

SCHOOL BOARD *notes*

NJSBA on Proposed State Budget: Small Aid Increase Will Not Help Schools, Taxpayers

BUDGET 2004 A proposed 3 percent increase in state aid to public education is encouraging but, after two consecutive years of flat state funding, it cannot avert property tax increases, a New Jersey School Boards Association official told lawmakers last Wednesday during a hearing on the proposed 2004-05 state budget.

In spite of cost control measures by local school boards, the 3 percent aid increase will be outpaced by the services needed by a growing student body and by higher fixed costs, such as insurance and utilities, said James J. Dougherty Jr., NJSBA vice president for finance.

"The small [increase in aid] is not helping to avert school property tax increases," Dougherty testified to the Assembly Budget Committee. *continued on page 4*



PHOTO BY JANE KERSHNER

James J. Dougherty Jr. (foreground), NJSBA vice president for finance, testifies before the Assembly Budget Committee on the need for increased education aid during a public hearing on the proposed 2004-05 state budget. The committee held the hearing last week at Rowan University in Glassboro. The legislators seated at the panel (left to right) are Assemblymen Francis Blee, Joseph Malone, and Louis Greenwald.

Administrative Penalties: Librera Cites 10 Districts

The state Department of Education has notified ten school districts that they would incur state aid cuts unless they reduce administrative spending in their proposed budgets, Commissioner of Education William Librera said at a statewide education forum in Trenton on Friday.

Names of the ten districts are being withheld to give them an opportunity to appeal, according to a Newark *Star-Ledger* report that described the ten as "very small school systems."

The number of districts threatened with state aid reductions comes as a surprise. State education officials had previously estimated that more than 100

districts could be cited. Nonetheless, a Trenton *Times* article noted that proposed budgets in an additional five districts had, what Librera termed, "excessive spending" on administration. But they face no penalty due to "special circumstances." Another 55 districts were warned to "rein in administrative costs" to avoid penalties in the future, according to the *Times*.

Regional Thresholds Local school district superintendents learned of the administrative spending limits in a memo issued two weeks before the March 11 deadline for school board submission of preliminary budgets. In the memo, Richard Rosenberg, assistant commissioner

of education for finance, stated, "...the Commissioner may reduce state education aid...if the administrative expenses per pupil exceed a given threshold." These thresholds are \$1,358 in the southern region, \$1,368 in the central region, and \$1,489 in the northern region.

Further, Rosenberg indicated, "administrative spending is calculated in the same manner as the information in the annual Comparative Spending Guide."

No Authority Currently, there is no statutory authority for the state Department of Education to implement state aid penalties based on these administrative *continued on page 10*



Recollections from 1914-1924

To commemorate NJSBA's 90th anniversary during 2004, *School Board Notes* will feature highlights from Association history archives throughout the year. At the beginning of each month, this column will cite decisions and activities that took place during a particular decade. Occasionally we will include an item that relates to world events or education in general to put the specific time period in perspective. We hope you will enjoy this journey through the years, which will help to demonstrate how some things have changed and how some things will always be with us.



1914-1918—World War I took place. The U.S. entered it in 1917. The armistice was signed on April 11, 1918.

April 8, 1914—The New Jersey Legislature approved Chapter 129, which officially created the Federation of District Boards of Education, a formal organization that represented all school boards in the state. This Federation would later be known as the New Jersey School Boards Association. The law also authorized a delegate assembly, consisting of representative board members, and the election of Federation officers.

1916—New Jersey's first junior high school was built in Trenton.

November 1916—The annual Federation meeting included speakers for and against the consolidation of schools, and a speaker who addressed "state needs in connection with the care and training of feeble-minded children."

1917—The Legislature passed a law establishing physical training for all students except kindergartners. This was influenced by the low standards of physical fitness revealed among army entrants for World War I.

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County School Boards Association Activities

Bergen The Bergen County School Boards Association recently held their annual legislative breakfast meeting where over 60 board members had an opportunity to speak to their local legislators. Pictured at the meeting are Deborah Fehre, president of the Bergen County SBA, and Assemblyman Robert Gordon. Other legislators who attended the meeting included Assemblypersons Gordon Johnson, Charlotte Vandervalk and Joan Voss.



