

NJSBA Delegate Assembly Handbook

May 18, 2019 • The Conference Center at Mercer • West Windsor, N.J.



New Jersey School Boards Association
Serving Local Boards of Education Since 1914



ANNUAL DELEGATE ASSEMBLY May 18, 2019

**The Conference Center at Mercer
Mercer County Community College
West Windsor Campus
1200 Old Trenton Road
W. Windsor, New Jersey**

SCHEDULE

8:00- Registration
10:00 a.m. Hot Breakfast Buffet

9:00 a.m. Call to Order

Election of Officers

- Report of the NJSBA Nominating Committee
- Proposed Slate of NJSBA Officer Candidates

Bylaws Committee Report

Resolution

Adjournment

Adjourned Meeting Date
June 22, 2019

Note: In case of inclement weather, call 609-392-2000 for a recorded message about a possible cancellation of the Delegate Assembly. If you get a busy signal, someone is listening to the message; please call back.

[Meetings & Events](#)[Fine Food & Beverage Services](#)[Day Meeting Package](#)[Technology](#)[Contact Us/Directions](#)

**Mercer County Community College
West Windsor Campus
1200 Old Trenton Road
W. Windsor, NJ**

From North or South via U.S. 1

- Exit onto Quakerbridge Road / South 533.
- After 2 miles (through 4 traffic lights), turn left at the Youngs Road traffic light.
- At the end of Youngs Road, turn right onto Hughes Drive and follow past Mercer County Park entrance.
- MCCC campus entrance is on the left.

From Route 206 North or South

- From 206 South, turn left onto Province Line Road (at traffic light).
- From 206 North, turn right onto Province Line Road.
- Follow Province Line Road through the next traffic light (Princeton Pike), continue to the next traffic light and turn right onto Quakerbridge Road / South 533.
- On Quakerbridge Road, follow directions from Route 1 (see above).

From North or South via Interstate 95/295

- Take Interstate 95 (which becomes Interstate 295) to Exit 65A: Sloan Ave. East
- Continue straight on Sloan Ave. East (becomes Flock Road) to the end.
- Turn left at traffic light, onto Edinburg Road
- Continue straight through one traffic light (becomes Old Trenton Road).
- Take right jug handle that leads to the MCCC campus entrance.

From East

- Follow Route 33 West until you see signs for Route 133 West (the new bypass route).
- Turn right onto Route 133 West.
- Take Route 133 West to the end and exit immediately onto Route 571 West (Princeton-Hightstown Road).
- Move immediately to the far-left turning lane and turn left onto Route 535 / Old Trenton Road.
- Follow Route 535 / Old Trenton Rd for approximately 5 miles.
- MCCC campus entrance is on the right.

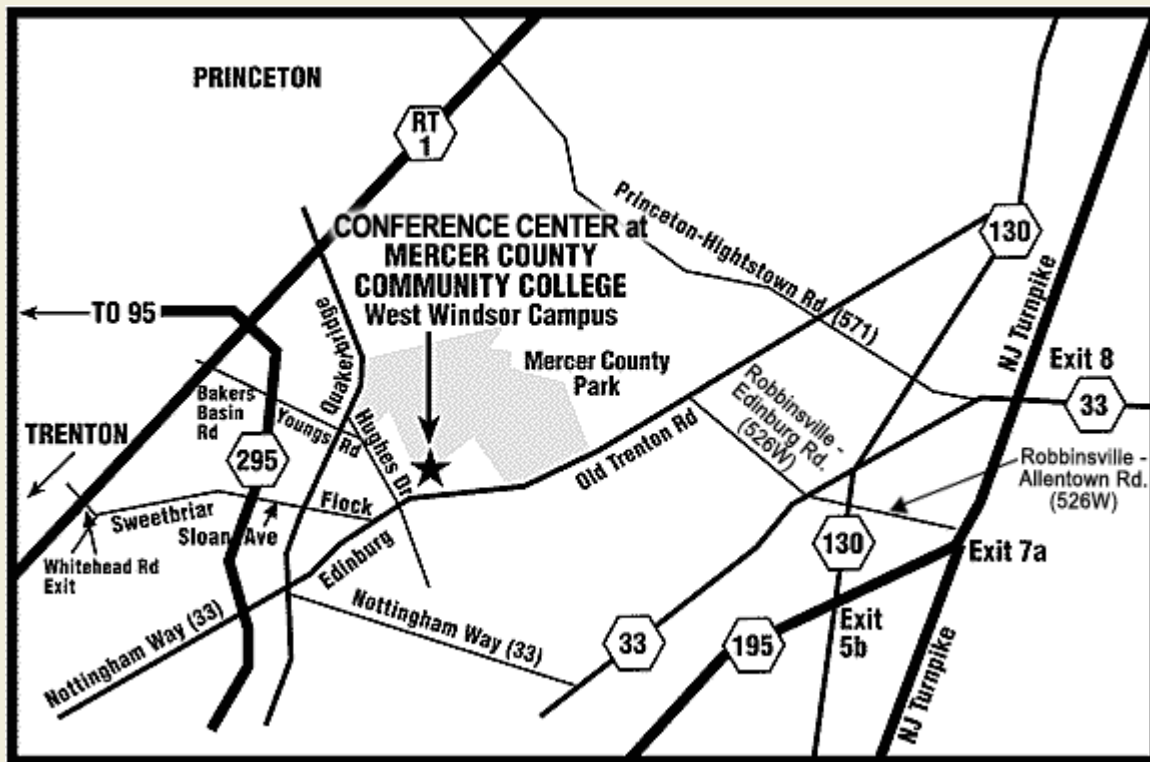
From North via NJ Turnpike

- Take Turnpike Exit 8 at Hightstown onto Route 33 West.
- Follow signs onto Route 133 West (the new bypass).
- Turn right onto Route 571 West (Princeton-Hightstown Road).
- Move immediately to the far-left turning lane and turn left onto Route 535 / Old Trenton Road.
- Follow Route 535 / Old Trenton Road for approximately 5 miles.
- MCCC campus entrance is on the right.

From South via NJ Turnpike

- Take Turnpike Exit 7A.
- Go West on I-195 to Exit 5B (first exit off I-195).
- North on Route 130, proceed to the second traffic light and turn left onto Robbinsville-Allentown Road (526 West).
- Go through traffic light and make immediate right onto Robbinsville-Edinburg Road (526 West).
- At the end of Robbinsville-Edinburg Road (526 West), turn left onto Old Trenton Road (535).
- Follow Old Trenton Road for 2 miles to campus entrance on right, after Mercer County Park.

AREA MAP:



CAMPUS MAP:

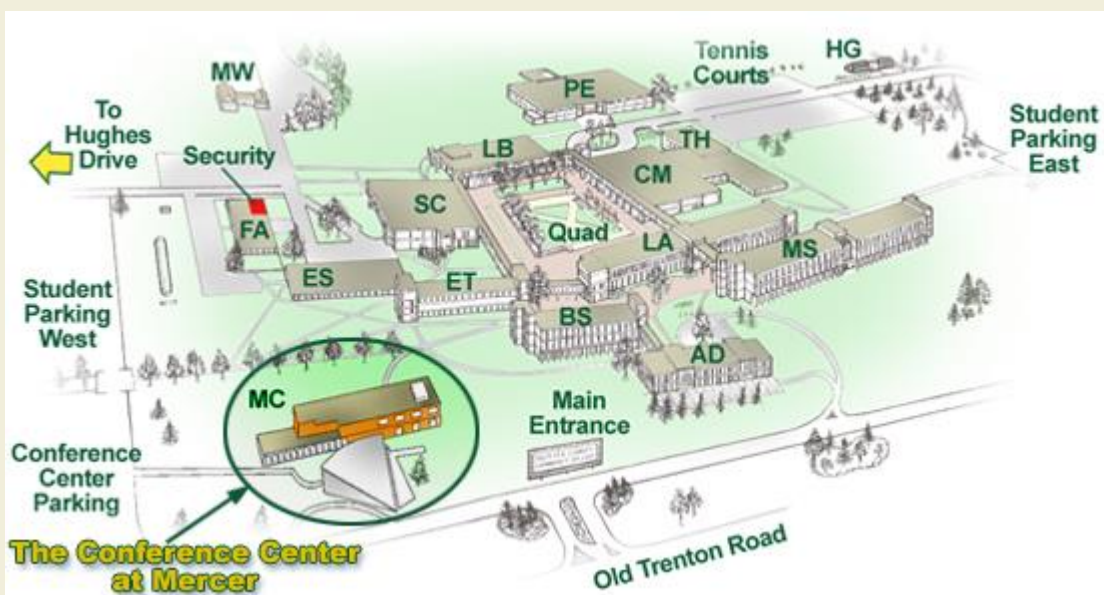


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NEW JERSEY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2018-2019
(As of 4/12/19)

OFFICERS/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

<i>President</i>	Daniel Sinclair Lakeland Regional Board of Education
<i>Vice President for County Activities</i>	Christy Tighe Greenwich Township Board of Education
<i>Vice President for Finance</i>	Michael R. McClure Maple Shade Board of Education
<i>Vice President for Legislation/Resolutions</i>	Vacancy
<i>Immediate Past President</i>	Donald Webster, Jr. Manchester Township Board of Education
EX OFFICIO <i>Executive Director</i>	Lawrence S. Feinsod, Ed.D. New Jersey School Boards Association

MEMBERS & ALTERNATES

ATLANTIC COUNTY

Anne Erickson, Greater Egg Harbor Regional Board of Education
Vacancy (Alt.)

BERGEN

Diane Holzberg, Demarest Board of Education
Sheli Dansky, River Edge Board of Education (Alt.)

BURLINGTON

Jennifer Montone, Burlington City Board of Education
Vacancy (Alt.)

CAMDEN

Gail David, Eastern Camden County Regional Board of Education
Naomi Davidson, Runnemede Board of Education (Alt.)

CAPE MAY

Andrea Olenik-Hipkins, Upper Township Board of Education
Vacancy (Alt.)

CUMBERLAND

Vacancy
Vacancy (Alt.)

ESSEX

Sandra Mordecai, West Orange Board of Education
Erika Jacho, Belleville Board of Education (Alt.)

GLOUCESTER

Peter J. Calvo, Glassboro Board of Education
Vacancy (Alt.)

HUDSON

Michael Baruch, M.D., Guttenberg Board of Education
Vacancy (Alt.)

HUNTERDON

Laurie Markowski, Flemington-Raritan Regional Board of Education
Charles T. Miller, East Amwell Board of Education (Alt.)

MERCER

Gregory M. Stankiewicz, Princeton Board of Education
Anthony F. Messina, Ewing Township Board of Education (Alt.)

MIDDLESEX

Lucille (Lucy) Bloom, Sayreville Board of Education
Deven M. Patel, South Brunswick Board of Education (Alt.)

MONMOUTH

Mark A. Bonjavanni, Howell Township Board of Education
Steven Seavey, Monmouth Regional Board of Education (Alt.)

MORRIS

Irene LeFebvre, Boonton Town Board of Education
Karen Cortellino, M.D. (Alt.)

OCEAN

Doreen Continanza, Barnegat Board of Education
Daniel Leonard, Toms River Board of Education (Alt.)

PASSAIC

Jeff Fischer, Haledon Board of Education
Nancy Lohse Schwartz, Pompton Lakes Board of Education (Alt.)

SALEM

Eileen C. Miller, Woodstown-Pilesgrove Board of Education
Dominick Miletta, Pittsgrove Board of Education (Alt.)

SOMERSET

Robert B. Morrison, Watchung Hills Board of Education
Barry Walker, Bridgewater-Raritan Board of Education (Alt.)

SUSSEX

Ray Morris, Newton Board of Education
Vacancy (Alt.)

UNION

Helen E. Kirsch, Berkeley Heights Board of Education
Maureen Byrne, Winfield Board of Education (Alt.)

WARREN

Paul Williams, Harmony Township Board of Education
Scott Nodes, Greenwich Township Board of Education (Alt.)

COUNTY ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP

Ginny Murphy, Washington Township Board of Education, Gloucester County
Judith Amorim Dias, West Essex Regional Board of Education, Essex County (Alt.)

URBAN BOARDS

Jonathan Hodges, M.D., Paterson Board of Education, Passaic County
Vacancy (Alt.)

William Monk, Mount Holly Board of Education, Burlington County
Rosa E. Moreno-Ortego, Elizabeth Board of Education, Union County

Sudhan Thomas, Jersey City board of Education
Diane Johnson, Pennsauken Board of Education (Alt.)

VOCATIONAL BOARDS

Elizabeth Martin, Hunterdon County Vocational Board of Education
Vacancy (Alt.)

NSBA REPRESENTATIVE (Non-Voting)

Kevin Ciak, Sayreville Board of Education

4/12/19



PROCEDURAL SUGGESTIONS FOR DELEGATES

Action in delegate meetings is sometimes prolonged when parliamentary procedure has not been properly followed in difficult situations. To speed the meeting, delegates might consider the following procedures:

Making Motions

To be discussed, a resolution must be moved by a delegate, preferably from the sponsoring board. The Vice President for Legislation/Resolutions does not move the resolution but merely reads a summary of the objectives sought in the resolution and the Resolutions Subcommittee's recommendation for delegate action as sent to all boards of education.

The recommendations proposed to the Delegate Assembly at the end of the discussion pages in this Delegate Handbook are made by the Resolutions Subcommittee. The Subcommittee is authorized by the NJSBA Bylaws to review all resolutions to come before the Delegate Assembly for policy consideration. Research on the issues presented in these resolutions sometimes leads the Resolutions Subcommittee to offer an alternative solution to the objectives sought with the Subcommittee recommending a substitute resolved clause for delegate approval. If a board delegate so chooses, the substitute resolved clause may be moved as the original motion for delegate approval.

When moving a resolution as originally presented by the sponsoring board of education, please say:

I move Resolution No. ____ as originally submitted.

When moving a resolution with the substitute resolved clause recommended in the discussion pages, please say:

I move Resolution No. ____ with the substitute resolved clause and recommended policy language for NJSBA'S Manual of Positions and Policies on Education.

Making Amendments

Any motion to amend a resolution or committee report recommendations must be submitted in writing to the Chair and official reporter before or at the time the motion is made on the floor.

An amendment form can be obtained at the Legal Table in the meeting room. You can consult with a staff attorney if you want help writing an amendment. The Legal Table is located in the front of the meeting room to your right.

When moving to amend a motion, please clarify your intent by saying one of the following:

- I move to strike on page ____, line ____ the word(s)
_____.
- I move to strike on page ____, line ____ the word(s)
_____ and insert the word(s)
_____.
- I move to insert the word(s) _____ between
_____ and _____ on
page ____, line ____.
- I move to add at the end of line ____ on page ____ the word(s)
_____.

Postponing or Referring a Motion

When delegates wish to defer action in order to develop more information, they should move to refer a resolution to a committee for study or refer a report back to the original committee for further study.

Close Votes

Whenever a delegate doubts the result of a vote as inconclusive or a tie, he/she may move that the vote be recast. If this motion is seconded, a majority vote is required to order a recount.

