is well known as an effective communications director and advocate for public education. “He and his team have led very credible public campaigns throughout the state to inform the citizens of New Jersey about the importance of supporting their schools,” she said.

Marie Bilik's nomination noted that Frank would be the first to acknowledge the hard work of his colleagues and numerous school officials.

Stated Bilik, “In the movie “It’s a Wonderful Life,” Clarence the angel tells George Bailey, “Strange, isn’t it? Each man’s life touches so many other lives.”

“Bedford Falls had George Bailey. New Jersey’s schools have Frank Belluscio.”

In his remarks thanking the NSBA, Belluscio credited New Jersey’s board members. “The movies that Frank Capra directed capture American community principles.

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Christie's Executive Orders Suspend Rule Proposals

On his second day in office, Gov. Chris Christie issued his first eight executive orders -- four of which affect school boards.

Freezes Rule Proposals In Executive Order 1, the governor suspended the adoption process for a list of 154 rule proposals, finding that they can be "frozen" without compromising public health, safety or welfare, and without impinging on citizens' rights, or adversely affecting the state's ability to obtain federal funds or perform essential operations. The suspension of the proposed rules takes place for a 90 day period. Among the frozen rule proposals are provisions involving student transportation, the evaluation of school districts (NJQSAC), the process and procedures by which the education commissioner decides school law controversies and disputes, facilities

grants, speech therapist licensing and pupil immunization. The governor also created a list of 70 proposed regulations that are not frozen. Rule proposals on the "not frozen" list include proposals on charter schools, joint insurance funds, Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health Act safety standards, the Public Employment Relations Commission, the Election Law Enforcement Commission and homestead property rebates. Any rules that were sent to the New Jersey Register but not yet published must be withdrawn by the head of the proposing agency. Within 10 days of the Executive Order being issued, the head of each relevant state agency must review the lists of frozen and non-frozen regulations to advise the lieutenant governor whether changes should be made to either list.

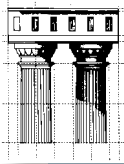
Extends Expiring Rules Executive Order 1 states that the expiration date of any regulation that would ordinarily expire before April 18, 2010 is extended until the Red Tape Review Group completes its review and until the extended regulation is readopted. (The Red Tape Review Group is newly created to reevaluate existing and proposed rules.) It also appears that any current regulations having an expiration date later than April 18, such as the NJQSAC regulations which expire in July, will continue in effect during the the Review Group's reassessment.

Red Tape Review Group The Red Tape Review Group, created by Executive Order 3 and chaired by the lieutenant governor, will review and identify rule proposals that are unworkable, overly-proscriptive or ill-advised. The group is charged with the review of certain rules, regulations and processes that are a burden on New Jersey's economy, as well as the review of all pending and proposed rules and regulations, and all Executive Orders from previous administrations. The group must solicit written and oral comments from the public and consider them in a report that it must make with recommendations to rescind, repeal or amend any provisions that unduly burden business and workers.

The Red Tape Review Group's report is due to the governor within 90 days of the Executive Order.

Common Sense Principles In Executive Order 2, the governor establishes and directs all state agencies to adhere to "Common Sense Principles" for state rules and regulations. Citing the need to encourage a competitive economy to benefit businesses and ordinary citizens, Gov. Christie crafted his principles to provide immediate, intermediate and long-term relief from regulatory burdens. Some of the steps for immediate relief include soliciting advice

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Training Focuses on Salary Guides

A well-constructed salary guide is a crucial element in enabling school boards to meet their staffing goals. As boards strive to remove costly balloon steps and retain recently hired staff, many have met with success after acquiring a better understanding of the issue.

Centrally Located Program To equip school board members and administrators with the skills needed to address salary guide concerns, NJSBA will conduct a training program, *Analyzing and Constructing Salary Guides*, on Feb. 20 at the RWJ Hamilton Center for Health & Fitness in Mercer County. Participants will engage in a step-by-step analysis of salary guide construction, understand how to recognize and address salary guide aberrations, and learn strategies to effectively negotiate guide changes.

Districts that participated in past NJSBA salary guide training have reported dramatic improvements. For instance, one district eliminated 19 balloon steps from its guide, the largest of which represented a 15 percent increment raise. (The largest increment on the district's new guide is only 4.4 percent.)