PHOTO BY RAMOND PINNEY



PHOTO BY LORI HANDALY-KAYE

Middlesex John Burns, NJSBA assistant counsel, presents the keynote address on *Overcoming Obstacles to Achieve Your Dreams* at the Middlesex County School Boards Association student recognition awards program. Over 450 board members, students, families, and district staff attended the meeting held last month in Edison.

Passaic The requirements and challenges of the No Child Left Behind Act were the topic of discussion at the Passaic County School Boards Association annual NJSBA/NJEA President's Forum Meeting held in Paterson in February. Glenn Ewan, NJSBA president, and Edithe Fulton, NJEA president, discussed the federal law with the board members, administrators and teachers who attended the meeting.

Pictured at the meeting (*left to right*) are Joseph F. Cheff, Passaic County Education Association president; Edithe Fulton, NJEA president; Glenn Ewan, NJSBA president; and Joanne Graziano, Passaic County SBA president. Ewan received a plaque from the two associations, thanking him for his participation in the event for the two years he was president.



PHOTO BY RAMOND PINNEY



PHOTO BY LORI HANDALY-KAYE

Somerset Susan Carter (*standing right*), president of the Somerset County School Boards Association, presents a gift to keynote speaker Laurie Kemble (*standing left*), Somerset County Teacher of the Year from the Amsterdam Elementary School in Hillsborough. The presentation took place at the county's annual student recognition awards program

held last month at the Bridgewater-Raritan Middle School. Other participants included (*seated left to right*) Eva Nagy, a member of the Franklin Township Board of Education and the NJSBA Board of Directors; David Livingston, Somerset County Superintendent of Schools; and Dr. Walter Mahler, superintendent of the Bridgewater-Raritan School District.

New Flexibility for Calculating Participation Rates Under No Child Left Behind



Responding to cries from board members and others from across the country, U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige announced new flexibility under No Child Left Behind at the National School Boards Association's annual conference in Florida. The change concerns the calculation of participation rates—the percentage of enrolled students who participate in an assessment program.

Under the new policy, a state may use data from the previous one or two years to average the participation rate data for a school and/or subgroup, as needed. If this two- or three-year average meets or exceeds 95 percent, the school will still meet the adequate yearly progress requirement. Schools that are performing well in this category may not be identified as in

need of improvement because of a one- or two-year dip in their participation rates.

The new policy also makes allowances for circumstances when a student cannot take the assessment during the entire testing period, including make-up dates, due to a “unique, significant medical emergency.” According to Paige, this could include such things as car accidents. Although students remain enrolled in the school during this period, schools do not have to include these students when calculating their participation rates.

The next step is for New Jersey's Department of Education to decide on implementing the change. States have some authority under NCLB to calculate participation rates. For example, states can determine how large a subgroup must be in order to be considered separately for participation rate calculations.

New Jersey uses a subgroup size of 20 students, although the state is considering raising the number for some populations. Additionally, states have testing windows, which can include make-up assessments. The make-up tests can count toward the school's participation rate.

NJSBA Advocacy Efforts NJSBA has been working hard to promote greater flexibility in NCLB. This new flexibility provision from the U.S. Department of Education is welcome, but still falls short of solving some of the basic implementation problems with the law.

To learn how your board can assist NJSBA with its lobbying efforts, log on to www.njsba.org and click on *No Child Left Behind*. From there, select *Report & Sample Resolution: Change NCLB Now!* for information on how to pass a board resolution. 🍏

Anniversary continued

October 1917—The Federation sent out its first survey, asking members for their input on such issues as the establishment of a state supervisor to assist the work of the local attendance officer; the consolidation of rural schools, and if they favored a course in agriculture as part of industrial training.

May-June 1918—The Federation passed a resolution recommending the elimination of the study of the German language from the curriculum. At the same time, the State Board of Education directed boards to exclude teaching of any kind or the use of any textbook, magazine, newspaper or publication that might contain German propaganda.

1919—The minimum teacher salary was set at \$100 per month.

November 1919—The Federation resolved to assist the state board in collecting funds for the erection of a school children's memorial to soldiers and sailors who lost their lives in the war.

This building would be an educational assembly hall. The pennies from those children helped to build the War Memorial in Trenton, which still stands today.

1920—At the annual meeting of the Federation, the main topic of discussion was the railroad tax, the prime source of school revenue since 1906.

1920s—An elementary teacher could begin teaching with only a high school diploma and one summer of professional work.