RULES FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE DELEGATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

1. **Credentials:** (a) The credential cards of all voting delegates shall be kept visibly displayed during the meeting. Voting shall be by electronic device. (b) The delegate to the Delegate Assembly must be either the delegate of record or alternate of record, or show proof of designated representation by the local board. A signed statement by the school business administrator on school district letterhead must be provided to show proof of designated representation by the local board. The delegate must show proof of identity at time of registration. (c) The registration desk shall close during the voting process in any contested election and no credentials shall be issued during such period. (d) An official count of all registered delegates shall be prepared and submitted to the President for announcement at the meeting just prior to the distribution of ballots in a contested election.
2. **Parliamentary Procedure:** (a) *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, current edition*, shall govern the proceedings unless otherwise inconsistent with these rules. (b) There shall be an official parliamentarian to whom questions may be directed only through the Chair.
3. **Seating:** (a) All voting delegates, officers, members of the Board of Directors, county school board association representatives and staff shall be seated in front sections for easy access to the microphones for speaking privileges. (b) All others shall be seated in the rear of the meeting room.
4. **Recognition by Chair:** (a) An eligible speaker shall use a microphone and gain recognition of the Chair before speaking. (b) He/she shall give his/her full name and local board or official capacity. (c) Speakers shall state, at the outset, if they are speaking for or against a motion.
5. **Written Amendments:** (a) All motions to amend a resolution or committee report shall be submitted by the maker in writing to the Chair before or at the time the motion is made. The Chair has discretion to require any other motion to be submitted in writing. A majority vote is needed to pass the motion.
6. **Time Limitations on Speakers:**
 - (a) The first presentation of a delegate moving a question shall be limited to three minutes. Subsequent presentations shall be limited to two minutes each. No authorized speaker shall speak a second time on the same question until all persons seeking the floor shall have had an opportunity to speak once.*
 - (b) The first presentation of a delegate moving an amendment to a question shall be limited to two minutes. Subsequent presentations shall be limited to one minute each. No authorized speaker shall speak a second time on the same amendment until all persons seeking the floor shall have had an opportunity to speak once.
 - (c) Discussion on a committee report shall be limited to 15 minutes with the provision that, if continuation is desired, a motion may be passed by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present and voting to extend discussion time for a period of not more than five minutes, with a separate motion being required for each such extension.*

Rules For The Conduct Of The Delegate Assembly Meeting (continued)

- (d) Discussion on a proposed amendment to the *Bylaws* shall be limited to 15 minutes with the provision that, if continuation is desired, a motion may be passed by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present and voting to extend discussion time for a period of five minutes, with a separate motion being required for each such extension.*
- (e) Discussion on a resolution shall be limited to 15 minutes with the provision that, if continuation is desired, a motion may be passed by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present and voting to extend discussion time for a period of not more than five minutes, with a separate motion being required for each such extension.*
- (f) If a motion to amend the main motion is made, time will be suspended on the main resolution or committee report and five minutes will be allowed for discussion of the proposed amendment with the provision for extension as noted above (d). At the conclusion of a vote on the proposed amendment, time will be resumed on the main resolution or committee report.*

* Time clocks will be stopped when questions on parliamentary procedure are discussed and while proposed amendments are being prepared for presentation.

- 7. **Straw Poll:** There shall be no straw poll vote while the meeting is in session.
- 8. **A Motion to Call the Question:** (a) May not be made by a delegate at the conclusion of his/her remarks; (b) Will be deemed out of order if there are delegates waiting to speak **and** if discussion on the matter has not exceeded five minutes. A two-thirds vote of the delegates present and voting is needed to pass the motion.
- 9. **Motion to Reconsider:** Notwithstanding any provisions to the contrary in *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, current edition*, once a resolution or *Bylaws* amendment has been voted upon, the delegates may not reconsider the vote on that resolution or *Bylaws* amendment.
- 10. **Breach of Order:** In debate a member's remarks must be germane to the question before the assembly—that is, his statements must have bearing on whether the pending motion should be adopted. If a member commits only a slight breach of order—such as addressing another member instead of the chair in debate, or in a single instance, failing to confine his remarks to the merits of the pending question—the chair will advise the member to avoid it. The member can then continue speaking if he commits no further breaches. If the offense is more serious as when a member persists in speaking on completely irrelevant matters in debate, the chair will warn the member; but with or without such a warning the president or any delegate can “call the member to order.” If the chair does this, he says, ‘The member is out of order and will be seated.’ Another member wishing to call a member to order shall rise and say, without waiting to be recognized, ‘Mr. [Chair], I call the member to order,’ and then resumes his seat. If the chair finds this point of order well taken, he declares the offender out of order and directs him to be seated.
- 11. **Suspension of Rules:** These rules may be overridden by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present and voting.

NOTE: These Rules of Conduct for the Delegate Assembly will sunset at the conclusion of the Delegate Assembly.



New Jersey School Boards Association

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Minutes NJSBA Semiannual Delegate Assembly November 17, 2018

The Semiannual Delegate Assembly of the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) was held at The Conference Center at Mercer County Community College on November 17, 2018. There were 141 delegates present representing twenty counties in attendance.

President Daniel Sinclair called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. He directed the guests and alternates, not serving in an official capacity to their designated seating area and reminded everyone only certified delegates have the right to speak and vote on pending matters. He also reminded the participants that members of the staff and NJSBA Board of Director members who are not serving as delegates, past presidents of the Association, and county school board presidents or their designees, are afforded speaking privileges; but do not have voting privileges.

President Sinclair announced adequate notice of the meeting had been provided to three major newspapers and filed with the New Jersey Secretary of State. He reported the Delegate Assembly Handbook and other materials relating to the November 17, 2018 agenda was mailed on November 5, 2018 to all pre-registered delegates or to the school business administrators if the delegate was not pre-registered at the time of the mailing.

President Sinclair led the Pledge of Allegiance. He then recognized the following officers for their contribution to the Association:

VP for County Activities

Christy Tighe – Greenwich Township (Warren)

VP for Finance and Chair for the Finance Committee

Michael McClure - Maple Shade (Burlington)

VP for Legislation/Resolutions and Chair of the Legislative Committee

Brandon J. Pugh - Moorestown (Burlington)

Immediate Past President, Chair of NJSBA Ethics Committee, Chair of Nominating Committee

Donald Webster, Jr. – Manchester Township (Ocean)

Mr. Sinclair also acknowledged the special contribution of those who have chaired the *ad hoc* committees of the Association:

Audit Committee

Laurie Markowski - Flemington-Raritan Regional (Hunterdon)

Standards and Assessment Committee, Co-Chairs

Eileen Miller - Woodstown-Pilesgrove Regional (Salem)

Special Education Committee

Irene LeFebvre - Boonton Town (Morris)

Urban Boards Committee

Marsha Hershman - Lindenwold (Camden)

School Finance

Vacant

NJSBA Equity Council

Penelope E. Lattimer

Mental Health Task Force

Marsha Hershman, Lindenwold (Camden)

Legislative

Brandon J. Pugh, VP for Legislation/Resolutions (NJSBA)

Task Force on Educational Opportunities – (Non-College Bound Learners)

Donald Webster, Jr., Manchester Township (Ocean)

School Security Committee

Donald Webster Jr., Manchester Township (Ocean)

NJSIAA Representatives

Gregory Bailey, West Milford (Passaic)

James Gaffney, Oakland (Bergen)

Howard Krieger, Upper Freehold Regional (Monmouth)

Steve Shohfi, Lavallette (Ocean)

NJSIG Board of Trustees

Irene LeFebvre, Boonton Town (Morris)

Thomas F. Connors, Ph.D., Piscataway Twp. (Middlesex)

Delegates were informed the following reports were included in the DA handbook as information and required no action: Audit Committee Report, Resolutions Subcommittee Report, Special Education Committee Report, Standards and Assessment Committee Report, Urban Boards Committee Report, Legislative Committee and the School Finance Report.

President Sinclair reminded the delegates in the event business was not completed today, the scheduled date for the adjourned Delegate Assembly is Dec. 8, 2018 at a location to be determined.

Report of the President

President Sinclair thanked the representatives who attended the Delegate Assembly and those board members who serve throughout the state but could not attend. He began his remarks by recognizing first time delegates and highlighting the NJSBA Mission Statement.

The New Jersey School Boards Association, a federation of boards of education, provides training, advocacy, and support to advance public education and promote the achievement of all students through effective governance.

The phrase “promote the achievement of ALL students” is particularly meaningful. At Workshop 2018, President Sinclair had the honor of introducing someone who exemplified such commitment, the 2018-2019 School Board Member of the Year, Sister Carol Adams, a member of the Salem Board of Education. President Sinclair expressed how we all should be proud to count Sister Carol as a colleague and noted that introducing the Board Member of the Year was one of the many highlights of Workshop 2018. He then thanked the staff for a successful Workshop and the service they provided.

President Sinclair then spoke about his true labor of love; NJSBA’s research project on Educational Opportunities for the Non-College Bound Learners. The report, released in September after nearly a year of study and deliberation by the task force, discussed the ways we can meet the needs of non-college bound students, and offered 69 recommendations to expand and improve career and technical education. He explained there are many students whose future is better suited for the traditional trades or jobs that require middle-level skills –those which require some post-secondary education, but not a four-year college degree.

President Sinclair stated the report has been well received, and at Workshop, N.J. Commissioner of Education Lamont Repollet praised the work of the task force. Additionally, both Dr. Feinsod and President Sinclair presented the study to the State Board of Education. President Sinclair thanked those board members who generously gave their time to serve on the Task Force. He especially thanked NJSBA Immediate Past President Don Webster, who chaired the committee. He asked the delegates to review the report with their board and to consider how districts can expand pathways for our career-focused learners. He then shared a video on the non-college bound learner.

President Sinclair then turned his attention to a subject that addresses another critical need in our schools: the delivery of mental health services. He stated Dr. Feinsod would address this project, which represents one of the Association’s major goals for this year. President Sinclair stated he is proud of the work of the association and of the school board members and said there is no more important job and no more noble purpose than that. He concluded his speech by saying that serving as NJSBA president has been and continues to be one of the most exciting and rewarding experiences in his 39 years as an educator.

Report of the Executive Director

Dr. Feinsod began his report by expanding on President Sinclair’s words: “there is no public office in New Jersey or anywhere else in our nation, that has a greater impact on the lives of children than board of education membership.” He stated the mission of NJSBA is to enable you to fulfill your unique role through advocacy, training and assistance.

He then focused his discussion on Workshop 2018. Dr. Feinsod stated approximately 8,500 school leaders, educators, parents, and students gathered in Atlantic City for what he believed was the most successful Workshop ever conducted by the Association. Workshop 2018, “Engaging Every Child,” met all of its professional development, attendance and financial goals. What he enjoyed most about Workshop 2018 was the focus on students. Students displayed their talents in the performing arts and as filmmakers, and exercised their creativity and problem-solving skills in the STEAM education areas. Dr. Feinsod specified there is no better example of student engagement than the STEAM Tank Challenge.

The NJSBA created the program through its unique partnership with the U.S. Army. The STEAM Tank Challenge gives public school students the opportunity to apply their creativity, to invent, and to find solutions to real-world problems. The interest in the STEAM Tank Challenge and the enthusiasm for the program within the education community has grown exponentially. NJSBA’s first STEAM Tank

Challenge attracted 32 entries; three years later in 2018, 409 teams entered the statewide competition. In 2018, 90 teams made it through to the final competition, which took place on the Workshop Exhibit Floor.

Dr. Feinsod pointed out that he and President Sinclair, in conjunction with the entire leadership of the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA), recognized the STEAM Tank winners at the NJEA convention in Atlantic City. Dr. Feinsod said this is another example of how the NJSBA is building partnerships to advance public education and finding common ground with other organizations, all in the interest of advancing student achievement. Dr. Feinsod stressed the STEAM Tank Challenge represents the success of our partnership with the U.S. Army, a relationship that promotes integrative STEAM education in the public schools, which is the only partnership of its kind among school boards associations nationwide. The relationship began over three years ago, when the U.S. Army's Mid Atlantic Recruiting Battalion fully funded the placement of a STEAM education specialist at the NJSBA. Staff Sgt. Joseph Wittmer is our current consultant from the Army and he assists our STEAM education specialist in consulting and developing programs for school boards in integrative STEAM education.

Dr. Feinsod specified the annual Workshop is the largest professional development program for local school boards; however, throughout the year, the county school boards association meetings are at the heart of NJSBA's training activities. In 2013, NJSBA made it a goal to reinvigorate the county associations as centers for training, forums for discussion of educational issues, and places to share concerns and ideas. Thanks to funding from the Educational Leadership Foundation of New Jersey (ELF), NJSBA was able to offer outstanding programs with hot meals at excellent facilities and at no cost to our members, which as a result, doubled attendance. Dr. Feinsod emphasized with confidence, six years later the Association has maintained the same level of success. In 2017-2018, county programs served over 4,100 attendees and awarded over 4,000 Board Member Academy credits for completion of professional development. An additional 1,500 students, parents, teachers, administrators, and board members attended student recognition programs hosted by counties, such as the Unsung Heroes Awards, and the Eighth-Grade Dialogues.

Dr. Feinsod stated an essential component in carrying out all of our goals as an Association is advocacy and as a part of this strategy, our Governmental Relations team has continued its tradition of summer meetings with lawmakers. The visits give our members the opportunity to meet, face to face with their state and federal elected representatives. Over the past few years, NJSBA has increased the number of district visits as part of our plan to provide an advocacy framework at the local level. Workshop 2018 also gave us the opportunity to strengthen our relationships with:

- Governmental decision-makers on both sides of the aisle
- The administration and the legislature
- The education community

Commissioner of Education Lamont Repollet was a major presenter at Workshop. In addition, our annual Legislative Update program drew an overflow crowd. As in past years, the session was co-sponsored by the Garden State Coalition of Schools. We heard the perspectives of State Senate President Steve Sweeney, Assembly Republican Leader Jon Bramnick and other lawmakers. The topics discussed ranged from regionalization to special education and state aid (now and in the future).

First, the 2018-2019 state budget, along with Senate Bill 2, changes the school funding landscape. For about two-thirds of our members – referred to as “underfunded” the legislation, promises to put school funding back on track, which is long overdue. However, it also resulted in last-minute funding cuts,

some severe in the remaining one-third of our districts and this is a scenario we cannot and should not accept. This past spring and fall, NJSBA conducted regional meetings for persistently underfunded districts and for districts which suffered cuts in state aid under the final state budget. The programs provided forums where school board members addressed their particular situations, learned about options and received guidance on advocacy.

The second public policy development occurred on August 9 when the New Jersey Economic and Fiscal Policy Workgroup issued a report on reducing the cost of government. For public education, the report, called “Path to Progress” focuses primarily on two areas: regionalization, and special education. However, the working group also made recommendations to control the cost of health benefits for public employees. Dr. Feinsod pointed out that later in the Delegate Assembly, there would be a forum on the Path to Progress recommendations, featuring former education commissioner Lucille Davy, who was a member of the workgroup, and Mark Magyar, deputy executive director of the Senate Majority Office and the chief staff liaison to the work group.

As the “Path to Progress” report shows, New Jersey may very well be on the cusp of a financial crisis and certainly school districts will not be immune to the impact. Many of the challenges facing public education involve funding – and the state’s revenue stream. Dr. Feinsod notes, however that he believes we need to avoid the temptation to support revenue-raisers that could put our students at risk such as the legalization of marijuana, which is not part of the “Path to Progress” report, but is a major goal of our governor and members of the State Legislature.

Dr. Feinsod shared his personal concern about the legalization of marijuana based on his 40 years as a superintendent and educator. He indicated he is not convinced that marijuana is not a gateway to other drugs. By law, marijuana cannot be sold to anyone under the age of 21. He believes legalization would make it easily available to our students and simply will send a wrong message to our youth. NJSBA has not taken a position on the proposal; however, throughout NJSBA’s history the Association has adopted policy that supports law, regulation, and strategies to protect the health and safety of our students:

- In the 1970’s NJSBA called for an increase in the drinking age from 18 to 21
- In the 1980’s NJSBA adopted policy in favor of stronger penalties for selling drugs to minors
- In the 1990’s NJSBA supported a school district’s ability to conduct random drug testing of students

Furthermore, Dr. Feinsod is aware of the disproportionate number of arrests and convictions for marijuana possession among young people of color, which is a problem that needs to be addressed, but does not believe that it will be fixed by the blanket legalization of marijuana. Sometime in the future, the Legislature will consider the legalization. Even though it is not an education matter per se, we should be aware that it will have an impact on students. He concluded these are his personal thoughts on this issue based on his concern for the health and well-being of our students.

Student health, well-being and success form the basis of NJSBA’s three-year Strategic Plan, which went into effect this year. Two recent research projects reflect goals set out in the plan.

1. Final report of the Task Force on Educational Opportunities for the Non-College Bound Learner.
2. Final report of the School Security Committee

President Sinclair and Dr. Feinsod appointed the committee after the February tragedy in Parkland, Florida. The committee reviewed the NJSBA’s 2014 school security study, *“What Makes Schools Safe.”* While the committee found the 2014 report to be an excellent resource, it also made 15 new

recommendations in several areas, including response and recovery, law enforcement in schools, cybersecurity, after-school security, and the use of schools as polling places.

Dr. Feinsod believes it is critical for NJSBA to look at student safety from the perspective of school climate and early outreach to troubled individuals. Therefore, as a goal for 2018-2019, NJSBA has established a Mental Health Task Force. The new research project corresponds to the school security policy adopted by the Delegate Assembly last May and the objectives of our current Strategic Plan. In coming months, the task force will consult with experts in mental health, counseling, school climate, and related areas. The next task force meeting will include a presentation by Dr. Maurice Elias, director of the Rutgers University Social-Emotional Character Development. Dr. Elias is one of the nation's leading experts on school climate. The task force consists of local board members, school administrators, NJSBA staff members and experts in mental health, student support services, and is chaired by Marsha Hershman of the Lindenwold Board of Education. The final Task Force report is due June 2019.