To register for the program, contact the NJSBA Call Center at (888) 886-5722, ext. 5260, or direct line (609) 278-5260.

County Association Leaders Receive Recognition



Pictured at left, Peter Calvo, NJSBA vice president for county activities, presents a certificate to Marie Lavigne, vice president of Camden County School Boards Association, and member of the Magnolia board. At right, Peter Calvo with Anna Tupe, vice president for programs, Middlesex County SBA, and member of the South Brunswick board. All county leaders received certificates of appreciation in honor of School Board Recognition Month.



All county leaders received certificates of appreciation in honor of School Board Recognition Month.

PUT YOUR POLICY MANUAL ONLINE



Online Policy Service helps to save **money** and **time** by reducing administrative costs and freeing up the time of IT personnel. Even if your district is not using the NJSBA file code system, you can still use our online service. Some of the Online Policy Service features include:

- 24/7 access to board policy on your district Web site for all to view, not just administration;
- Interactive links from each policy to related NJ codes, statutes & case law;
- Specially designed search engine to locate specific policy language within seconds;
- Faster turnaround on policy updates;
- Customized table of contents.

Contact Lou Schimenti at (609) 278-5271 or e-mail him at lschimenti@njsba.org for a FREE demonstration.

Executive Orders

continued

from experts in advance of rulemaking, allowing waivers from strict compliance, engaging in cost/benefit analysis, avoiding requirements that exceed those of federal law, and cultivating an approach that elevates compliance over penalty.

No Unfunded Mandates Executive Order 4 prohibits state agencies from proposing any regulation containing an unfunded mandate as defined under existing state law and the Constitution, without the governor's written authorization. An agency that proposes any mandate must solicit input from local governments, businesses, residents, and public stakeholders, and any proposals containing a mandate must be accompanied by a report to the lieutenant governor including the funding source for the regulation, and summarizing the input received from stakeholders. Within 30 days of receiving any such report, the lieutenant governor must inform the state agency whether

Policy Update: Relations with Vendors and Emergency and Disaster Preparedness

In the recently readopted accountability regulations, effective Nov. 25, 2009, districts are required to establish procedures to ensure and track the prudent use of legal services by employees and board members. If the district's legal cost exceeds 130 percent of the statewide average per pupil, the district must establish detailed procedures as outlined in the accountability regulations, unless it can provide evidence that such a procedure would not result in the reduction of legal fees.

This change in the regulation is reflected in the update to NJSBA's Relations with Vendors model policy 3327 in the *Critical Policy Reference Manual*.

Further, on Jan. 11, then-Gov. Jon S. Corzine signed legislation requiring school districts to conduct homeland security drills to improve emergency preparedness. This new requirement reduces the monthly fire drill mandate from two per month to one per month and requires one homeland security drill per month.

A homeland security drill is defined as an exercise to an emergency situation which includes a non-fire evacuation, lockdown or active shooter situation. Districts may wish to coordinate these drills with the local police and fire departments and refer to their Safety and Security Plans.

Homeland security drills are not required to take effect until Nov. 1, 2010 and are reflected in the update to NJSBA's Emergency and Disaster Preparedness model policy 6114.

A sample of both model policies can be obtained in the *Critical Policy Reference Manual*, and may be accessed online by checking under the "Popular Resources" box on the NJSBA Web site at www.njsba.org.

For more information, contact Lou Schimenti of the Legal and Policy Services Department at (609) 278-5271 or via e-mail at lschimenti@njsba.org.

the proposed regulation would constitute an unfunded mandate and, if so, recommend changes to bring the proposal into compliance. 🍎

NJSBA Lobbyist Testifies Before Senate Ed Committee

NJSBA lobbyist Barbara Horl testified before the Senate Education Committee on Monday. The session was the first



Barbara Horl, NJSBA lobbyist, speaks with New Jersey Network News reporter Jerry Henry after Horl's testimony on Monday.

meeting of the re-constituted Senate Education Committee since the new legislative session began.

Horl summarized the Association's mission, goals and services to the state's school board members.

She also spoke about school board members' challenges. "Our members are most concerned with the state budget picture for the current and upcoming year," said Horl.