January 1920—The Federation worked to put together a recommended teacher salary structure. The average teacher salary in New Jersey for 1918-1919 was \$130.51 per month, the third highest in the nation.

February 1920—The Federation urged its members to contact their legislators about a number of Assembly and Senate bills that would affect home rule. Included was a bill which would increase compulsory schooling from five grades to seven grades.

December 1920—At the annual meeting, Federation members focused mainly on taxes and the need to balance the concern about tax hikes with the growing costs of operating the schools.

1921—The Federation established a statistical and research service.

1923—The Federation held a special meeting of the delegates to discuss a legislative bill proposing tenure for superintendents and assistants.

At this time, there was also rising dissatisfaction with school performance among citizens. Newspaper articles attacked the “fads and frills” of music, typewriting, business training, domestic science, intelligence tests, and physical education. A study ordered by the commissioner of education concluded that, although every subject had an opponent, the newer subjects contained in the curriculum were responsive to the needs of a changing pupil population. 🍏

State Budget continued

“Neither will it avoid cutbacks in some school districts, nor enable others to hire new staff and purchase new materials sorely needed due to increased enrollment.”

Dougherty stressed that the solution to the property tax and funding problems rests with increasing state aid, rather than implementing the administrative spending limits planned by the state Department of Education—an initiative he termed “unnecessary.”

“New Jersey State Department of Education records show that there has been virtually no growth in the number of school administrators since 1989-90,” said Dougherty. “During the same period, student enrollment increased by more than 27 percent and the number of classroom teachers by more than 28 percent.”

In addition, he noted that the percentage of school spending that goes toward administration in New Jersey has declined sharply since 1992-93, based on federal education department statistics.

“Clearly, local school boards share Governor McGreevey’s goal of directing resources to the classroom,” said Dougherty.

Dougherty also cited a proposed special grant program for rapidly growing school districts, which NJSBA finds “encouraging.” Nonetheless, he pointed out that the solution also requires New Jersey to fully fund its school funding statute.

“The fact is that [this budget] will mark the third consecutive year that the state has bypassed New Jersey’s enrollment-driven school aid formula—the Comprehensive Education Improvement and Financing Act,” he said. “During that time, enrollment has grown at three times the rate of state aid. Under this proposed budget, the difference will continue to be levied upon property taxpayers.

“The 3 percent increase also does little to help districts meet the growing

need for state and/or federally required services, such as special education and transportation. Nor does it help school districts contend with fixed costs—those expenses over which they have little or no control.”

Since 1999, almost three-quarters of the state’s school districts have negotiated provisions to contain the cost of employee health coverage, he explained to the lawmakers. But market trends, over which school boards have no control, counteract these local efforts.

In 2003 alone, the State Health Benefits Program—the largest health insurer in New Jersey schools—increased its premiums by 22.9 percent for traditional coverage and 27.4 percent for its major managed-care option. For 2004, the rate increases were 8.1 percent and 10.4 percent, respectively.

“In those areas where local school boards do have control, they have exer-

cised cost-containment,” said Dougherty. “New Jersey’s local school districts pool insurance and purchase energy as a group. These efforts help. But they do not obliterate the dramatic increases in the cost of running schools—increases that are not matched by state funding.

“If the state paid its full share for public education, as determined by statute, we could have a measure of property tax relief for 2004-05,” he told the legislators. “Additionally, there would be no need to distract the public by threatening school districts with state aid penalties.

“Local school boards want to be the governor’s and the Legislature’s allies in education, and not budget scapegoats,” said Dougherty. ●



S T A T E U P D A T E

March 29 Legislative Action

School Attendance NJSBA supported AJR68/SJR25 (Stanley, Mayer, Vas/Turner), which establishes the Task Force to Study Attendance in Public Schools. AJR68 was reported out of the Senate Education Committee and went directly to the Senate floor. It then passed the Senate and was sent to the governor. NJSBA encourages local districts to adopt attendance policies and regulations with clear incentives and sanctions to reduce the amount of time lost through student absenteeism, tardiness and class cutting. We commend the sponsors for their initiative in this important area and appreciate the inclusion of Association representation on the task force.