Dr. Feinsod then transitioned to NJSBA's financial health, and how Workshop is a major source of non-dues revenue, and one of the many reasons why our Association is in sound financial condition. He reported in the last fiscal year, NJSBA met its overall revenue goals and maintained a high level of service while controlling expenditures. As a result, our Board of Directors was able to adopt a budget for 2018-2019 with no dues increase, and a record level of non-dues revenue, 35.5% of the total. In fact, 2018-2019 is the ninth consecutive year in which there has been no increase in district dues. Earlier in the month, the Board of Directors accepted NJSBA's annual audit report for the previous fiscal year. Once again, our independent auditor gave a clean report with no recommendations; a record to be proud of.

The Educational Leadership Foundation of New Jersey (ELFNJ) is NJSBA's 501(c)3. The mission of this non-profit organization is to support professional development of school board members. Its IRS status enables NJSBA programming to benefit from corporate donations. Last year, ELFNJ secured funding which enabled NJSBA to conduct two weekend orientation programs and the new weekend leadership seminar, GPS for Visionary Leadership. For the current year, ELFNJ has received commitments for \$100,000 from the New Jersey Schools Insurance Group and ETS for our two New Board Member Orientation Weekends, which will take place in January and February 2019. Their generosity enables us to provide the weekend orientation program, considered a nationwide model, at no cost to participating board members or their districts.

Additionally, NJSBA has locked down \$50,000 in funding for our weekend leadership program. ELFNJ also secures the funding for our county school boards association programs. This year, ELFNJ is providing \$40,000 in financing for a series of one-day specialized programs on integrative STEAM education, Future Ready Schools, sustainability, cybersecurity and school security.

Dr. Feinsod shifted the conversation to "Executive Director's Goals" which focuses on high-priority initiatives, which are aligned with NJSBA's Strategic Plan. While they are called "Executive Director's Goals," they are actually goals for the entire Association. For 2018-2019, revision of *Basic School Law* is an important Association goal. *Basic School Law* is the most successful book in NJSBA's "School Board Library Series". It is an exceptional resource for our members, for our staff, and significantly for school board attorneys' throughout the state. There continues to be a strong demand for the book, and the last edition, which was published in 2007, is 570 pages in length. A publication of this depth enhances NJSBA's prominence as a resource on public school governance, a goal of the Strategic Plan.

In May, the Association reached its second goal, which was the launch of WebEx technology donated to NJSBA by Cisco Systems. This donation represents an in-kind contribution of \$200,000 and is central to

our long-range IT plan. For this year, NJSBA's goal is to expand the use of WebEx in Association meetings, and very important, to integrate into NJSBA's professional development programs. In four months after the installation of the new equipment, our staff used WebEx over 300 times for meetings and teleconferences.

Another goal for 2018-2019 will build upon the Association's success for developing local school board leader training. The GPS for Visionary Leadership program meets a much-desired professional development need for NJSBA's members and the goal to secure corporate funding for the weekend leadership program was secured. Additionally, the report on Educational Opportunities for the Non-College Bound Learner represents a major accomplishment for the Association. The goal for 2019-2020 is to advance the findings and recommendations of this study. The final goal involves the completion of the current research project on the delivery of mental health services in our schools, which we must address in the interest of the health, and safety of our students.

In closing, Dr. Feinsod stated the Association's Strategic Plan, student growth, and their well-being and success are at the heart of all activities of the New Jersey School Boards Association and he thanked everyone for all that they do for the students in New Jersey.

Rules for Conduct of the Delegate Assembly

Brandon Pugh, Vice President for Legislation and Resolutions, announced the Assembly will be using the electronic voting cards and explained how to use them.

All delegates need to have their voting credentials to identify themselves as a delegate, and before they speak, they must give their name and district.

He announced a time clock is used to time questions asked by the designated delegates and they had two minutes to ask a question. He reminded the Assembly to turn off all cell phones and electronic devices during the meeting and to leave the room to make a phone call.

Mr. Pugh stated a quorum constitutes 50 delegates from 11 counties, and there were 141 delegates present from 20 counties, which constitutes an official meeting.

Delegate Assembly - **APPROVED**

Minutes of May 19, 2018

Mr. Pugh asked the assembly if there were any corrections, additions, or deletions to the minutes.

Georgia Glasser-Nehls – Watchung Board of Education (Somerset) had a correction to pg. 17

Correction was noted, there were no objections.

Minutes of May 19, 2018- APPROVED

Report of the Vice President for Legislation/Resolutions

Mr. Pugh thanked the Legislative Committee and the Resolutions Subcommittee for their work.

He stated there were no resolutions received by the **September 4, 2018** cutoff date for the Delegate Assembly. Additionally there were no emergency resolutions received by the **November 7, 2018** cutoff date.

Path to Progress Forum

Brandon Pugh announced the *Path to Progress* forum, which focuses on a critical report about New Jersey's financial future: *The Path to Progress*, which resulted from an eight-month study by the New Jersey Economic and Fiscal Policy Workgroup. The task force was created by the Legislature and in August, the Workgroup released the results of its study. Its recommendations address school district regionalization, special education funding and placement, and public pension and health benefits reform, among other subjects.

Mr. Pugh then introduced the former Commissioner of Education Lucille Davy, a member of the Workgroup, and Mark Magyar, associate executive director for the Senate Majority Office and the lead staff member to the Workgroup. Lucille Davy served as New Jersey education commissioner from 2005 through 2010 and was instrumental in the development of the current school funding formula, the QSAC monitoring system, and raising high-school graduation standards. From 2002 through 2005, she was education counsel to the governor. Mark Magyar has extensive experience in New Jersey public policy, as a journalist, academician, and policy advisor to state leaders, including Senate President Steve Sweeney.

Ms. Davy began her speech by discussing a few elements of the plan that impact the education side of state policy and stated special education was the “biggest cost driver in budgets” and the school funding formula was the “elephant in the room.” Ms. Davy was concerned there was a perverse incentive to classify children in order to receive additional funding and she hoped the current formula would halt this process in order to meet districts needs regarding special education. Ms. Davy believes the SFRA funding formula helps to ensure aid is distributed in a more equitable way. Many districts have been working at a huge disadvantage due to the fact there has not been a solid funding formula to stand behind in three decades. She stated they provided a formula the court believed was going to be equitable, but of course that depended upon the formula being fully funded.

Ms. Davy stated in terms of special education, the “Path to Progress” recognizes extraordinary special education costs should not be borne by local districts, nor should it be a local property taxpayer's problem to bear the burden of paying for educational needs, which can be significant for those children with severe disabilities. She believes Senator Sweeney is very committed to making sure extraordinary costs become the state's responsibility. However, if the state plans to absorb these costs, the state is going have more of a role to provide leadership and guidance in the determination of placements. This plan will need to include board members, parents, and special education experts. The long-term goal of this plan is to provide a mechanism of determining appropriate placements for children, then on the next level address the issue of litigation, which occur. In some cases, litigation may take years to resolve, thus placing unnecessary burdens on local budgets.

Ms. Davy then discussed the consolidation piece which she stated was “near and dear” to her heart. While she was commissioner, both the legislature and governor office sought to eliminate 28 to 30 non-operating districts in the state. These districts had no children going to a school in their district. They were non-operating districts who had agreements with other communities to educate the children of that community. She believed the challenge in these districts was the way students were funded and how the district was paid. These non-operating districts had decades-old agreements based on a flat per-pupil

amount, and others dealt with the property value of the community. They were able to tackle and eliminate a few non-operating districts before she left, however this problem continues to be a challenge.

Regarding new proposals for consolidation, Ms. Davy believes it is important for districts to operate efficiently under this new plan for consolidation. However, she said, she will personally never line up for just the sake of capping or cutting costs that could possibly be detrimental to children or in a way that doesn't allow districts to deliver to students the education they need to compete in the 21st century. She is firm in her belief our children are competing with children from around the world. Additionally, if we have an honest conversation about what an integrated K-12 education delivery system looks like, we would agree that it is optimal, certainly better than the piecemeal idea of children in a K-5, then going somewhere else for middle school and then somewhere else for high school. In closing Ms. Davy stated she hopes people will keep an open mind and willing to have an honest conversation about consolidation, but stressed the greatest challenge ahead is how districts are funded.

Ms. Davy then turned the conversation over to Mr. Mark Magyar who provided background as to when he began to work on the SFRA in February 2016 and how he toured the state with Senate President Sweeney. Together they toured several different counties, and held town meetings in school districts on school funding.

Mr. Magyar stated NJSBA has a great paper on the obstacles to consolidation, and that districts have reached out to the state on how regionalization might work. He stressed they are hoping to identify what the obstacles are, and how to identify how they can resolve funding issues, contract issues, and various issues involved with K-12 regionalization. He stressed while there is currently no legislation, they are working to develop it through study and analysis. Mr. Magyar said legislation was on its way in spring of 2019, but they were going to take their time to focus on regionalization.

Mr. Magyar then spoke about an article published in the Star Ledger regarding 50 of the most expensive school districts per pupil. He said everyone complains about overspending in the urban districts, but it is actually the smallest of districts that have the highest per-pupil cost. He also stated the districts that have lost state aid have reached out as well as those districts that are looking to regionalize because they have adjustment aid cuts coming. He then acknowledged 72% of New Jersey students attend underfunded districts and 24% of students live in districts that will lose adjustment aid. It is less than one-fourth of students because the state has placed special protections for districts whose property tax burdens are much higher than other districts.

Mr. Magyar suggested approximately two-thirds of the districts are underfunded. An additional challenge facing the state is the fact that nearly one-fifth of the school districts in the state have under 500 students. He said extraordinary special education is underfunded by \$140 million dollars. Further complicating matters is New Jersey's pension crisis and the \$3.2 billion dollar pension payment due. The projected pension payment for FY23 is \$6.7 billion dollars, which is a \$3.5 billion increase and, as it stands, New Jersey schools are underfunded by \$1.5 billion dollars.

Mr. Magyar said from an overall standpoint they expect an increase to the SFRA for the underfunded districts based on how underfunded they are. They are also looking to make a down payment on the extraordinary special education costs toward the 85% number the state is supposed to be providing while they continue discussion on special education reform. In addition, the state is focusing on the employee health benefit reforms, and moving from a platinum to a gold package. If the state were able to lower the costs of the benefit plan, there would be a savings for the school, school districts and school employees.

He then apologized on behalf of Senate President Sweeney's absence and reiterated that as long as Steve Sweeney is Senate President he would not entertain any legislation that cuts employee contributions to health care (Chapter 78). In closing Mr. Magyar stated New Jersey was trying to fix its fiscal crisis and there would not be any legislation regarding regionalization as the state needs to understand its feasibility and impacts on districts.

Brandon Pugh then thanked both Ms. Davy and Mr. Magyar, and then turned the podium over to President Sinclair to moderate the Question and Answer session.

President Sinclair then addressed the ground rules regarding the question and answer session. He reminded the Assembly to be nice, and the presentation is a part of the Delegate Assembly. The Bylaws provide that only delegates, members of the Board of Directors, past presidents of NJSBA and current county association presidents may ask questions. In addition, attendees with questions were requested to speak into one of the microphones and to clearly state their name and board affiliation. Members are given two minutes to ask their question and may not make extended comments or statements. He then opened up questions to the floor:

- **Darcie Cimarusti - (Highland Park BOE)**
 - Question – How do charter schools figure into the consolidation plan? The vast majority of the charter schools in the state are K-5, K-8 and some as small as K-3. Do they figure into your consolidation plan? Is the plan to have them consolidate with themselves, with districts? And if not, why?
- Mr. Magyar: We have not really addressed this and we have to look at that. I know that the charter schools are a tremendous issue. We talked to Franklin Township in Somerset that has three charter schools.
- **George Babula – (Harmony Township BOE)**
 - Question - The report came out of Senator Sweeney's office, but he does not see any input from the governor's office. What are the chances of this moving forward without his input and help?
- Mr. Magyar: Offered in May to have the governor put somebody on the panel in May and they did not do so. The Governor doesn't want to make any changes to the pensions and benefits until after the state makes its full pension payment in FY23. The area of special education aid is not in the governor's budget.
- Ms. Davy: Her view on this K-12 consolidation. They are going to do what the people want and demand in New Jersey. People demand great education for their children.
- Mr. Magyar: One of the other things that the Senate President has said repeatedly is that this only gets done if it had broad public support.

Mr. Magyar then provided his direct line (609) 847-3715 and his email address - mmagyar@njleg.org.

President Sinclair then stated that in order for regionalization to become a reality we need some fundamental changes to statutes, to which Mr. Magyar agreed.

- **Henry Goldsmith - (Weymouth BOE)**
 - Question - From a small rural district where a one-cent property tax increase produces \$16,000. In the recent S-2, they were defined as being an overfunded district and are losing approximately \$100,000 in state aid this year, eventually increasing to \$300,000 and then higher. The commissioner's response when we asked for some relief was to raise property taxes. The reality is we cannot raise property tax, the community cannot afford it and the sheer arithmetic does not support it because to reach the kind of dollars that have been cut would involve the kind of property taxes the people in the community cannot afford to pay. He realizes that there are always some anomalies in any form of legislation of this nature, but would like to know what kind of relief to expect?
- Mr. Magyar: Asked Mr. Goldsmith a few questions regarding student population, sending school districts, cost per pupil, and local fair share and asked him to call him.
- **Henry Goldsmith:** Agreed with the principal of consolidation and agreed they should move towards it, but when you have a rural district you run into some practical considerations regarding the busing and movement of students for hours out of the day. He closed with the statement he has been involved with boards for over 30 years and the "we'll figure it out" argument has been there for the last 30 years and he wishes the state would just figure it out.
- Ms. Davy: One of the problems was not funding it for so long and that is where the adjustment aid piece comes in because SFRA for the first time looked at the demographics and the population of each school district and we funded students based on actual numbers. The numbers of pupils in elementary, middle and high school grades, the number of students for whom English is a second language at home, the number of children who were low income, free/reduced lunch eligible were all a factor in the equation. If any of the mentioned populations increased or decreased the formula was intended every year to take into account those changes so that you would not see an incredible swing that you see now. But for districts that lost population without funding SFRA for almost a decade, continued to receive money for children that were no longer being educated. Perhaps the bulk of students were in high school or had graduated and moved on and the population didn't fill in at the bottom. It is not fair to continue to provide dollars through a formula that's supposed to be based on the actual students being educated if the children are no longer in your system. This is the piece which is most unfortunate, that we got to a point where the thing hadn't been run for so long then it gets out of whack and now to try to bring it back in line so that we are funding students actually being educated in the districts, because for every district that lost students there are lots of districts that also gained large numbers of the students that never got the additional aid, exacerbates the problem.
- **Gil Moscatello - (Stanhope BOE, President, Sussex County Education Services Commission)**
 - Question - The Stanhope, Netcong, and Byram districts have been working since December on trying to regionalize with Lenape Valley. We started back in December and we are moving along, but sometimes running into peanut butter, but we are getting there.

He agrees 100% with Ms. Davy and her comments and reasons for regionalizing and thinks the educational reasons are valid, however if you're looking for finance, you are barking up the wrong tree at this point. With this in mind, there are costs and three of our four districts were reduced in their state aid, and now we have to come up with the \$50,000 to \$60,000 for the regionalization study, which is now difficult to do.

[Mr. Moscatello further said that Senator Sweeney had put out a proposal to merge all non-K-12 districts into regional districts, which would eliminate about 280 districts. The state could fund regionalization feasibility studies for any district that wants to do one— it has a state budget of \$36 billion and this could cost perhaps \$5-\$15 million.] It takes away the excuse. There is no excuse now not to do it, it's not money, it just takes some effort on your part and a willingness to go forward.