Recent news about the State's fiscal 2010 revenue shortfall and proposed solutions that impact current year operating surplus funds have created uncertainty among local board members about how they can continue to deliver the current level of educational services. "And that's

before the legislature begins to deal with the even more pressing issue of the state's FY 2011 budget with its projected shortfall of a staggering \$8 billion to \$10 billion," she said.

Association's Legislative Goals Horl also introduced NJSBA's legislative advocacy agenda to the lawmakers, and noted that NJSBA was gratified to learn that the Education Transition Team had recommended a moratorium on new accountability regulations adopted outside the usual process, as well as the temporary suspension of NJQSAC so that it might be streamlined to better monitor school performance.

Collective Bargaining Horl addressed issues pertaining to employee contracts and collective bargaining. "Changes in labor law over the last 15 years have negatively impacted boards' ability to effectively negotiate," she said, noting that the removal of the "last best offer" from a board's tool kit has led to protracted rounds of negotiations, mediation and potentially costly fact finding and superconciliation.

Horl also stressed that board members are eager to collaborate with the lawmakers. "Our members want to work with you in partnership, because you are both involved in the same cause: the betterment of New Jersey, its children, citizens and communities," she said. 🍏

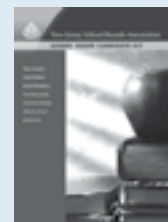


Board of Directors Highlights

The meeting of NJSBA's Board of Directors took place on Jan. 22, 2010 at the Wyndham Princeton Forrestal Conference Center/Hotel in Plainsboro. Action taken at the meeting included the following:

- Presented certificate of appreciation to officers, Board of Directors members and alternates in honor of School Board Recognition Month.
- Heard update on the headquarters renovation project at 413 W. State St., Trenton.
- Approved open session minutes of Nov. 20, 2009 Board of Directors meeting.
- Approved 2010 Legislative Committee membership.
- Approved 2010 Resolutions Subcommittee membership, as well as the 2010 Emergency Resolutions Subcommittee membership.
- Approved second reading of Governance and Operations Policies File Code: GO/4133.5, *Automobiles/Mileage Reimbursement*. The first reading of this policy was approved at the Nov. 20, 2009 Board of Directors meeting.
- Approved first reading, waived second reading and adopted the following Governance and Operations Policies File Codes: GO/4161, *Holidays*; and GO/6803, *Member Services Department*.
- Heard advocacy update which included a summary of the state's fiscal situation, the new Governor and new Acting Commissioner of Education, and the 2010 Legislature.
- Heard presentation on *Survey of NJSBA Services*, which included using the electronic voting cards. The presentation was by Ray Pinney, NJSBA's member outreach coordinator.
- Discussed proposed 2010-2011 budget parameters.
- Received information that Frank Belluscio, III, NJSBA's director of communications, is this year's recipient of the National School Boards Association's Thomas A. Shannon Award for Excellence in School Boards Association Leadership.
- Received the report of the President.
- Received and heard the report of the Executive Director.

Candidate Kit Online



NJSBA's 2010 Candidate Kit, including information on important school election dates and a sample nominating petition, is available online at www.njsba.org. Select "Download Candidate Kit Materials" on the left side of home page.

WEB-BASED ACCOUNTABILITY ACT MANDATED TRAINING



Academy Credits: 1
 CBM Core Areas: All
 MBM Core Areas: All
 CBL Core Areas: None

REGISTRATION FORM

IMPORTANT NOTICE: You will not be able to access the online training without your valid board member email address.

Pre-recorded, Web-based training allows you to take your mandated training requirement at your convenience. Training will be available from **January 13 – March 12, 2010**. The last day to register for the training is **Thursday, March 11**.

The last date to complete the training is **Friday, March 12, 2010**. Upon registering for Web-based training, you will be e-mailed further instructions.

Under the School District Accountability Act, board members must attend training if they fall into one of the following categories: 1st year, 2nd year; and 3rd year of board service. In addition, all reelected/reappointed board members must attend training in the 1st year of any succeeding term.

- 1st Term, 2nd year of service—Governance I: NJQSAC
- 1st Term, 3rd year of service—Governance II: School Finance
- Reelected/Reappointed Board Members—Advanced Training: Legal Update

PLEASE REGISTER ME FOR THE FOLLOWING WEB-BASED MANDATED TRAINING PROGRAM:

Governance I: NJQSAC **Governance II: Finance** **Advanced Training: Legal Update**

For more information, contact the Call Center at (888) 886-5722, ext. 5260, or complete the coupon below and fax to (609) 583-1040.