Budget Break The state Legislature will take its annual April break. The Senate and Assembly Budget & Appropriations Committees will meet during that time to review the governor’s budget proposal and will produce a budget in the form of an annual appropriations bill. The Legislature will reconvene in May. The budget must be signed by July 1. NJSBA will monitor both the Assembly and Senate hearings on the proposed Department of Education budget, as well as other hearings with education components, such as the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Labor. ●

october 20-22, 2004

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Opening General Session:

Erin Gruwell

Distinguished Teacher in Residence
California State University at Long Beach



Critical Issue:

Parry Aftab

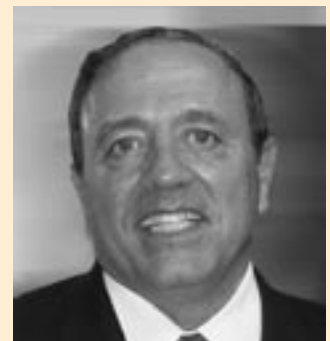
Cyber-lawyer and Creator of
WiredKids.org



Closing General Session:

The Second City

Comedy Troupe



Urban Boards:

Joseph N. Maccia

Principal of the Ann Street
School, Newark

Co-sponsored by:

NJ School Boards Association • NJ Association of School
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NJSBA/NJASA/NJASBO WORKSHOP REGISTRATION FORM

October 20, 21 and 22, 2004

All registrations must be prepaid. Registrations will not be processed without payment. Purchase orders will not be accepted as payment. BADGES WILL ONLY BE MAILED TO THOSE WHO HAVE PREPAID PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 24, 2004.

Registration Qualifications

Only board members and district staff are permitted to be included in a group registration. Attorneys must register as individuals. Member rates are extended to all New Jersey school board members and staff of districts in good standing. Spouses of board members, administrators or district staff will receive a complimentary registration. **Registration fee covers admission to all Workshop activities except the Urban Boards Luncheon** (register below), **the School Law Forum** (call 609-278-5254), and **the Women's Caucus Breakfast** (call 609-599-2900).

Any changes and/or cancellations **must** be sent to us in writing. Mail to Heidi Bullock at NJSBA at the address below, fax to 609-695-0413, or E-mail to hbullock@njsba.org.

School District _____ County _____

Contact Person _____ Telephone # _____

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To order a wheelchair, call The UPS Store, located in the AC Convention Center 609-449-2480.

TYPE OF REGISTRATION	Apr 1-Sep 1		Sep 2-Oct 15		On Site	
<input type="checkbox"/> Group Registration (open to N.J. school districts only) Covers the board, chief school administrator, school business official, district staff; maximum 11 people. Attorneys may not be included.	Members Only \$1,100		Members Only \$1,200		Members Only \$1,500	
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Registration	Member \$175	Non-member \$350	Member \$200	Non-member \$400	Member \$200	Non-Member \$400

District Registrants Name(s) of District Member(s)	E-mail Address	Spouse's Full Name (If attending)	Urban Lunch # of tickets @ \$65/person
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School Business Official			
Board Member			
Board Member			
Board Member			
Board Member			
Board Member			
Board Member			
Board Member			
Board Member			
Board Member			
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Cancellation Fees: Jun 1-Sep 1 = \$50 Sep 2- 24 = \$100
Requests for refunds cannot be accepted after September 24, 2004.

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

**Important! All registrations must be prepaid.
Registrations will not be processed without prepayment.**

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO NJSBA AND MAIL TO:
New Jersey School Boards Association, Business Services/Workshop, P.O. Box 909, Trenton, New Jersey 08605-0909**

Hotel Reservation Form

2004 ANNUAL WORKSHOP

New Jersey School Boards Association, New Jersey Association of School Administrators, New Jersey Association of School Business Officials
The Atlantic City Convention Center—October 20-22, 2004—Atlantic City, NJ

Headquarters Hotel — The Borgata

Mail To
NJSBA/NJASA/NJASBO
Housing Department
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LAST DATE TO MAKE RESERVATIONS IS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2004.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS may not be made by telephone or FAX. All room requests must be made on this form! You will receive an e-mail acknowledgement within 72 hours of your reservation being processed. Fax/mail acknowledgements will be sent within 10-14 days. Unprocessed requests will be placed on a waiting list. If you do not receive your acknowledgement within this time frame, please contact the Atlantic City Convention Housing Department via e-mail at NJSBA_HOUSING_QUESTIONS@ACCVA.com.