- President Sinclair: Can you find \$5 million dollars?
- Mr. Magyar: Let's talk. Please call me. Our goal in figuring it out is that if we do a detailed analysis of about six to eight potential regionals, we will have an understanding of about 90 percent of the problems and if you are already working with it, we'd love to work with you.
- **Georgia Glasser-Nehls - (Watchung BOE)**
 - Question- We have always prided ourselves , small school districts so that students have more one-on-one attention and we've always had the philosophy that children are much more educated in a smaller environment. When you (Mr. Magyar) said you served in Long Hill that you were aware of Watchung Hills Regional having a small district that was not performing in math and science up to standards and I was wondering where we could find this data? Because this came as a little bit of a surprise to me, I think, other small districts would be able to benefit from being able to know where to locate. I am not saying our district, but just saying a small district in general, how can all small districts be able to identify data that would pinpoint them as far as their students going, once they go to the regional schools.
- Mr. Magyar: Ok, I will speak with you afterwards.
- **Marie Bilik - (Green Township BOE)**
 - Question - With the proposed consolidation program, will it affect a school that is a school of choice? We are receiving more than a half a million dollars in tuition currently as a school of choice; will this have an effect?
- Mr. Magyar: It would affect districts that are receiving choice students; I would expect that like any consolidation K-12 it might also continue to receive choice students from outside the regional district. I do not think that would be affected by it. One of the things that has been discussed is whether the current cap on number of choice students is appropriate.
- **Sheila Etienne - (Asbury Park BOE)**

- Question - Currently we are facing a transportation crisis statewide, and I do not know if other schools have met with this challenge. With the thought of consolidation, is this a part of the conversation. Finding reliable transportation and then there are other mandates coming down the pike that is going to make it more difficult.
- Mr. Magyar: We have not looked at the transportation.
- Ms. Davy: Just so you know, the consolidation is not necessarily about transporting kids anywhere. The real issue is, again, I think I mentioned this earlier; the goal is not to shut down the elementary schools in neighborhoods and bus children somewhere else. That is not the goal. My kids went to elementary school around the corner from our house and we bought our house specifically so they could walk around the corner to school. Many people do just that, and there are many K-5 and K-6 schools that should remain the way they are. The inefficiency might come at the middle grade level or there may be opportunities where a community has two very small schools that could be configured differently. Transportation issues would come from if there were a decision made to move middle school kids all together in a single building. The issue that I think you are talking about is whether or not we have enough bus drivers or whether there is a rule about seatbelts on buses and that's creating other problems is a totally separate question. Buses need to be safe for children, and have bus drivers who are certified. That is a separate issue. I think it is important for everyone to leave here not thinking that the idea of the plan is we are going to bus children all over New Jersey. This is not the idea, and there should not be a lot of bussing that is required because of the consolidation.
- **Sheila Etienne:** So on the grander plan are we going to try to keep as many operating schools open as possible? In addition, if there is an instance we have to transport and there is already a tax on the transportation, would this be part of the plan in terms of consolidating? I am not just asking for Asbury, but in terms of New Jersey.
- Mr. Magyar: I don't really think Asbury is affected.
- Ms. Davy: I think if districts are working on consolidating, they are going to have to consider any transportation that they might require. If they decide that they want to move children perhaps at the middle school around, and that is a decision they will make as part of their study of their regionalization and they will have to determine that in a separate case. If you are having transportation problems, that may be a very separate reason for that. Maybe where you are located in the state, but this is something that each district will have to take into consideration as they study reorganization.
- President Sinclair: The overall study will answer those questions.
- **John Kendall - (Haddon Township BOE)**
 - Question – I have read and digested the “Path to Progress” report and agree with almost everything with two exceptions that I would like to address. I am glad this report was completed and yes, we need to move forward, good job and we need to do something and

quickly. What I have an exception about is in shifting the pension plan to a sustainable hybrid, I assume maybe like a 401K is the type of thing being considered. I believe that we should take out the less than five years, people with less than five years only because personally I feel you should get what you signed up for. I think it is a fairness issue, and I think it should be changed. If you are already working less than five years. Start with the new employees that is my recommendation. The other exception, in selling the NJ Turnpike, there are some assets that I think should be privatized and some should not. The Turnpike should not be privatized. Once you privatize it, you run into problems that are not foreseen with trade and commerce and the actual economy of the state.

- Mr. Magyar: The Turnpike, of all the proposals to put the assets of the pension system are not about privatizing, they are keeping them within the public sector, and I don't think this is likely. There has always been a five-year vesting, that is what that's based upon, and we don't think the hybrid pension plan we are creating is a bad plan for those who would be new under the five years.
- **Jeffrey Brookner - (Bridgewater-Raritan BOE)**
 - Question/Comment: The feedback is these questions and answers is the best part of this meeting and it took two hours to get to this part of the meeting. We have an engaged audience and participation. I think the Association needs to look long and hard at two hours of reports. I would like to pick up on Ms. Davy's comment about districts which have students or parents moving into the district because of exceptional special education programs and that's something that hits us hard every year and is a big problem, but it's really not a problem with extraordinary aid. That does not solve it all because you get the extraordinary aid no matter what district you are in. Where we get hit is our 20, 30, and \$40,000 students who we provide exceptional programming for and we have a much higher classification numbers than most districts and we don't get extra special ed aid for that. It is killing our budget and I would like your comments on how we can approach this.
- Ms. Davy: I think we talked about this issue as well and it may be that some of the placement issues are addressed in a more unified way of doing placements. My recollection is that there is a plan to create a Special Education Commission to study these very issues as well along with the ones that already have specific recommendations if there is an understanding that there are students that are in the middle group that you do not receive extraordinary aid.
- Mr. Magyar: The select committee on school funding fairness, which involved the SFRA reform, there, is broad agreement among Senate President Sweeney, Republican Senator Pennacchio, and co-chairs that the long-range goal is to cover all special education costs.
- President Sinclair-: Reminded the Assembly the room is only reserved until 12:00 p.m.
- **Amy Hassa - (Hamilton Township BOE) Atlantic County**

- Question- Is it possible to repost Mr. Magyar number and email address?
- Ray Pinney : Yes, I will post.
- Mr. Magyar: repeated his name, phone & email information and suggested if they were going to call him about a specific district to please shoot him an email first so he can have funding numbers available.
- **Amy Hassa:** When we are talking about extraordinary aid for special education one of the areas typically not considered is the gifted and talented side of the school district. So when you're looking at students not on IEP's they're differently abled children that need those academic support on the lower end that oftentimes we have students on the higher end that truly would benefit. Is it possible to consider gifted and talented in special education especially when we are looking at things like special cases for extraordinary aid?
- Ms. Davy: I do not think that is something that this group discussed. I will tell you that I was a parent of a child who needed those services and was in a high-performing and wealthy district that did some provision for children like that and did not do for others. I think the real challenge is gifted and talented education as a whole across the country hasn't been addressed that way it should be, but I think at this juncture where we are economically, it is really hard to add that to the mix of special education. Some of the ways that districts handle this, again in a consolidated district ,where there are other children that could be served, it's easier to provide for the needs of a handful of high-end students who need some enrichments or some other challenges .That is another place where consolidation and having a school district instead of one or two here or there. Consolidating and regionalizing would also help us better serve those children who are considered gifted and talented, but I don't think we contemplated that as part of special education. The commission will talk about what will have to be considered part of extraordinary costs so it is something that could be brought up, but candidly, I think in the economic environment that is a hard new initiative to build in. I think we probably have to do this incrementally.
- **Amy Hassa:** We are a large district and have 3,100 students, so I am talking from a district that is not itty-bitty. If you have those couple of students who do not get what they truly need or deserve because you are trying to put them in a mold that you already have because you cannot necessarily get the funding to support them.
- **Dan Leonard - (Toms River Regional BOE)**
 - Question – We are talking about many things here. We can all point fingers at each other's districts and we're all unique in our own way, but one thing that I want to talk about right now is fair funding. Toms River School has 16,000 students, three sending towns, all of which have been reassessed or reevaluated in the last two or three years. There are towns in this state that have not been assessed in 35 years. When are we are going to talk about fair funding coming from a taxpayer perspective, not so much. I do not want to hurt any districts that are benefiting by this, but if we are going to talk about

fair funding some of these towns need to be reassessed or reevaluated. Thirty-five years is too long.

- Mr. Magyar: We agree. There is a meeting coming up with Toms River and Brick with the Senate President and senior staffers to discuss these various issues. We know that Toms River has lost student population even before Sandy, but we do not know by how much. We also know Toms River is well below local fair share and well below in property taxes and I know this is an issue going forward. We are aware Toms River is one of the biggest losers on the adjustment aid side and we'll be talking about that.
- Dan Leonard- Some are going to win and some are going to lose on this, but to get back to the word "fair" it's going to hurt some, help some, but to be fair, we need to know where we actually stand and I think reassessments are very big.
- Mr. Magyar-: I agree, and frankly one of the recommendations like the non-school funding session is to do countywide tax assessments and to do these assessments on a regular basis, which you can do with countywide tax assessments that would make it an issue like Jersey City.
- **Bob Abbott - (Gloucester County BOE)**
 - Question – I have listened to the ideas and thoughts and unfortunately cannot go home saying that I found anything concrete. Number one, we would not be discussing this if the legislature had done their job ten years ago anyway. I have two questions, one on regionalization. If you take a number of schools and put them together and one contract calls for say \$30,000 for teachers and the biggie is \$65,000 or more, who should make up the difference? The state? Or is it the taxpayer who is stuck with it?
- Mr. Magyar: This is one more of the difficult issues that I think, after we have done analysis of six to eight districts, we will have an understanding of just how big the problem is. We do not think the variation within the regional districts is that large, but we have to recognize that it is one of the variables.
- President Sinclair: This is a statutory issue.
- Ms. Davy: I would like to add to that obviously negotiated contracts district by district would be one of those obstacles that I talked about earlier. If you bring four contracts together and they are not identical you have something that has to be negotiated, but do not think that is an obstacle that cannot be overcome. This does not mean the day you regionalize and get through legislation this made possible, that you merge all those contracts. There might be some period of time over which those contracts are negotiated together. There is not a reason not to consolidate in my mind and I would hope that the teachers on those contracts would also say, hey, there is something in this for us in a regional district to help us do a better job educating children.
- **Bob Abbott:** My second question regarding special ed, I read through the "Path to Progress" and it looks like you want to put down a specific dollar amount for each child for special education.

We have kids that from \$25,000 to well over \$100,000 that are special ed. Where is that extra money going to come from?

- Mr. Magyar: The difference on the extraordinary special ed funding is ensuring that special ed is currently finalized, I believe \$40,000 and above or \$35,000 and above, and what the state is currently doing is only providing a percentage of funding for those children. We are currently providing 50% for those who are costing \$60,000 and 50% for those who are costing \$200,000. If we increase the extraordinary special education pot, which we expect to do this year, we will be assuming a higher percentage of the cost of the student.
- **Ray Morris - (Newton BOE & President of Sussex County School Boards Association)**
 - Question – My question is in regards on the establishment of two-county wide school district pilot programs. Is there any anticipation that there will be two volunteer counties for this and will this be mandated? And with Stanhope, Byram and Netcong already in the works for almost a year, if it were to be Sussex County, how would that pilot county-wide program impact districts that are already in discussion about regionalization?
- Mr. Magyar: The legislation on the countywide pilots is strictly voluntary. If Sussex decided to become a countywide school district that would obviously affect the work that they have underway, but it is strictly voluntary and we do not have anyone currently signed up.
- **Ray Morris:** Thank you very much, and thank you for your time earlier, it was helpful to these discussions.
- Mr. Magyar: I also would like to add Kennedy Greene, your superintendent, is one of our favorite people.
- **Jean Trujillo - (Hillsborough Township BOE)**
 - Question –Hillsborough went from being considered \$13 million underfunded a few years ago, to now being considered \$5.6 million overfunded, so for districts like ourselves that are considered overfunded is there any discussion of legislation that would allow local boards of education to increase the tax levy beyond the 2% cap to catch up with their local fair share without going to referendum?
- Mr. Magyar: That is something we have talked about and we should talk about further. [Mr. Magyar noted that the amended version of S-2 addressed municipal overabundance, but not an expansion of the 2% tax levy cap.]
- Ms. Davy: The other thing when I heard you say that you were underfunded and now you are overfunded, you can go back and look at original from 2008 and 2009, profiles of your districts archived on the State Department of Education's website. You can go back and find out why you were so underfunded. My guess is the population has changed and your property wealth has changed because those were two factors. It was based on the student enrollment, but also how much you could contribute from that local fair share based on your districtwide evaluation. If

those numbers change, then these get out of whack. The ten-year period makes it more difficult and the fact that you're capped at how much you can raise the taxes also exacerbates the problem.

- **Jean Trujillo:** If I can just add, in Hillsborough we discovered that our local fair share in terms of local property income has gone up over 33% in that time and our local property taxes have gone up by 7% that is more in line with what we expect. The 33% increase in resident's income was a surprise. Actually, we do not know why because in terms of population, student population has not changed significantly, probably plus or minus 200 students.
- **Mr. Magyar:** I would like to continue this conversation, please call me.
- **Ms. Davy:** Your resident income average is a factor in your ability to pay. Its 50/50 income wealth and property wealth, so that could be driving it.
- **Jean Trujillo:** I would like to make one final statement. Our district is actually considering going to referendum in March to offset the loss in state aid because otherwise we are in significant trouble in terms of reducing our staff, which is something nobody wants to do.
- **Steve Shohfi - (Lavallette BOE)**
 - Question – Is the state looking at forcing consolidation? When you were discussing the situation before, regarding the school district with the music class, this is not true of our district. Our district is 150 kids, one school, one grade of each grade, and one of the highest performing schools in Ocean County. The students continue that high performance when they reach the high school. We are fully staffed K-8, and we are able to meet the needs of all our students, and have a dedicated middle school staff. The benefits, we have a unique tax base because it is a summer community. So my question is, is this going to be a blanket thing or would you look at situations like ours?
- **Ms. Davy:** First, I am no longer the commissioner, but if I were, I would force consolidation because I think it is educationally the right thing to do. Second, as high-performing as your district may be your students are going somewhere to high school and unless every other district sending those children to that high school is doing the same kind of work you're doing, then your kids are losing out when they get to high school. Do not take my word for it; go check it out for yourself.
- **Steve Shohfi:** We have an extremely high level of articulation with all the districts that are involved, including the sending district.
- **Ms. Davy:** And it maybe that based on that, if all the other elementary districts sending to that high school are doing the same thing, have great property tax base like you do, I mean shore communities are in a different situation than most other.
- **Steve Shohfi:** We actually share a superintendent with one of the sending towns.

- Ms. Davy: Exactly, So it may be that you can generate efficiencies from that. I would be hard pressed to believe and I want to take a really close look at just how much , if all those students get to the 9th grade at the same place and everything's like a seamless transition as though they were in a single district, then I would say you continue to carry on the way you're working
- **Steve Shohfi:** I invite you to come.
- Ms. Davy: If that is the case, I would say that, but I am not the commissioner, and I am not in charge of deciding this. I believe there is an absolute commitment. At least at this point in this time this is going to be voluntary. The districts will have to choose to do it. I hope that the case can be made that unless people are fully articulating as you say you are, they would see the real advantage.

A question arose from the floor from Ronald Sanasac, (Howell Township Board of Education). He is the BA for the district and wanted to say a few words on Delegate Al Miller's behalf. It was determined he was out of order, and was against the rules to speak. Mr. Magyar offered to speak to him after the program concluded.

➤ **Steve Abbott - (Woodbury BOE)**

- Question – Is this going to be a choice for us or will it be mandated to consolidate? If this is the case, one of the things that we've done years ago was to look at regionalizing and the cost factor of doing that was a lot, but found it would not be beneficial to us . So within our district we do have a situation where we would need to think about our elementary school that really has one class per level and is not thrown in disarray, so we're trying to figure out how we're going to consolidate that to make it more efficient to have one building where we have, like one , a K-2 or whatever the rest of the way . Will there be a choice for us to decide what districts to regionalize with?

- President Sinclair: Is it going to be forced?
- Mr. Magyar: The question is whether there will be a choice of where to go? Where are you now for high school?
- **Steve Abbott:** We are a K-12 district in South Jersey, Gloucester County. This whole idea, originally was talked about by Senate President Sweeney, this was years ago. Will this be forced on the school district itself?
- Ms. Davy: You could choose to, absolutely, and if another regional high school and some sending elementary and middle schools are coming together, you could choose to go in with them. You could choose to do that, but no one is going to force you.