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* Web based training confirmation and instructions will be sent only to the member e-mail address. Advance board approval required.

FAX REGISTRATION FORM TO: (609) 583-1040

Register for 'Creating 21st Century New Jersey Schools' Workshops

“Creating 21st Century New Jersey Schools: The Statewide Systemic Model for Continuous Professional Learning and Growth” is a three-year professional-development program offered by the New Jersey Department of Education in collaboration with various professional organizations.

The program offers online learning, Web tools, virtual and face-to-face professional learning communities, and on-site training opportunities to help all education stakeholders statewide implement the 2009 Core Curriculum Content Standards.

Registration is now open for Phase 2 of the workshops.

Professional development opportunities for 2010 build upon implementation of the 2009 Phase 1 program, which focused on the impact of technology on students’ lifestyles and learning preferences. The Phase 1 sessions were attended

by more than 5,000 educators and were supported by online materials and learning experiences available through the Center for Innovative Education (CIE) Web site.

Phase 2 of the program focuses on Critical Transformations. It consists of modules of new learning that use the 2009 content standards as the conceptual framework for transforming teaching, learning and leadership, and creating 21st century learning environments. The content and skills offered in all Phase 2 modules serve as the context for ongoing professional learning for teachers and school leaders and the work of professional learning communities.

The Phase 2 brochure can be found at http://cie.kean.edu/CIE/PDF/21st_Century_Phase2.pdf.

To register for the programs online, go to <http://cie.kean.edu>.

For more information, call the Center

for Innovative Education at Kean University at (908) 737-7130. 🍏

Belluscio continued

Our small towns may be disappearing, but those small-town principles still exist.

“The work of boards of education takes place at the community level, and that work has resulted in a universal system of public education that is truly the strength of our nation.

“For the past 30 years, it has been an honor to work for people—local school board members—who give so much time and effort, who receive a lot of undeserved criticism, and who make sacrifices because of their belief in public education. When your role is to support people with those principles, your job is an easy one.” 🍏



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Harry J. Delgado, *president*
 Marie S. Bilik, *executive director*

SCHOOL BOARD NOTES

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 Stacy Pezzola, graphic design

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Delegate Assembly Resolution Cutoff is March 1

You can help set Association policy. At the Delegate Assembly, school district representatives vote on resolutions submitted by local boards, county school board associations, the NJSBA Board of Directors and standing committees.

Policy adopted by the Delegate Assembly is included in NJSBA's Manual of Positions and Policies on Education. That policy becomes what NJSBA staff will fight for, or against, in Trenton, in Washington, D.C., in the courts, and in the court of public opinion.

All resolutions submitted for the May 15 Annual Delegate Assembly must be received at NJSBA's office by 5 p.m. Monday, March 1. Notice regarding the cutoff date was e-mailed and faxed to school business administrators, county association presidents and board presidents on Jan. 21. Also included in the mailing were the rules for appearing before the Resolutions Subcommittee which will meet on Saturday, April 3, to consider the resolutions submitted for the May Annual Delegate Assembly Agenda.

For more information, contact Barbara Deveney via email at bdeveney@njsba.org or call toll free at (888) 886-5722.

Resolutions submitted for the Delegate Assembly must be mailed to:

Resolutions, May 2010 Delegate Assembly, c/o Marie S. Bilik, Executive Director, New Jersey School Boards Association, 413 W. State St., P.O. Box 909, Trenton, NJ 08605-0909.

Save the Date: NJSBA's Regional Town Hall Meetings, scheduled for Saturday, March 6 at Harrison High School and Saturday, March 13 at Glassboro High School.

C A L E N D A R

Feb. 20

Analyzing & Constructing Salary Guides, Robert Wood Johnson Health and Wellness Center, Mercerville, 8:30 a.m.

Feb. 23

Hudson County School Boards Association (SBA), Jersey City Board of Education, Jersey City, 7 p.m.

Feb. 25

Morris County SBA, Madison High School Media Center, Madison, 7 p.m.

Denotes pre-registration required
 Denotes NJSBA Board Member Academy Training Program