Hotel Choice(s)

1st _____ 4th _____
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Total # of rooms requested _____ # Single Rooms _____ # Double Rooms _____
(Limited to 12 rooms per district) # Junior Suite _____ # 1-Bed Suite _____ # 2-Bed Suite _____

Special Request: Smoking Non-smoking Handicapped Other _____
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*METHOD OF PAYMENT (please check)

Credit card type: Visa Master Card Card#: _____ Exp. Date _____

Voucher **STOP! Do Not** send Purchase Order/ Voucher until requested by confirming hotel.

If accommodations at the hotel of your choice are not available, the Housing Department will make comparable reservations elsewhere and you will receive acknowledgement directly from the Atlantic City Convention Housing Department and/or assigned property. If a district does not accept another hotel, its name will not be kept on the Wait List. Acknowledgements will be sent after each reservation booking, modification, and/or cancellation. Please be aware that there will be no refunds or credits issued for any changes or cancellations made after October 1, 2004.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE DATES ARE ESSENTIAL!

Rooms will be occupied by: (Names **MUST** be supplied for each room reserved.) **DO NOT OVERBOOK!**

Name of Occupants	Street Address/City/State/Zip	Arrival	Departure

(PLEASE ATTACH LIST OF ADDITIONAL NAMES, IF NECESSARY)

Name of person making reservation (please print) _____

School District/Association/Company _____

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City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

SCHOOL DISTRICTS NOTE: To be exempt from the 12% room tax, you **MUST** settle the account with a District Voucher or District Check.

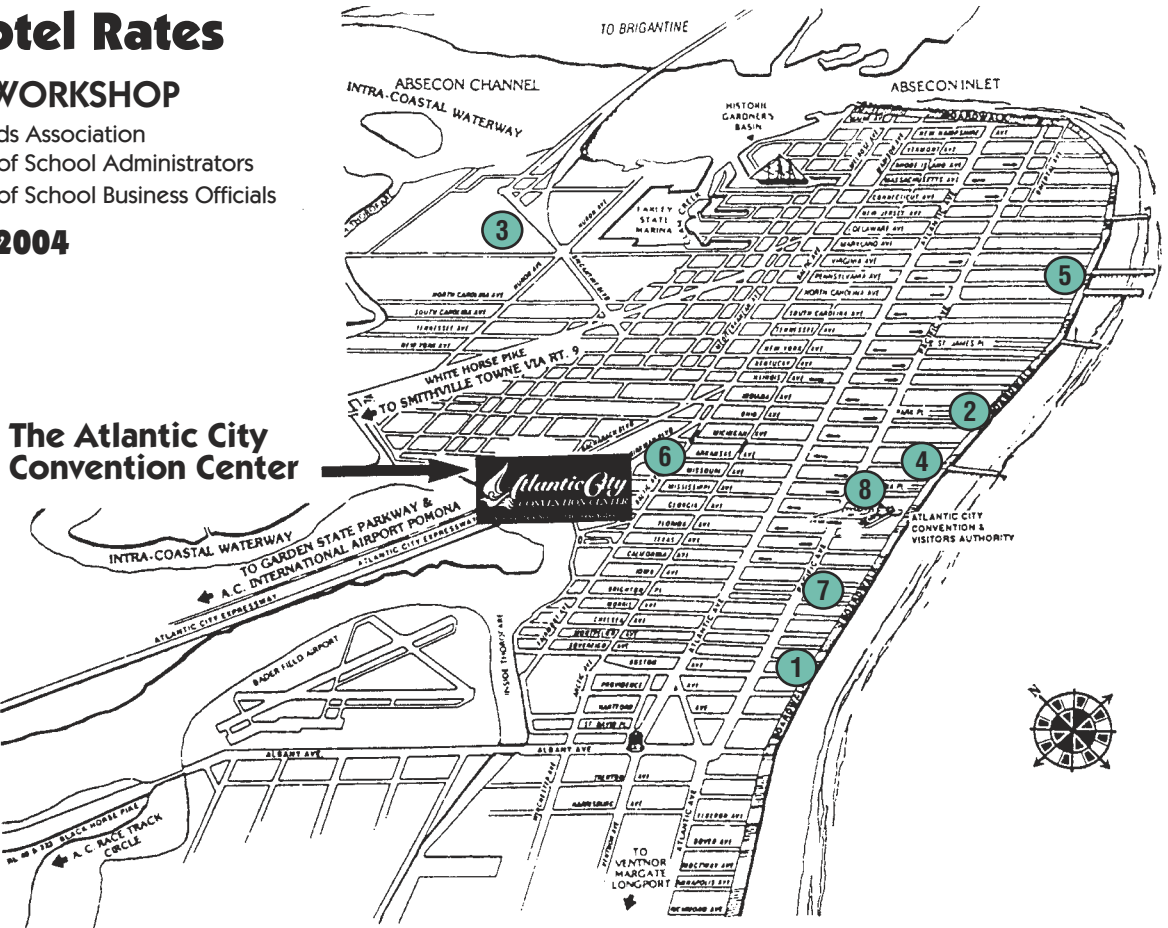
See reverse side for rates and map of hotel locations.