➤ **Steve Quinn - (Saddle Brook BOE)**

- Question- Thank you very much for your work to reduce the cost of special education. Any help wherever it comes from is greatly appreciated with reducing those costs. Secondly, we also have

trouble getting enough bus drivers. We are just barely doing it and I am curious to find out if this was a common problem across the state because we may need to look at a way to actually start getting them because most of the drivers are either retired or they have been there for a while. Also with extraordinary aid that you are working on, would that at least include the cost of busing students?

- President Sinclair: I can tell you this is a common problem.
- Ms. Davy: That is one of the questions, cost of delivering the service for children. The report will study what ought to be considered an extraordinary expense and obviously if you have to bus a child an hour or so away, that is one of the costs, absolutely.
- **Steve Quinn:** Sometimes with specific needs of the bussing and personnel, it get very expensive and when it comes to the litigation, I think that is moving in the right direction. Are we working on language that will ensure that parents, when they bring their suit, have to be very narrow and specific in their language? I want to make sure the lawyers were being boxed in because they will be broad as they can.
- Ms. Davy: That is what; I guess I did not make clear. That is the big change, parents will have very specific about what the reason is and what they are seeking so that it is not guesswork on the districts part and you do not have to prepare for a whole host of possibilities. You will need to know what exactly to focus on, and that should save them both time and money.
- President Sinclair: Just a reminder we have 15 minutes remaining and please have your questions ready.
- **Nancy Barna - (West Deptford Township BOE)**
 - Question- I am from West Deptford Township School Board and I am home of Senator Sweeney's community, Deptford and I do thank him very much for his effort in the fair funding fight that he fought for the state, and I thank Mr. Magyar for filing in his place . My question came up at Workshop 2018, where a discussion ensued about the savings in the district regarding health care benefits with Direct 10 and or the Direct 5 where you would pay just \$15 or \$20 per visit. I am also a county employee and I have a New Jersey Direct 10 Policy. I thought great it is only a few dollars more, but the downside was nothing was discussed in that meeting about the \$6,000 out-of-pocket cost as opposed to the \$500.00 cost now, which needs to be addressed. It is under the recommendations of the health benefits and all the benefits; shifting all state and local government employees and retirees healthcare coverage from platinum to gold.
- Mr. Magyar: We have not developed an exact plan and we are still talking benefits with administrators and with local officials. Currently we have 97% actuarial value for our health insurance policies, which is the highest in the country; platinum is at 90%, and Gold is at 80%. Our estimate is that school boards and local governments, if we went from a platinum to gold, would save somewhere in the \$ 500 to 700 million a year range. The plan and health benefits plan and employees will save on their premium cost share in the \$100 million range. This is just

at the local level, local government and teachers. We think that would make up most of the out-of-pocket increase, a cost for most employees.

- **Anne Erickson - (Greater Egg Harbor Regional High School District)**
 - Question – I want to talk about fair funding and 2 percent cap. Have you studied the discrepancies between the increases to the vo-tech and special services schools which are administered by the county superintendent vis-a-vis those of the schools that aren't limited to the 2 percent cap and yet have to pay the tuition to those schools particularly in areas where they have to pay significant tuition to those schools ?
- Mr. Magyar- We are looking at that and that is an issue. One of the things we are hopeful is that the vo-tech bond issue will help to provide additional funding.
- **Anne Erickson:** Our concern he said that he thought that the bond would help to assist with that. My issue is that the bond is going to help them build a bigger building and take more students. Just a few months ago, the county superintendent said, "Well you should never have built that third high school because you have declining enrollment. However, the reason we have declining enrollment is that he is taking more students. He told us specifically, we are not going to add on, and we are not going to grow. Then he overextended his population of students and it is because it is specifically in our region it hits us more directly than any other schools, but the noises I am hearing suggest this is a statewide issue. They have not been held to accountability as we have. Then they take the money from us after we have been held accountable. It is a bad math problem.
- President Sinclair: There is no question it is a statewide issue that needs to be addressed.
- **Gail Corey - (Tabernacle Township BOE)**
 - Question – We lost over \$198,000 dollars in state funding and over the next three to five years, we are going to lose even more, and we know we will be dependent on taxpayers. We have already brought to our board meetings discussions on regionalization. We see it down the road, so we know it is there. The question is when you start to pursue this and it becomes something you have to do, you are talking to superintendents, board members, who is the one you are going to have to merge or consolidate with? Who does the staffing, the administration, and the board of education?
- President Sinclair- That is a study right? There has to be study to determine this?
- Ms. Davy: Yes, the districts would have to come together to decide that. There was one of these consolidations in Hunterdon County, Hunterdon Regional; four sending districts, three elementary and the high school came together. It takes time and it takes study and decisions have to be made about how to do this. In some cases, some of the very small sending districts and elementary districts are already sharing a superintendent with another district. In some cases, it was a principal/superintendent and they would not lose a job anyway because the school needs a principal. This is all case-by-case specific and it will really have to be done by looking at the

districts that are coming together to regionalize. If your district is in that position it makes sense to at least think about what that will look like because if there is one of these sending elementary districts that's losing or a principal's retiring, maybe you figure something out that you don't have to hire a person that might not be needed if the district consolidated. You want to be thinking forward as you begin those conversations if it is something you are interested in doing right now.

- **Mr. Magyar:** What district are you from again?
- **Gail Corey:** Tabernacle Township. We have 730 children pre-K through grade eight, right now, we are ok but we are facing reality and we know what is down the road. We are trying to see what other districts in the area are considering the same, but it is just us now.
- **President Sinclair:** One of the major issues is what happens after you consolidate, right?
- **Mr. Magyar:** Bear in mind, also one of the things is that South Hunterdon took five years to get this right and it planned well, and had community involvement. There is no intention by the state to say you have to do this in the next six months. This should be a long, well thought out process.
- **Harry Litwack - (Delanco BOE)**
 - Question- I am piggybacking on the comment made about giving \$5 million to the feasibility study. I am concerned with follow through... and is it two countywide districts for the state or for each county?
- **Mr. Magyar:** This is an option that counties that want to look at countywide school district, we're creating legislation to enable them to do so, but were limiting it by population, so therefore, would be smallest districts and most of them are counties that have been losing population. Therefore, that is why we are not, that is ... it is not a proposal for Burlington, for example.
- **Harry Litwack:** My question is that I think there needs to be a group, that's just the local entities to have something that's both from a state board of education, NJSBA and the NJEA; people who are versed to be able to bring that about as reality. I think this is an accountability issue.
- **Mr. Magyar:** We have talked about this, there used to be a group for municipalities looking at consolidation and shared services. One of the things we have been actively discussing is whether we should have a state government or resource center or something that on an ongoing basis would be able to work with school districts. Our current game plan is to do it on staff basis for about a half dozen potential regionals at least in the first stage.
- **Pam Kelly - (Hamilton Township BOE- Mercer County)**
 - Question- My question has to do with the recommendation of health benefits. It says to require all new state and local government retirees to pay the same percentage of

premium costs they paid when working. I know that would probably affect our staffing. I wanted to see were you looking at that for all tiers or certain tiers of employees.

- Mr. Magyar: This is something that if you did it I would imagine you would have the same sort of phase-in that the original Chapter 78 had where anybody that worked for 20 years and was 50 years old was not affected by the requirement that they pay. This is by far the most controversial recommendation that is up there. One of the other things is whether you have that for retirees and you have, based on pension if you have Medicare, so this is being discussed. I think it is one of the most controversial recommendations, but if we were to do it, I know it would be with a phase-in so we are not affecting anyone close to retirement.
- President Sinclair: Clara Williams will be the final question from the floor.
- **Clara Williams- (Vice President, Teaneck Board of Education)**
 - Question- We look forward to additional funding for special education, but I would like to implore you to consider the impact with charter schools on this entire funding situation. Teaneck has an extraordinary combination of factors and variables. We received additional aid, but then we also received an expansion of a charter school for \$350,000 dollars. We pay out \$5 million in charter school funding right now, and again my point is to ask that if this is going to be considered when you're creating and finalizing this proposal because they work in conjunction and you can't look at a district without taking that into consideration.
- Mr. Magyar: We are aware of that and I know the governor is doing an effective moratorium, while not calling it a moratorium, on that charter school expansion. I imagine the Department of Education is currently looking at that, but honestly, we have not looked at that but we need to. We recognize we need to as we do with the vo-tech aspect, which is the other side.

Adjournment

President Sinclair thanked everyone for taking time from their Saturday to come to the Delegate Assembly.

Having no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was duly seconded and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Cynthia J. Jahn, Esq.
General Counsel

November 17, 2018 Delegate Assembly

County	District	Last Name	First Name
Atlantic	Absecon Bd of Ed	Cottrell	Christopher
Atlantic	Grtr Egg Harbor Reg Bd of Ed	Erickson	Anne
Atlantic	Weymouth Bd of Ed	Goldsmith	Henry
Bergen	Carlstadt-E Rutherford Bd of Ed	Young	Bruce
Bergen	Demarest Bd of Ed	Holzberg	Diane
Bergen	Dumont Bd of Ed	DeWald	Robert
Bergen	East Rutherford Bd of Ed	Zoller	Debra
Bergen	Elmwood Park Bd of Ed	Freitag	Jeanne
Bergen	Franklin Lakes Bd of Ed	Rosano	Joseph
Bergen	New Milford Bd of Ed	Steele	Joseph
Bergen	No Highlands Reg Bd of Ed	Wei	Robert
Bergen	Oradell Bd of Ed	Walsh	John
Bergen	Ramsey Bd of Ed	Socci	Anthony
Bergen	River Vale Bd of Ed	Waldes	Lorraine
Bergen	Saddle Brook Bd of Ed	Quinn	Stephen
Bergen	Teaneck Bd of Ed	Williams	Clara
Bergen	Upper Saddle River Bd of Ed	Verducci	David
Bergen	Westwood Reg Bd of Ed	Mandeville	Darlene
Burlington	Beverly Bd of Ed	Atkinson	Stacey
Burlington	Burlington Twp Bd of Ed	Riggi	Velina
Burlington	Chesterfield Bd of Ed	Shah	Jignesh
Burlington	Cinnaminson Bd of Ed	McGuckin	James
Burlington	Delanco Bd of Ed	Litwack	Harry
Burlington	Edgewater Park Bd of Ed	Holley	Lester
Burlington	Lenape Reg Bd of Ed	Fitzgerald	Barry
Burlington	Maple Shade Bd of Ed	Wiest	Ellen
Burlington	Moorestown Twp Bd of Ed	Pugh	Brandon
Burlington	North Hanover Bd of Ed	Sullivan	William
Burlington	Pemberton Twp Bd of Ed	Maier	Thomas
Burlington	Southampton Twp Bd of Ed	Hann	Russell
Burlington	Tabernacle Twp Bd of Ed	Corey	Gail
Burlington	Willingboro Twp Bd of Ed	McKenzie	Grover
Camden	Brooklawn Bd of Ed	Rosetti	Samuel
Camden	Camden City Bd of Ed	Wilson	Martha
Camden	Cherry Hill Bd of Ed	Scarpellino	Jane
Camden	Clementon Bd of Ed	Aubry	Danielle
Camden	Eastern Camden Co Reg Bd of Ed	Garr	Hillary
Camden	Gibbsboro Bd of Ed	Carrington	Maria
Camden	Haddon Twp Bd of Ed	Kendall	John
Camden	Lindenwold Bd of Ed	Hershman	Marsha
Camden	Pennsauken Bd of Ed	Johnson	Diane
Camden	Pine Hill Bd of Ed	Gallagher	Leslie
Cumberland	Cumberland Co Voc Bd of Ed	Hands	Ruth
Cumberland	Vineland Bd of Ed	Jennings	Christopher
Essex	Belleville Bd of Ed	Lamparello	Christine
Essex	Bloomfield Bd of Ed	Salinas	Jessica
Essex	Newark Bd of Ed	Bledsoe	Reginald
Essex	West Essex Reg Bd of Ed	Rubinich	Anthony

Gloucester	Elk Twp Bd of Ed	Spring	Mary
Gloucester	Glassboro Bd of Ed	Calvo	Peter
Gloucester	Logan Bd of Ed	Russell	John
Gloucester	Paulsboro Bd of Ed	Lisa	Joseph
Gloucester	Washington Twp Bd of Ed	Abbott	Robert
Gloucester	Woodbury Bd of Ed	Abbott	Steven
Hudson	Jersey City Bd of Ed	Richardson	Lorenzo
Hudson	Secaucus Bd of Ed	McStowe	Jack
Hudson	West New York Bd of Ed	Morel	David
Hunterdon	Kingwood Bd of Ed	Bloom	Kevin
Mercer	Hamilton Twp Bd of Ed	Kelly	Pamela
Mercer	Lawrence Twp Bd of Ed	Groeger	Jo Ann
Mercer	Princeton Bd of Ed	Stankiewicz	Gregory
Middlesex	Highland Park Bd of Ed	Cimarusti	Darcie
Middlesex	Jamesburg Bd of Ed	Stroul	Elliott
Middlesex	Metuchen Bd of Ed	Benderly	Dan
Middlesex	Middlesex Boro Bd of Ed	Hrevnack	John
Middlesex	Monroe Township Bd of Ed	Lang	Patricia
Middlesex	Piscataway Twp Bd of Ed	Connors	Tom
Middlesex	South Amboy Bd of Ed	Kasics	Lynn
Middlesex	South Plainfield Bd of Ed	Boyle	Deborah
Middlesex	South River Bd of Ed	Razzano	Anthony
Middlesex	Woodbridge Bd of Ed	Harris	Dan
Monmouth	Asbury Park Bd of Ed	Etienne	Sheila
Monmouth	Atlantic Highlands Bd of Ed	Dougherty	Erin
Monmouth	Bellmar Bd of Ed	Adams	Cherie
Monmouth	Colts Neck Twp Bd of Ed	Castner	Marian
Monmouth	Henry Hudson Reg Bd of Ed	Mohr	Melissa
Monmouth	Highlands Borough Bd of Ed	Knox	Diane
Monmouth	Howell Twp Bd of Ed	Miller	Albert
Monmouth	Keansburg Bd of Ed	Mankowski	Michael
Monmouth	Manalapan Englishtown Bd of Ed	Parisi	Christine
Monmouth	Manasquan Bd of Ed	Bossone	Donna
Monmouth	Matawan Aberdeen Reg Bd of Ed	Nappi	Joelle
Monmouth	Monmouth Reg Bd of Ed	Seavey	Steven
Monmouth	Neptune City Bd of Ed	Susino	Anthony
Monmouth	Red Bank Bd of Ed	Roseman	Ann
Monmouth	Red Bank Reg Bd of Ed	Doherty	Emily
Monmouth	Union Beach Bd of Ed	Boyce	Sarah
Monmouth	Wall Twp Bd of Ed	Zawodniak	Robin
Morris	Boonton Bd of Ed	LeFebvre	Irene
Morris	Boonton Twp Bd of Ed	Sierchio	John
Morris	Denville Bd of Ed	Cappello	Dino
Morris	Hanover Twp Bd of Ed	Azzarello	Salvatore
Morris	Harding Twp Bd of Ed	Flynn	John
Morris	Montville Twp Bd of Ed	Cortellino	Karen
Morris	Netcong Bd of Ed	Dalesandro	Bernadette
Morris	Rockaway Twp Bd of Ed	Mezik	Lisa
Morris	Roxbury Twp Bd of Ed	Masi	Dan
Ocean	Jackson Twp Bd of Ed	Rivera	Tara
Ocean	Lacey Twp Bd of Ed	Riggs	Robert
Ocean	Manchester Twp Bd of Ed	Webster	Donald
Ocean	Ocean Gate Bd of Ed	Casey	Richard
Ocean	Ocean Township Bd of Ed	Zuzic	Kelly
Ocean	Toms River Reg Bd of Ed	Leonard	Daniel

Passaic	Bloomington Bd of Ed	Caraballo	Charles
Passaic	Clifton Bd of Ed	Bassford	Judith
Passaic	Haledon Bd of Ed	Gonzales	Kathleen
Passaic	Pompton Lakes Bd of Ed	Schwartz	Nancy
Passaic	Wayne Twp Bd of Ed	Okun	Gail
Passaic	West Milford Bd of Ed	Cytowicz	William
Salem	Quinton Bd of Ed	Scull	Tracy
Salem	Woodstown-Pilesgrove Reg BOE	Miller	Eileen
Somerset	Bridgewater-Raritan Reg BOE	Brookner	Jeffrey
Somerset	Hillsborough Twp Bd of Ed	Trujillo	Jean
Somerset	Manville Bd of Ed	Petzinger	Louis
Somerset	Somerville Bd of Ed	Sergile	Lucien
Somerset	Watchung Bd of Ed	Glasser-Nehls	Georgia
Sussex	Green Twp Bd of Ed	Bilik	Marie
Sussex	Lenape Valley Reg Bd of Ed	McHugh	Steven
Sussex	Newton Bd of Ed	Faye	Joan
Sussex	Stanhope Bd of Ed	Percarpio	Cynthia
Sussex	Sussex Cty Technical BOE	Wexler	Diane
Union	Berkeley Heights Bd of Ed	Kirsch	Helen
Union	Cranford Bd of Ed	Hulse	William
Union	Garwood Bd of Ed	Guerriero	Christine
Union	Garwood Bd of Ed	Kjetsaa	Mary Ann
Union	Linden Bd of Ed	Topoleski	Raymond
Union	Rahway Bd of Ed	Dolce	Ron
Union	Westfield Bd of Ed	Galligan	Brendan
Union	Winfield Bd of Ed	Byrne	Maureen
Warren	Blairstown Bd of Ed	Karolchyk	John
Warren	Franklin Twp Bd of Ed	DiGilio	Rudolph
Warren	Great Meadows Reg Bd of Ed	Cullen	Susan
Warren	Greenwich Twp Bd of Ed	Nodes	Scott
Warren	Harmony Bd of Ed	Babula	George
Warren	Lopatcong Bd of Ed	Taggart	William
Warren	Mansfield Township Bd of Ed	Momary	James
Warren	North Warren Reg Bd of Ed	Brandt	Robert
Warren	Pohatcong Twp Bd of Ed	Griesmeyer	Kristine
Warren	Warren Hills Reg Bd of Ed	Knittel	Jennifer
Warren	Washington Twp Bd of Ed	Smith	Anita



New Jersey School Boards Association

413 West State Street • Trenton, NJ 08618 • Telephone: 609.695.7600 • Toll-Free: 888.88NJSBA • Fax: 609.695.0413

MEMORANDUM

To: NJSBA DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

From: MICHAEL R. McCLURE, VICE PRESIDENT FOR FINANCE

Date: MAY 18, 2019

Re: FINANCIAL REPORT

The *Bylaws* of the New Jersey School Boards Association require that a “detailed report of the financial condition of the Association” be presented at each annual meeting of the Delegates. The financial reports through March 31, 2019 have been distributed to you. Included are the 2018-2019 year-to-date revenues and expenses and a balance sheet and statement of cash flows.

The audit for fiscal year 2018-2019 will be completed in August and will be included in the annual report distributed at the November 2019 Board of Directors meeting.

NEW JERSEY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT of REVENUES and EXPENSES
For the Nine Months Ending March 31, 2019

	Month ended March			Year-To-Date Ended March			FULL-YEAR	
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE	BUDGET	FULL-YEAR 2017-2018
MEMBERSHIP DUES	\$592,859	\$592,675	(\$184)	\$5,335,738	\$5,334,068	(\$1,670)	\$7,114,315	\$7,112,000
MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS	0	5,788	5,788	291,570	295,381	3,811	291,570	302,234
TOTAL MEMBERSHIPS	592,859	598,463	5,603	5,627,308	5,629,449	2,141	7,405,885	7,414,234
MEMBERSHIP EXPENSES:								
COMMITTEES	6,833	7,826	(993)	56,353	49,181	7,172	77,889	70,017
CONFERENCES- DUES BASED, NET	2,800	13,102	(10,302)	34,818	31,432	3,386	45,626	28,189
MEMBERSHIP SERVICES & PROGRAMS	16,805	13,477	3,328	151,245	126,923	24,322	201,643	177,393
PUBLICATIONS INCLUDED WITH MEMBERSHIPS, NET	6,650	10,391	(3,741)	59,850	21,720	38,130	79,799	43,847
TRAVEL & LIAISON	12,501	17,890	(5,389)	113,509	95,506	18,003	151,018	132,283
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP EXPENSES	45,589	62,686	(17,097)	415,775	324,762	91,014	555,975	451,729
OVERHEAD:								
SALARIES	491,347	472,615	18,732	4,422,123	4,269,242	152,881	5,896,165	5,597,927
PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION & TRAINING	197,044	178,973	18,071	1,773,396	1,588,343	185,053	2,364,530	3,038,219
HEADQUARTERS HOUSING	34,500	36,972	(2,472)	310,500	285,021	25,479	414,005	776,322
INSURANCE	7,664	7,529	135	68,976	66,657	2,319	91,962	86,258
OFFICE EXPENSE	27,894	30,086	(2,192)	251,046	211,402	39,644	334,745	284,032
TOTAL OVERHEAD EXPENSES	758,449	726,175	32,274	6,826,041	6,420,665	405,376	9,101,407	9,782,758
NET MEMBERSHIPS	(211,179)	(190,398)	20,780	(1,614,508)	(1,115,978)	498,531	(2,251,497)	(2,820,253)
WORKSHOP REVENUE	0	2,925	2,925	2,082,050	2,247,841	165,791	2,082,050	2,071,179
WORKSHOP EXPENSES	0	354	(354)	890,000	894,750	(4,750)	890,000	837,008
NET WORKSHOP	0	2,571	2,571	1,192,050	1,353,091	161,041	1,192,050	1,234,171
FEE BASED SERVICE REVENUE	72,973	64,298	(8,675)	556,425	490,144	(66,281)	775,337	582,754
FEE BASED SERVICE EXPENSES	27,053	27,703	(650)	239,379	212,466	26,913	320,539	262,378
NET FEE BASED SERVICES	45,920	36,595	(9,325)	317,046	277,678	(39,368)	454,798	300,376
CONFERENCE REVENUE	43,710	41,248	(2,462)	82,573	136,132	53,559	210,805	191,734
CONFERENCE EXPENSES	16,242	6,510	9,732	28,256	18,127	10,129	69,366	39,669
NET CONFERENCES	27,468	34,738	7,270	54,317	118,005	63,688	141,439	152,065
NET PUBLICATIONS	1,839	0	(1,839)	16,551	23,376	6,825	22,070	27,607
NET ISTEAM & SUSTAINABILITY	8,104	4,367	(3,737)	67,752	17,277	(50,475)	74,092	59,325
NET MISC. REVENUE INCLUDING INVESTMENT INCOME	11,836	20,171	8,335	106,524	213,046	106,522	142,050	225,442
FREE BALANCE SURPLUS							225,000	
NET REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	(116,012)	(91,956)	24,055	139,732	886,495	746,763	0	(821,267)

NEW JERSEY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION
BALANCE SHEET
For the Nine Months Ending March 31, 2019

2018

2019

Assets

Current Assets:

Cash and short-term investments
Accounts Receivable
Prepaid Expenses
Deferred Compensation

\$8,190,927
502,832
189,043
\$7,475,920
156,375
193,980
36,949

Total Current Assets

8,882,802
7,863,224

Fixed Assets:

Land- HQ
Land
Building and Building Improvements
Furniture and Fixtures
Computer Hardware and Software
Telephone System
Automobiles

1,686,534
139,040
10,620,887
854,440
603,815
38,907
59,669
1,686,534
139,040
10,570,192
806,241
1,848,728
38,907
59,669

Total Fixed Assets

14,003,292
15,149,311

Less Accumulated Depreciation and Amortization

(5,711,180)
(6,621,598)

Total Fixed Assets - Net

8,292,112
8,527,713

Deferred Outflow of Resources - Pensions

5,306,459
6,340,627

Total Assets

22,481,373
22,731,564

NEW JERSEY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION
BALANCE SHEET
For the Nine Months Ending March 31, 2019

	2019	2018
Liabilities and Fund Balance		
Current Liabilities:		
Accounts Payable & Accrued Liability	761,718	704,120
Prepaid Revenue	2,649,659	2,171,569
Accrued Vacation	504,112	481,881
Total Current Liabilities	3,915,489	3,357,570
Net Long-Term Pension Liability	17,043,915	20,568,235
Deferred Inflow of resources - Pension Relates	3,669,323	349,851
Fund Balances:		
Operating Fund Net Investment in facilities	8,292,112	8,527,712
Operating Fund Surplus Beginning Balance	3,450,820	3,493,897
Operating Fund Surplus Fiscal Year 2018-2019, 2017-2018	886,495	668,490
Operating Fund Surplus Ending Balance	4,337,315	4,162,387
Unrestricted Fund - Net Pension Liability	(15,406,779)	(14,577,459)
Capital Fund - AMS	334,688	
Capital Fund - Strategic Plan		
Capital Fund - Building	103,260	73,311
Capital Fund - IT Replacement	192,050	269,957
Total Fund Balances	(2,147,354)	(1,544,092)
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	22,481,373	22,731,564

NEW JERSEY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW
as of MAR. 31, 2019

	MAR. 2019	MAR. 2018
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Collections from customers	\$ 10,165,285	\$ 9,680,592
Cash paid to vendors and staff	(7,593,568)	(7,540,530)
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	2,571,717	2,140,062
Cash Flows from Investing Activities		
Purchase of equipment	(116,866)	(342,964)
Interest collected	99,962	74,853
Net Cash Flow Used for Investing Activities	(16,904)	(268,111)
Net Change in Cash and Cash Equivalents	2,554,813	1,871,951
Cash and Cash Equivalents, Beginning of Year	5,636,114	5,603,969
Cash and Equivalents, End of Year	\$ 8,190,927	\$ 7,475,920
Reconciliation of Operating Income to:		
Net cash used in operating activities:	\$ 786,533	\$ 593,637
Operating Loss		
Adjustments to reconcile operating loss to net cash used in operating activities:		
Depreciation	0	0
Amortization	0	0
Pension Expense	0	0
Bad debt allowance	0	(3,000)
Deferred compensation	0	0
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Accounts receivable	(344,480)	(32,046)
Prepaid expenses	(45,823)	(43,452)
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	420,655	330,478
Other Liabilities	1,754,832	1,294,445
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	\$ 2,571,717	\$ 2,140,062



REPORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

By

Daniel Sinclair

President, NJSBA

Prepared for the May 18, 2019 Delegate Assembly

I would like to report the Legislative Committee's activities since the November 17, 2018 Delegate Assembly.

CHARGE:

1. The Committee shall encourage, promote and assist in the development of local, county and Statewide legislative networks.
2. The Committee may initiate legislative policy recommendations for consideration by the Board of Directors or the Delegate Assembly.
3. The Committee shall review issues and NJSBA's advocacy agenda and offer input on these matters.
4. The Committee shall clarify existing positions on legislation by analyzing bills pending in the Legislature.
5. The Committee shall recommend a biannual legislative agenda.
6. The Committee members may be called upon to testify at meetings and hearings of the State Legislature on issues.
7. The Committee shall serve as a membership base for the Resolutions Subcommittee.
8. The Committee members may participate in NJSBA's legislative training activities.
9. The Committee shall review federal legislation and other initiatives that affect local school boards and offer input on these matters.
10. The Committee shall serve as a united voice for the needs of all children by testifying, initiating local resolutions, writing/meeting/telephoning legislators, and communicating with local board members at county functions.

At the heart of the Committee's charge is its crucial service as a link between local boards of education and the New Jersey School Boards Association on current legislative and administrative code issues. Committee members encourage, promote and assist in the development of local, county and Statewide legislative networks.

The Legislative Committee consists of 80 members and alternates who represent their respective legislative districts. Having members from all legislative districts ensures that each legislator is contacted on a regular basis by board members who advocate and champion the needs of 1.4 million public school children. Having active Committee members and alternates ensures a stronger and more consistent message to ALL legislators. Please look at the vacancy list below. If you know of any board members in your district who would be great in our advocacy efforts, let us know.

Legislative Committee Vacancies

LD # County

2-alt	Atlantic	30-alt	Monmouth and Ocean
13-alt	Monmouth	33-mem	Hudson
19-alt	Middlesex	33-alt	Hudson
20-mem	Union	40-alt	Bergen, Essex, Morris, Passaic
20-alt	Union		

Since the last report, the Committee met on December 1, 2018 and March 9, 2019 and had discussions and received updates on various issues including:

December 1, 2018

Opening Remarks: Opening comments from Brandon Pugh and Dan Sinclair followed by quorum count and new board member introduction.

Mr. Pugh opened the meeting with a warm welcome to the Legislative Committee members, and thanked them for their commitment to serving on the committee. Mr. Dan Sinclair provided an overview of the November 17 Delegate Assembly meeting, which included 175 delegates and guests. Ms. Lucille Davy, former DOE Commissioner and Mr. Mark Magyar, Aide, Senate Democratic Office, were guests and addressed the “Path to Progress” report. Mr. Sinclair mentioned there is an upcoming New Board Member Orientation in January, with already 100 registrations, with another Orientation scheduled in February. School board members interested in interviewing for candidacy for a NJSBA office before the Association’s Nominating Committee must have their application received at NJSBA headquarters by December 21. Job descriptions and applications are available on School Board Notes. Mr. Pugh announced he did not seek re-election for his board, so this meeting may be his last chairing in his Officer’s capacity. The committee thanked Mr. Pugh for his dedication to the committee.

Legislative Updates:

Mr. Michael Vrancik mentioned that the state is in the mid-point of the 2018-19 Legislative Session, and school funding is a priority topic for the legislators. The Governor will present his budget address prior to the next committee meeting. Mr. Vrancik also mentioned that the Joint Committee on the Public Schools, will be meeting to discuss QSAC, as there have been some changes since its implementation.

Mr. Jonathan Pushman discussed the “Securing Our Children’s Future Bond Act,” which authorizes the issuance of \$500 million in general obligation bonds and was approved by the voters. The bonds are for the following purposes:

- \$350 million for county vocational schools, career and technical education and/or school security grants;
- \$50 million for county college career and technical education (CTE) grants; and
- \$100 million for school district water infrastructure improvement grants.

A member asked if these are competitive grants, and Mr. Pushman confirmed they are. Priority will be given to certain types of projects. The DOE and SDA will also establish procedures and criteria for school security project grants. Several members asked about the history of the bond act and the disbursement of funds. After a lengthy discussion, Mr. Pushman encouraged committee members to submit specific information to assist Governmental Relations in its advocacy efforts with the DOE and the SDA.

Mr. Pushman referenced a bill package recently advanced through the Assembly Education Committee to help protect students from sexual misconduct and child abuse in schools. The package includes measures that would increase penalties for inappropriate behavior by school employees; require aspiring educators to receive training on sexual abuse and misconduct; strengthen data collection and reporting processes; and create a task force that would make additional recommendations on ways to combat sexual misconduct in schools.

Another bill package, regarding pupil transportation and school bus safety, is awaiting the governor’s approval. It includes enhanced training for school bus drivers and enhanced penalties for those who are careless in transporting students. There is also a school bus driver shortage, so the legislature has been reminded to be mindful to not necessarily decrease the potential for drivers to be hired, yet be sure to have enhanced safety. Mr. Pushman also provided an overview of the Governor’s approach to regionalization and consolidation issues and shared services agreements. Also mentioned was the governor’s ongoing “State Health Benefits Quality and Value Task Force”, which was tasked with recommending cost-effective strategies for delivering health care to public employees and retirees who receive their health benefits through the SHBP and SEHBP. Going into 2019, they will consider more long-term systemic reforms to public employee health benefits which may entail advocacy on the Association’s part. Mr. Pushman also highlighted the increase in the state minimum wage. Increasing the minimum wage has been a top legislative priority for the governor and legislators and they have been negotiating over the details of the legislation for several months. The bills released on Monday constitute the compromise they recently reached, which could receive final legislative approval by the end of the week. Governmental Relations has been collecting data on the effect the minimum wage bill will have on districts.

Mr. John Burns updated the Committee on recent news from the DOE. There were recent revisions to the State’s System of Standardized Testing: the weight of PARCC tests in annual teacher evaluations was reduced from 30% to 5%; original proposed regulatory changes included reducing from 6 to 2 for the number of PARCC tests administered in high school and eliminating the requirement that the 2021 graduating class pass a statewide assessment to graduate. The State Board of Education’s hearing was postponed, and the new proposed regulatory changes, with amendments,

include testing in both ELA and math in grade 9 and 10. At the moment, these regulations are still being considered and there is a 60-day public comment period.