Hotel & Motel Rates

2004 ANNUAL WORKSHOP

New Jersey School Boards Association
 New Jersey Association of School Administrators
 New Jersey Association of School Business Officials

October 20-22, 2004



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Hotel	Single/ Double	Jr. Suite	1 Bedroom Suite	2 Bedroom Suite
1 Atlantic City Hilton Casino Resort (1, 2, 3, 4)	\$115		\$375	\$475
2 Bally's Park Place Casino Hotel (1, 2, 3, 4, 5)	\$129		\$375	\$475
3 Borgata [Headquarters] (1, 2, 3, 4, 6)	\$145			
4 Caesars Atlantic City Hotel /Casino (1, 2, 3, 5)	\$129	\$200 Tribune	\$375 Senator/ Hospitality	\$475 Emperor
5 Resorts Casino Hotel (1, 2, 3, 5, 6)	\$125		\$145 Rendezvous Tower	
6 Sheraton A.C. Convention Center Hotel (1, 2, 3, 4)	\$125	\$149 Club Level	\$250 Hospitality/ Conference	\$350 VIP (+ room cost)
7 Tropicana Casino & Resort (1, 2, 3)	\$99	\$149 South Tower	\$229 Theme \$329 B-Level	
8 Trump Plaza Hotel & Casino (1, 2, 3, 4)	\$120 \$140 Triple \$150 Quad			

- 1. Restaurant and/or Coffee Shop
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- 6. Rate Includes Parking

The above rates are subject to Room Tax and Tourism Fees.
 NJ State Tourism/Casino Hotel Room Fee—\$5.00 per day.
 Luxury Tax—\$3.00 per day.

NJSBA Applauds Mandate Commission Findings, Urges Extension of Study

The New Jersey School Boards Association applauded the findings of the Education Mandate Review Study Commission, released last week by Governor McGreevey. At the same time, it urged continuation of the panel's work into the complex areas of special education, the public vote on school district budgets, and non-public school transportation.

Established by Governor McGreevey in October, the commission studied the mandates placed on school districts by statute or regulation and made recommendations for changes to, or elimination of, the requirements.

"This commission represents a substantial step by the administration to help school districts control costs," said Edwina M. Lee, NJSBA executive director. "We urge Governor McGreevey and the state Legislature to support the commission's recommendations. We also ask the governor to promote further study into the complex areas of state and federal

special education requirements, required voter action on proposed school budgets, and mandatory payment of non-public school transportation.

"New Jersey's local school districts continue to face tough financial times. They need as much flexibility as possible to meet students' needs and not overburden the taxpayers of their communities. The commission's recommendations would help us achieve those goals."

In particular, Lee noted the recommendation to eliminate the requirement that school districts employ a custodian/treasurer of school monies. Eliminating the mandatory post has been a long-term NJSBA goal and, according to the commission, would save school districts statewide \$3.6 million a year.

The commission called for reassigning the treasurer's responsibilities, which consist primarily of co-signing checks and reconciling bank accounts, to the district's school business administrator.

The NJSBA executive director also cited the commission's support for NJ SMART, a record-keeping process now under development in the state Department of Education. According to the commission, NJSMART would collapse many duplicative reporting requirements into one centralized system, reducing paperwork in local school districts and saving local property taxpayers money.

The New Jersey School Boards Association was represented on the commission by Richard Sullivan, associate director for governmental relations and a former local school board member and school business administrator. 🍏



Book of the Month

Policy—As a new board member, you discover that you promote change and progress through policymaking. What does that mean and how is it accomplished? *Policy*, published by NJSBA, can provide some practical guidance in the art of policymaking. Do you need to understand the deliberative process that results in clear, workable and legal policy, or discern the difference between policies and regulations? This publication will walk you through each step and provide definitions along the way.