In regards to QSAC, the DOE has said they want to ensure every district is including information regarding the Holocaust and Amistad as mandated by their Commissions for K-12. The DOE has said while appropriate to include in their social studies curriculum, if included in other content areas, the district will receive their points. However, they will lose their social studies points if not included in their curriculum.

Ms. Sharon Seyler updated the committee on NSBA's upcoming annual Federal Equity Symposium and Advocacy Institute event in Washington DC, January 26-29, with The Day on the Hill event, January 29. There are opportunities to meet with Congressional staff members.

Ms. Seyler also introduced the special guest speaker, Ms. Deborah Rigsby, Program Director, Lobbying and Federal Legislation, National School Boards Association who presented to the committee via Webex. Ms. Rigsby provided an in-depth overview of Federal funding updates, including IDEA being a top priority for NSBA; members were provided handouts.

Committee Sharing:

. A member mentioned the NJSIAA is having their full membership meeting in the upcoming week, and one of the ballot questions pertains to cooperative sports. If passed, a district's school may cooperate with other schools, in any sport regardless of school enrollment. This can give flexibility to students participating in a sport their school might not offer.

. Mr. Vrancik followed up with answers from earlier in the meeting, regarding the state's Council on Affordable Housing requirements, and their impact on district enrollments if new low-income housing needs to be built in more suburban communities. The current administration has not objected to a recent Supreme Court ruling. A member mentioned it's the 80% of housing that is a concern. A member asked on the provisions of the upcoming state FY 2020 budget. Mr. Vrancik mentioned the provisions of S2, as they amend to the SFRA, will drive the allocation of dollars in the budget; this will be released during the governor's budget address in February.

. Also discussed were concerns about PILOTs (payment in-lieu of tax deals) negotiated by municipal governing bodies and their impact on local districts.

March 9, 2019

Opening Remarks: Opening comments from Dan Sinclair and Dr. Larry Feinsod followed by quorum count and new board member introduction. Mr. Sinclair opened the meeting by thanking the members for their commitment to serving on the committee. Mr. Sinclair acknowledged that Governor Murphy delivered his FY 2020 Budget address March 5, and numerous districts were affected by the proposed changes. Dr. Feinsod concurred the main discussion item for this morning's meeting will be school funding. There are districts that lost funding, and NJSBA's position has always been that there should not be any district that has a reduction in funding, as it ultimately impacts the students. Approximately two-thirds of the districts received greater funding or more

funding, and approximately one-third did not. Those districts that were under funded for the last 10 years had their students negatively impacted which is now corrected through S-2. However, for districts that lost money, the Association will continue to advocate for them.

Mr. Sinclair mentioned his attendance at the 8th grade Dialogue meetings in Burlington and Gloucester counties earlier in the week, and the wonderful interaction he had with the students. He encouraged committee members to attend these meetings in the future.

Legislative Updates:

Ms. Sharon Seyler provided an update for the annual National School Boards Association's 2019 Advocacy Institute event. This year, approximately 40 board members traveled to Washington DC with the Officers and Dr. Feinsod. They spoke with several members of Congress and the U.S. Senate, including Congressmen Kim, Norcross, Malinowski and Congresswoman Sherrill and staffers for Senators Bob Menendez and Cory Booker. Participants also attended meetings on Capitol Hill and discussed federal issues that impact public education. The event focused on advocating for more funding for IDEA, advancing school infrastructure, school safety priorities, DACA program, and the 2020 Census. Ms. Seyler stated this was a very productive event, and encouraged committee members to attend next year's conference.

Ms. Seyler gave an update on S-3381/A-4597, which would clarify the requirements for standardized testing for high school students, following an earlier court decision which found the current use of PARCC as a graduation requirement invalid. The bill seeks to delete references to 11th grade, and provide the DOE with the option to provide "assessment or assessments". Since the agreement only covered 2019-2020, it passed through the Senate, but to date has been held by the Assembly.

Mr. John Burns provided State Board updates, specifically on their emphasis on CTE (Career and Technical Education) efforts in vocational-technical schools and comprehensive high schools. There is a regulatory package that would provide more flexibility towards certification of CTE teachers. One of the issues facing CTE is the need to provide enough qualified instructors in the classroom. The average age of a CTE teacher is 59. The DOE will present updated draft regulations for consideration by the State Board to address shortages of teachers at its next meeting.

To meet the growing facilities needs of CTE, voters recently approved the "Securing Our Children's Future Bond Act" which will provide grants to county vocational school districts and county colleges to construct and equip buildings to increase capacity in career and technical education programs. The act, in part, will provide \$350 million to support county vocational school district projects and school security projects and \$50 million to support county college projects. The state received a \$8000,000 grant from the federal government to address the issue of CTE certification and will create a bridge program. Existing academic teachers may enter a transition program and receive on-the-job training to receive CTE certification.

Mr. Burns also discussed the Teacher Leader component. A Teacher Leader is someone who has the skills and knowledge to assist the classroom teacher, review data and to actualize the data to help the students. NJSBA posed several questions, i.e. a Teacher Leader may be working on a part-time basis and would might create a burden if the state is now requiring them to be certified.

Mr. Burns discussed S-477/A-3648, Extending Statute of Limitations in Sex Abuse Cases. This would increase the statute of limitations to thirty-seven years for civil actions concerning child sexual abuse. NJSBA supported the legislation, because the association believes that local boards education should provide conditions and establish policies that will ensure the health and safety of students. NJSBA further believes that a child's physical and mental well-being is a prerequisite for academic achievement, and abuse and neglect are direct threats to this well-being. NJSBA had concerns about the fiscal challenges in the bills, particularly about retroactive liability for claims that had expired under the current law and asked that these provisions be clarified in the proposal. NJSBA supported the intent of the legislation and the extension of the statute of limitations, but expressed concerns about a provision that would require these suits to be handled outside of the traditional pathways of the Tort Claims Act for suing public entities, since such litigation involves the use of public funds. The bill now heads to both the Assembly and Senate for votes. There was further discussion of this bill, as several committee members asked for clarification on the Association's position of it; the policy will be emailed to committee members.

Mr. Christopher Jones discussed the details of the FY202 Budget Proposal which was presented by the Governor on March 5. The Governor posed \$15.4 billion for K-12 education, including \$8.7 billion in direct state aid. As was expected, this is the first state budget process under S-2. This legislation sought to "restore fairness to the state's school aid formula". The law repealed the growth caps and, over a six-year phase-in, re-calculates state aid using the most recent data. Districts that received funds greater than the new calculations are scheduled to have the difference reduced by 13% in the upcoming year. Districts receiving less than the calculation under S-2 are scheduled to receive a "proportionate share" of additional funds made available through the new calculation. Mr. Jones acknowledged that approximately one-third of the state's school districts will experience aid reductions. The Association opposes any aid reductions, and Governmental Relations will be advocating for proposed strategies. Mr. Michael Vrancik and Mr. Jones also described in detail the formulas and calculations used to determine these numbers, and Mr. Vrancik provided detailed information on the history of the SFRA and its language provisions. Committee members discussed how these proposed budget numbers will be affecting their individual districts, and Mr. Vrancik and Mr. Jones noted the concerns of the members are being heard. The concerns included charter schools, flat funding, referendums, special education. The SFC chair member suggested for members to meet with their BA's to gain a further understanding of their district's budget, and present their specific challenges to the SFC. Mr. Jones stated the language portion of the school funding will be released at a future date, and also shared a handout entitled "Every Child Counts" ECC, Senate Republican School Funding Reform Bill Package proposal.

Two sample resolutions were included in material packets, A-3395/S-296 Oppose Anti-Subcontracting Legislation, and A-3664/S-3089 Oppose Tenure-Like Protections for Support Staff. The Assembly failed to take action February 25 on two measures that the NJSBA strongly opposes. A-3395 bars subcontracting during the term of an existing collective bargaining agreement. Once a district is no longer under this prohibition, the district must provide at least 90 days' notice to the local union before seeking any subcontracting bids; and must provide the union the opportunity to consult and negotiate "over the impact of the subcontracting."

A-3664, would establish tenure-like protections for school district support staff and would subject a BOE's personnel decisions to costly, protracted challenges through binding arbitration, including putting the burden of proof on the district. Both bills would severely undermine a board's ability to

effectively and efficiently manage its resources and personnel. NJSBA asks its members to join in their advocacy efforts by approving resolutions opposing the measures.

Committee Sharing:

- Mr. Sinclair mentioned there are a few vacancies on the Committee, and to follow up with Ray Pinney if you know of anyone with an interest in serving.
- Discussion items included status of the later school start time bill, which Mr. Burns stated it authorizes a pilot program; the association supports the current legislation. There may be ramifications with a later time and we require additional data. A member mentioned their school had their first reading of transgender policy, and raised questions on its language, confidentiality concerns for children; the Policy department can be of assistance. A few members mentioned their township is building affordable housing, and how will their school district accommodate additional enrollments; Mr. Vrancik provided further information on other towns incorporating PILOT programs and this can have an impact on districts; and may be incorporated into the SFRA discussion. A member provided his experience with meeting with his legislators regarding S-2 and special education, and Mr. Sinclair mentioned it's effective to meet with legislators with solutions to the questions you are posing, and several members concurred they have the most success when bringing ideas to their meetings. A member questioned on the application process for security construction dollars; and asked to have an agenda item on the state litigation with integration.
- Annual NJSBA/PTA Legislative Day will be 5/16, at the Trenton War Memorial; additional information will be announced on the key speaker, panelists, legislators.

Staff

Michael Vrancik, Director, Governmental Relations
Cyndy Jahn, Esq., General Counsel
Raymond Pinney, Director, County Activities and Member Engagement
John Burns, Esq., Counsel
Christopher Jones, Legislative Advocate
Jonathan Pushman, Legislative Advocate
Sharon Seyler, Legislative Advocate
Anette Airey, Administrative Assistant



New Jersey School Boards Association

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LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ROSTER **5-18-19**

State District	Name	Title	Board of Education
1	Dennis Roberts	Member	Middle Township (Cape May)
	Josephine Sharpe	Alternate	Wildwood City (Cape May)
2	Peter Castellano	Member	Egg Harbor Township (Atlantic)
	Vacancy		
3	Carolyn Kegler	Member	Logan Township (Gloucester)
	Cheryl Potter	Alternate	Elk Township (Gloucester)
4	Candice Zachowski	Member	Washington Township (Gloucester)
	Maryjo Dintino	Alternate	Gloucester Township (Camden)
5	Martha Wilson	Member	Camden City (Camden)
	Joseph Coldren	Alternate	Woodbury (Gloucester)
6	Joyce Miller	Member	Gibbsboro (Camden)
	Carol Matlack	Alternate	Cherry Hill (Camden)
7	Lester Holley	Member	Edgewater Park (Burlington)
	Harry Litwack	Alternate	Delanco (Burlington)
8	Dennis Quinn	Member	Berlin Borough (Camden)
	Thomas Maier	Alternate	Pemberton (Burlington)
9	Kim Hanadel	Member	Pinelands (Ocean)
	Regina Discenza	Alternate	Lacey Township (Ocean)
10	Steve Shohfi	Member	Lavallette (Ocean)
	Michael Horgan	Alternate	Toms River (Ocean)
11	Bob English	Member	Eatontown (Monmouth)
	Dr. Paul Christopher	Alternate	West Long Branch (Monmouth)
12	Angela Reading	Member	Northern Burlington Reg. (Burlington)
	Amy Jablonski	Alternate	Chesterfield (Burlington)

13	Melissa Mohr	Member	Henry Hudson (Monmouth)
	Vacancy	Alternate	
14	Elliott Stroul	Member	Jamesburg (Middlesex)
	Steven Riback	Alternate	Monroe (Middlesex)
15	Jo Ann Groeger	Member	Lawrence Township (Mercer)
	Deborah Linthorst	Alternate	Hopewell Township (Mercer)
16	Barry Nathanson	Member	South Brunswick (Middlesex)
	Jean Trujillo	Alternate	Hillsborough (Somerset)
	Arthur Robinson	Resource	South Brunswick (Middlesex)
17	Anthony Brooks	Member	North Brunswick (Middlesex)
	Dr. Tom Connors	Alternate	Piscataway (Middlesex)
18	Deborah Boyle	Member	South Plainfield (Middlesex)
	Anthony Razzano	Alternate	South River (Middlesex)
19	Daniel Harris	Member	Woodbridge (Middlesex)
	Vacancy	Alternate	
20	Vacancy	Member	
	Vacancy	Alternate	
21	J. Brendan Galligan	Member	Westfield (Union)
	Robin McKeon	Alternate	Bernards Township (Somerset)
22	Deborah Bridges	Member	Rahway (Union)
	Sharon Schueler	Alternate	Middlesex Borough (Middlesex)
23	Teresa Kane	Member	Milford (Hunterdon)
	Lisa Marshall	Alternate	Warren Hills (Warren)
24	Robert Carlson	Member	Wallkill Valley Regional (Sussex)
	Bethany Summers	Alternate	North Warren (Warren)
	Tammeisha Smith	Resource	Knowlton (Warren)
25	Dino Cappello	Member	Denville (Morris)
	Michael Bertram	Alternate	Morris Hills Regional (Morris)
26	Karen Cortellino	Member	Montville (Morris)
	Alison Cogan	Alternate	Parsippany Troy (Morris)
27	Elizabeth Baker	Member	South Orange-Maplewood (Essex)
	Pamela Chirls	Alternate	Livingston (Essex)
	Stephanie Lawson-Muhammad	Resource	South Orange-Maplewood (Essex)

28	Jill Fischman	Member	Bloomfield (Essex)
	Reginald Bledsoe	Alternate	Newark (Essex)
29	Nelson Barrera	Member	Belleville (Essex)
	Yambeli Gomez	Alternate	Newark (Essex)
30	Albert Miller	Member	Howell Township (Monmouth)
	Vacancy	Alternate	
31	Lorenzo Richardson	Member	Jersey City (Hudson)
	Joel Torres	Alternate	Jersey City (Hudson)
32	Christina Stefani-Rackow	Member	Edgewater (Bergen)
	Adam Parkinson	Alternate	West New York (Hudson)
33	Vacancy	Member	
	Vacancy	Alternate	
34	Judith Bassford	Member	Clifton (Passaic)
	Jessica De Koninck	Alternate	Montclair (Essex)
	Cameron B. Jones, Sr.	Resource	East Orange (Essex)
35	John Vander Molen	Member	Passaic Co. Manchester Reg. (Passaic)
	Anyelis Diaz	Alternate	Haledon (Passaic)
36	Jeanine Ferrara	Member	Little Ferry (Bergen)
	William Barnaskas	Alternate	Bergen County Spc Svcs (Bergen)
37	Clara Williams	Member	Teaneck (Bergen)
	Paula Colbath	Alternate	Fort Lee (Bergen)
	Lauran Tuck	Resource	Fort Lee (Bergen)
38	John Walsh	Member	Oradell (Bergen)
	Joseph Steele	Alternate	New Milford (Bergen)
39	Charles Caraballo	Member	Bloomingtondale (Passaic)
	Peter Wendrychowicz	Alternate	Mahwah Township (Bergen)
	Jeffrey Pollack	Resource	Dumont (Bergen)
40	Catherine Kazan	Member	Wayne (Passaic)
	Vacancy	Alternate	



REPORT OF THE SCHOOL FINANCE COMMITTEE

By:

Dr. Tom Connors, Chair

Prepared for the Annual Delegate Assembly

May 18, 2019

CHARGE:

To solicit input from a cross-section of interested current and former board members on issues related to school finance and the fiscal implications of proposed legislative education reforms.

Members of the Committee were selected using the criteria of school District Factor Group (DFG) designation, district size, and geographical location of the district. A survey was then sent to a group of selected members to confirm their interest and indicate their availability for conference call and in-person meetings.

REPORT:

The School Finance Committee has met once since the November 2018 Delegate Assembly, following the Governor's March 5 proposed FY2020 Budget address. In it, he proposed \$15.4 billion for K-12 education in FY2020, including \$8.7 billion in direct state aid. As anticipated, this is the first state budget process under S-2, which passed last summer. This legislation sought to "restore fairness to the state's school aid formula" according to its sponsors. The law repealed the growth caps and, over a six-year phase-in, re-calculates state aid using the most recent data. Districts that received funds greater than the new calculations produce are scheduled to have that difference reduced by 13% in the upcoming year. Conversely, districts receiving less than the calculation under S-2 are scheduled to receive a "proportionate share" of additional funds made available through the new calculation.