The board receives its powers to govern directly from the Legislature, and it governs through its policies. This publication defines that role and clarifies the difference between it and the administration's role as the implementer of board policy. The book describes five ways that relying on policy in decision making can help boards operate effectively and efficiently.

To order this publication, log on to www.njsba.org and click on *Publications*, or contact Maryann Wolverton at 1-888-886-5722, ext. 5209, or mwolverton@njsba.org.

Education by the Numbers

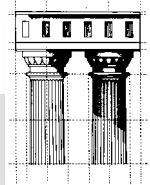
Quick Facts About New Jersey's Public Schools

To assist the news media in reporting about Governor McGreevey's Annual Budget Message, the New Jersey School Boards Association released pertinent statistics on New Jersey's schools. To access the entire Education by the Numbers release, visit the Public Information page at www.njsba.org/PI. This week's Education by the Numbers focuses on:

Early Childhood Education

- 30** Number of Abbott districts, all of which must provide full-time pre-kindergarten programs.
- 132** Number of New Jersey school districts, including the 30 Abbotts, that received Early Childhood Education Aid in 2003-04 to fund pre-kindergarten and full-day kindergarten programming.
- 201** Number of New Jersey school districts, including the Abbotts, that provided pre-kindergarten programs for non-special education pupils in 2002-03.
- \$329.6 million** Amount of Early Childhood Education Aid provided to New Jersey school districts in 2003-04 (same amount as in 2002-03).

(SOURCES: NJ State Dept. of Ed., Fall Survey, Enrollment, 2002-03; NJ State Dept. of Ed., Division of Finance, 2003-04 State Aid Summaries-Cash Basis and 2002-03 State Aid Summaries-Cash Basis.)



Board Members Earn Certificated Board Member Designation

NJSBA wishes to congratulate the school board members listed below for earning their Certificated Board Member designation through NJSBA's Board Member Academy. To receive this certification, board members must earn at least 20 credits and attain some credits in all of the following CMB core topic areas: relationships: board/superintendent, board community and board/board; policy; curriculum; school finance; school law; labor relations; and board operations. Once all core areas have been addressed, the balance of credit hours may be earned in any of NJSBA's training programs that are held throughout the year.

The board members who recently earned their CBM are: Mary Rose Amistad, Carteret; Cynthia Auberger, Vernon; Lorraine Balut, Gibbsboro; Joseph Biagianti, Keyport; Martha Blom, Highland Park; Pamela J. Botka, Boonton Town; Patricia E. Bowers, Branchburg; Denis A. Boyle Jr., Bethlehem; Dorothy Bradley, Manville; Sheila Brogan, Ridgewood; Richard Brooks, Palmyra; Nancy A. Burkley, Westampton; Edwinna N. Carroll, Hasbrouck Heights; Pete Castellano, Egg Harbor; Cynthia Charner, Stillwater; Mary Ann Cool, East Orange; Theresa D'Agostino, Roxbury; Joseph Damato, Fort Lee; Kevin DeCoursey, Florham Park; Nancy Di Bartolo, Wanaque; Sheryl S. Eaton, River Vale; Victor Ernest, Deptford; Donna M. Ervin, Pemberton; Judy Farrell, Bedminster; Alan Feigenson, Oradell; Lillian La Fountain, Pine Hill; Gail Gardner, Sussex Wantage Regional; Linda K. Gilch, Gloucester; Jeannine Gorman, Clinton; Keith Green,

Allamuchy; Jeanette Harbeson, Penns Grove-Carneys Point; Carol Hardy, Irvington; Lorraine M. Hatcher, Riverside; Peggy Healey, Mine Hill; Kimberly Heminway, Hainesport; Annette T. Hopman, Old Bridge; Annette M. Hurley, West Long Branch; Frank J. Kearns, Egg Harbor; Denise Kenney, Readington; Joanne King, Boonton; Kenneth E. La Freniere, South Plainfield; Georgina Lee, Ocean City; Thelma Long, Lawnside; Suzanne Loutfy, Carteret; David Mac Donald, North Wildwood; John Mac Farlane, Florham Park; Cynthia Magill, West Amwell; Marie Mahler, Lakeland Regional; Patricia Malloy-Blomberg, Allendale; Linda J. Mitchell, Barnegat; William Motley, Linden; Charles M. Neiss, Watchung; Barbara Para, Mullica; Marsha K. Parrish, Readington; Barbara Pietanza, Milltown; Mary Pinney, Millstone; Greg Quagliato, Springfield; Ellen Reese, Gloucester; Janet Richards, Mendham; Diane Rose, Sussex Wantage Regional; Valerie Rosenberg, Howell; Daniel L. Ryan, Glassboro; Joseph Scanlon, Haledon; Leslie M. Septor, Lakehurst; Kathleen Sezack, Mount Laurel; Richard Snyder, Ramsey; Richard Specht, Montgomery; Wendy Spinner, Bound Brook; Henry Strasser, Northern Burlington County Regional; Dawn M Tosti, Eastampton; Anne Marie Trapp, South Amboy; Eddie Webb Jr., Franklin; Irene M. Weller, Phillipsburg; and Charlene L. Zoerb, Upper Township.

To learn more about the NJSBA Board Member Academy, visit www.njsba.org and click on *Training*, or call 1-888-886-5722, extension 5232.

Penalties continued

spending limits. The administration, however, is expected to try to establish that authority by adding a provision to the 2004-05 state budget, which may be enacted as late as June 30.

NJSBA: Limits Not Needed NJSBA is concerned about the plan's negative impact on district operations, including instruction. In addition, both state and federal data indicate that the spending limits are not needed.

In a recent memo to the leadership of the state's county school boards associations, NJSBA offered the following observations:

- *Much "administrative spending" is related to instruction.* The Department of Education's Comparative Spending Guide defines administrative spending to include positions, such as curriculum coordinators. The definition also involves functions such as evaluation of teaching staff, supervision of instruction, and inservice training.
- *Spending limits are unnecessary.* There was virtually no growth in the number of administrators employed in New Jersey schools from 1989-90 through 2002-03, according to state education department data. In comparison, the student population grew by more than 27 percent during that period, while the number of classroom teachers increased by 28 percent. Federal statistics show that the percentage of New Jersey school expenditures going toward administration has decreased markedly since 1992-93.
- *State aid is the real issue.* While the state is focusing on administrative spending limits, it has ignored its responsibility to provide adequate school funding for the past three years—passing more costs onto local property taxpayers or forcing school districts to cut programming.

continued on page 12

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The all-new version of this handy resource also features a fresh new look and more consultant listings than ever before. Best of all, the Consultant Registry is **free of charge** for NJSBA members. Log on today at www.njsba.org/registry to view the new interface and find your next consultant.

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Your source for online consultant referrals – www.njsba.org/registry



OCTOBER 20-22, 2004

Curriculum Fair and Question and Answer Roundtable Proposals Needed

"Destination...Growth" is the theme of the 2004 Annual Workshop being held in Atlantic City on October 20-22. The New Jersey School Boards Association and its cosponsors, the New Jersey Association of School Administrators and the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials, need your help to reach that destination. We are asking you to share your formulas for success.

Two of the most successful activities of each year's Workshop are the Curriculum Fair and the Question and Answer Roundtables sessions, which will be held on Thursday, October 22. The Curriculum Fair features exemplary programs that are integral parts of a school district's curricula. The Question and Answer Roundtables highlight programs that address such areas as administration, counseling, co-curricular activities, school construction and professional development.

Proposal forms were e-mailed to all superintendents this week. For additional forms, log on to www.njsba.org and click on Curriculum Fair/Question & Answer Roundtables Proposal Form. For further information, contact Walter Meyer at 1-888-886-5722, extension 5236, or wmeyer@njsba.org.

The deadline for receiving completed forms is April 29.


Penalties continued

- *Short notice.* Last-minute notification has left school districts scrambling to address the dictate at the same time that they are under pressure to complete their budgets due to delayed release of state aid numbers.
- *Property taxpayers and/or school programs will suffer.* The limits could cause local property tax increases and/or be detrimental to school programming. Districts not able to meet the thresholds would have to cut back on necessary spending or reduce anticipated state aid. Loss in anticipated state aid would have to be made up by increased local taxes.

The Association plans to continue expressing its concerns about the penalties to the administration and Legislature. 🍏

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SCHOOL BOARD NOTES
 Glenn B. Ewan, president
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