Vocational schools; below adequacy SDA districts taxing above the state average; and non-SDA that are below adequacy by at least 10% and whose municipal tax rate exceeds the state average by more than 10% are exempt. Additionally, for above adequacy SDA districts whose municipal tax rate exceeds the state average, the total state aid reduction would be limited to the amount by which the district is spending above adequacy multiplied by the percentage above adequacy for the corresponding school year.

Mr. Vrancik gave an in-depth review of the SFRA history, and how over the years the adjustment aid was funded to districts throughout the past decade. School aid is a very important issue; it drives the state budget and local property taxes.

Discuss items included:

- Mr. Vrancik confirmed to the members with the phase-in of S-2, the concept of the word "flow cap" been eliminated.

- Special education is not being wealth adjusted. This diverts a lot of money away from towns to the benefit of others. Moving forward, extraordinary special education underfunding will be addressed. That number is short \$200 million and there is consensus on both sides that is an attainable goal. The issue of how you deal with special education, whether it is a state-wide average or based on the number of children classified, and whether wealth equalized or not, are broader discussions which will require fiscal backup. If we determine wealth equalized in special education, how much does that include the state's share. And does that come off the aid already built in, or does it come from a new month?
- Mr. Vrancik mentioned a future discussion item for the committee may include how to pro-rate; is it pro-rated on based on the wealth of the district, or a flat 70%; series of questions to be addressed.
- A motion was made, with the committee members in agreement and none opposed, for the committee to review prior resolutions and current policies on districts who lost school aid, to allow to go beyond 2% without voter approval, with the recommendation for a resolution to be submitted. By-laws of the School Finance Committee were read as an overview, "The SFC shall monitor the school funding law in NJ and its impact on all types of school districts in the state of New Jersey. And then periodically shall study issues relating to school finance report periodically to the DA and shall recommend additional, modifications or deletions to policy as needed". It was stated to reflect on this, when it is proposed to the Resolution Subcommittee as well.
- A motion was made, with the committee members in agreement and none opposed, that the Ad Hoc Charter School Committee is to be reinstated. This motion was made following a member asking on the procedure of submitting an emergency resolution pertaining to Charter School accountability; cutoff date for submission for DA consideration was March 5. It was suggested the member contact Cynthia Jahn.
- Mr. Vrancik provided additional discussion on the FY 2020 Budget Brief, available on the Department of Treasury website, under the Publications tab. It summarizes the major policies of the Governor's address, and also includes a summary of the school aid charts.
- A member inquired on offering a session to board members, providing an overview on further understanding the budgeting, finance, and SFRA process. Discussion included offering at Workshop, or incorporated into the mandatory training for board members, or future county school board meetings with Mr. Vrancik providing the discussion. Mr. Vrancik mentioned Mr. Christopher Jones wrote a detailed article for School Leader as well on this topic.

School Finance Committee 2019-2020

Dr. Tom Connors, Chair	Piscataway	Middlesex
Judith Bassford	Clifton	Passaic
Deborah Boyle	South Plainfield	Middlesex
Daniel Harris	Woodbridge Township	Middlesex
Amy Jablonski	Chesterfield Township	Burlington
Cathy Kazan	Wayne Township	Passaic
Tammeisha Smith	Knowlton	Morris
Joseph Steele	New Milford	Bergen
Jean Trujillo	Hillsborough	Somerset
Clara Williams	Teaneck	Bergen
Bruce Young	Carlstadt	Bergen

Staff

Michael Vrancik	Director, Governmental Relations
Christopher Jones	Legislative Advocate
Anette Airey	Administrative Assistant



REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Irene LeFebvre, Chair

Prepared for the Semi-Annual Delegate Assembly

May 18, 2019

As Chair of the Special Education Committee, I would like to report on the Special Education Committee's activities since the November 2018 Delegate Assembly.

CHARGE:

The Special Education Committee shall prepare and present appropriate testimony on special education issues affecting the delivery of special education services to children in New Jersey and in support of Association policies. The Committee shall report periodically to the Delegate Assembly and may recommend positions on special education issues for consideration by the Board of Directors.

Meetings:

The Special Education Committee met on January 8 and February 13, 2019. The agendas of those meetings included the topics and presentations outlined below.

Special Education Symposium May 13, 2019

The Committee met with NJSBA's Manager of Member Training and Professional Development to assist in generating topics for the Special Education Symposium. The Committee's discussion centered around four main questions: 1) What do board members need to know about special education? 2) What do you believe your district team (board members, board attorneys, special education administrators and teachers) would like to hear about? 3) What sorts of presentations do you believe would give your district bang for its buck? 4) Do you have specific suggestions for speakers or presentations?

The questions generated many topics for consideration including: legal disputes, special education funding, transportation issues, social emotional issues and the special education child, shared services, parent-district partnerships, discipline, the differences between the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, seclusion and restraint; and school resource officers and the special education student.

NJSBA staff thanked the committee for its suggestions.

The 2014 NJSBA Special Education Task Force Report

The committee discussed NJSBA's 2014 report, Special Education: A Service, Not a Place. (<https://www.njsba.org/news-information/research/njsba-task-force-on-special-education-report-2014/>) That report contained a series of twenty recommendations to improve the delivery of services to special education students in New Jersey. Those recommendations included:

1. The need for effective early intervention services
2. Staffing Analyses—To control and reduce staffing costs, the state and local school districts should conduct school- and district-based analyses of staffing and service levels.

3. **Shared Services: Regional Delivery Incentives**—NJDOE and local school districts should explore a voluntary Regionalized Special Education Model/Shared Services Model, in which the county special services school districts, the educational services commissions and the jointure commissions serve as coordinated hubs for special education and related services.
4. **Shared Services: Encourage Local Initiative**—To reduce costs and improve efficiency and quality, New Jersey should provide financial incentives for districts to work on shared service models with other local districts and on county and regional bases.
5. **Shared Services: Medicaid Reimbursement**—To maximize reimbursement under the federal Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI), the state and local school districts should explore the potential effectiveness of creating consortia to complete the administratively burdensome filing process.
6. **Shared Services: Eliminate Impediments**—The state should eliminate impediments to the utilization of shared services.
7. **Shared Services: Transportation**—The NJDOE should continue to encourage shared transportation services through initiatives such as common county calendars and other incentives.
8. **Due Process**—The state should amend existing statute and place the burden of proof in disputes over individual education programs on the party bringing the complaint, rather than on the school district.
9. **Funding: Effective Strategies**—In an effort to improve student outcomes and determine adequate funding, the state should identify the resources, programs, and delivery models that contribute to improved student performance.
10. **Funding: Reliable Expenditure Data**—Local school districts should work with their auditors to put into place processes that ensure the consistency and accurate coding of special education expenditures and reported information.
11. **Funding: Medical Needs**—The Task Force recommended adjustment of federal law so that the cost of some related services, regardless of where the services are provided, are considered “medical,” rather than educational.
12. **Funding: Extraordinary Aid**—The state should ensure that school districts and local property taxpayers are insulated from the financial impact of low-incidence, high-cost placements by providing adequate Extraordinary Special Education Cost Aid.
13. **Funding: Literacy**—The federal IDEA should allow greater flexibility in the use of funds for supplemental literacy and math programs in more inclusive settings.
14. **Funding: Outcomes-Based**—To support and achieve ambitious learning goals, special education funding mechanisms must be restructured to support an outcomes-based paradigm.
15. **Funding: Alternative Sources**—The state should explore predictable and dedicated alternative supplemental methods of special education funding.
16. **Professional Development**—School districts and regional centers should provide targeted professional development to avoid IDEA violations.
17. **Technical Assistance: IDEA Compliance**—The Department of Education should continue to expand professional development and technical assistance to school districts on applying scientifically based findings to facilitate systemic changes

- related to the provision of services to children with disabilities, in policy, procedure, practice, and the training and use of personnel.
18. Technical Assistance: Facilitating Savings—The state should redouble its efforts to assist districts in creating efficiencies and improving program quality.
 19. Professional Development: Board Members—Board of education members should receive training that includes exposure to the legal, fiscal and programmatic aspects of special education to help promote the achievement of all of the students in their districts.
 20. Professional Development: Pre-service teachers—The state should require that teacher preparation programs include content in adapting curriculum, instruction and assessment to meet the needs of all learners in the inclusive classroom.

The committee feels that that it is important to revisit the report and its recommendations. How can the committee further the goals set out in those recommendations?

The chair will be setting up a schedule for the committee to complete this project.

Special Education Conferences Attended

Staff shared with the committee information learned at recently attended conferences. These included:

New Jersey Special Education Annual Summit, New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association, February 12, 2019—At this conference, staff heard from nationally recognized speakers about creating a climate and culture that supports the special education student through a philosophy of shared responsibility for that student. Quality instruction is the right of *every* student and the duty of *every* teacher.

Special Needs Education Conference, New Jersey School Choice and Education Reform Alliance, January 23, 2019—Michael Vrancik, Governmental Relations Director and Cherie Adams, committee member, participated in this conference that focused on the special education student and issues of school choice. Mr. Vrancik and Ms. Adams participated in a panel on the economics of special education.

SPECIAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2018-19

Member Name

Irene LeFebvre, *chair*
Cherie L. Adams
Rita Barone

District Name

Boonton Town Bd. of Ed
Belmar Bd. of Ed
Watchung Hills Regional Bd. of Ed.

Gerard Crisonino
Sheli Dansky
Lisa Marshall
Cathy A. Moncrief
Christine Parisi
Sharon Schueler
Eleanore Shaffer

Staff

John J. Burns, Esq.
Michael A. Vrancik

Berkeley Heights Bd. of Ed
River Edge Bd. of Ed
Warren Hills Regional Bd. of Ed.
Lindenwold Bd. of Ed.
Manalapan-Englishtown Bd. of Ed
Middlesex Boro Bd of Ed
Hampton Twp. Bd. of Ed

Counsel
Director, Governmental Relations



REPORT OF THE NJSBA NOMINATING COMMITTEE

By
Donald Webster, Jr., CHAIR

**Prepared for the Annual Delegate Assembly
May 18, 2019**

The NJSBA Nominating Committee met pursuant to Article VII, Section 5 of the *Bylaws* of the Association to interview candidates for NJSBA offices. Twelve applications were received, however, one applicant withdrew from the interview process. The Committee interviewed eleven candidates and prepared a report naming a candidate for President, Vice President for County Activities and Vice President for Legislation/Resolutions.

The Nominating Committee submits the following candidates to serve as Association Officers for the 2019-2021 term:

- **President – Michael R. McClure, Maple Shade Board of Education (Burlington)**
- **Vice President for County Activities - Bruce R. Young, Carlstadt-East Rutherford Board of Education (Bergen)**
- **Vice President for Finance – Tammeisha D. Smith, Knowlton Township Board of Education (Warren)**
- **Vice President for Legislation/Resolutions – Karen Cortellino, Montville Township Board of Education (Morris)**

Additional Information for Filling Officer Positions According to NJSBA *Bylaws*, candidates may also be nominated by petition, signed by at least ten members from at least five different district boards of education, and filed with the Executive Director and received no later than **Wednesday, April 3, 2019**. There were no petitions filed.

The following Nominating Committee members were present at the meetings for selection of candidates:

- Donald Webster, Jr., Chair, Immediate Past President, NJSBA
- George Babula, Harmony Board of Education (Warren)
- Charles Caraballo, Bloomingdale Board of Education (Passaic)
- Minkyo Chenette, Montgomery Twp. Board of Education (Somerset)
- Sheli Dansky, River Edge Board of Education (Bergen)
- Gail David, Eastern Camden Co. Reg. Board of Education (Camden)
- Anne Erickson, Greater Egg Harbor Reg. Board of Education (Atlantic)
- Helen Kirsch, Berkeley Heights Board of Education (Union)
- Laurie Markowski, Flemington-Raritan Reg. Board of Education (Hunterdon)
- Al Miller, Howell Twp. Board of Education (Monmouth)
- Eileen Miller, Woodstown-Pilesgrove Board of Education (Salem)
- Jennifer Montone, Burlington City Board of Education (Burlington)
- Elliott Stroul, Jamesburg Board of Education (Middlesex)

STAFF

- Cynthia J. Jahn, Esq., General Counsel
- Cynthia Harrison, Executive Administrative Assistant



Michael R. McClure
President

Candidate statement: I would like to maintain the forward progress the Association has made in improving its finances while continuing to improve board member training to our members across the state. As president, I would help guide the executive team so that we can move our state government to provide better all-round support for boards of education across New Jersey.

I want to continue working with our outstanding Executive Director, Larry Feinsod, and the wonderful staff that makes the magic happen in the end. My leadership skills at the local, county and state levels will allow me to lead a strong, effective team at the NJSBA, so that we can work together for a stronger future for New Jersey education and our children. My resume shows I am fully committed to education and to the children of New Jersey.

Local Board Activities

- Maple Shade Board of Education, 19 years; president, four years; vice president, four years.
- Committees: Facilities chair; Negotiations chair; Policy chair; Finance chair, Personnel and Curriculum.
- Delegate, NJSBA, and Burlington County School Boards Association.

County Activities

- Burlington County SBA president for two terms, vice president, three terms.
- Member, Burlington County Regionalization/Consolidation Task Force.

NJSBA Activities

- Vice President for Finance four years.
- Trustee, ELFNJ.
- NJSBA Board of Directors, eight years; alternate to NJSBA Board of Directors, two years.
- Committees: Facilities Needs and Assessment; Audit, chair; Finance; Nominating; NJSIAA representative.
- NJSBA Board Member Academy: Certificated Board Member, Master Board Member and Certified Board Leader.

NSBA Activities

- NSBA Nominating Committee.
- Nominating Committee for the Northeast Region.

Education

- Currently have eight college credits in business management, and more than 150 additional education credits.

Employment/Community Activities

- I have been with my company for 32 years. I started as a fleet mechanic and worked my way to Assistant Corporation Fleet Manager, overseeing more than 4,500 vehicles in 27 locations, as well as a budget of millions of dollars.
- President of Maple Shade Township Recreation Board for more than 15 years.
- Helped start a youth wrestling program in town and ran program for 15 years.



Bruce R. Young
Vice President for County Activities

Candidate statement: I am seeking the position of Vice President for County Activities because I am committed to the advancement of public education, and I believe my qualifications and years of experience make me the right fit for this role. I am very approachable, organized and willing to devote the time and expertise needed to be successful in the

enhancement of the education field. During my service on the Bergen County School Boards Association (BCSBA), I have committed myself to visiting all Bergen County district meetings. I have also implemented a Bergen County President's breakfast where issues, best practices and concerns are shared. My vision is for the BCSBA to become an even stronger group on both individual and organizational levels. I promote training and education to each board member I encounter and advocate for the programs and training opportunities offered by the New Jersey School Boards Association. In summary, I am confident that my experience and my longevity of service to various school boards and community organizations will be an asset if allowed to serve as the Vice President for County Activities.

Local Board Activities

- Carlstadt Board of Education, 1990 to 2008. Elected President for two terms. Member of various committees including finance, negotiations, shared services, building and grounds, and policy. Played an instrumental role in the passing of a referendum to build the new Carlstadt Public School.
- Carlstadt-East Rutherford Regional Board of Education, 2002 to 2008. Elected President for two terms. Chair of finance, negotiation, policy, and building and grounds committees. Key involvement in the acquisition of funding through the FAA and Port Authority for the soundproofing of Becton Regional High School.
- Elected again to the Carlstadt Board of Education. Served as President, 2012 to 2018.
- Elected again to the Carlstadt East Rutherford Regional Board of Education in 2018.

County Activities

- Elected to the Bergen County School Boards Association. Served as Vice President, 2013 to 2017.
- President of the Bergen County School Boards Association, 2018 to present.
- Appointed to the Board of Directors of New Jersey School Boards Association 2015 to 2016.

NJSBA Activities

- Appointed to New Jersey School Boards Association's Finance Committee (2015 to present).
- School Board Member of the Year Oct. 2017 to Oct. 2018.

Education

- East Rutherford High School, East Rutherford, N.J.

Employment/Community Activities

- Deputy Zoning official, January 2015 to present.
- Carlstadt Director of Public Works, January 2014-15.
- Carlstadt Senior Friendship Club, 2013 to present. President, 2016 to 2018.
- Carlstadt VFW and American Legion, 1975 to present.



Tammeisha D. Smith ***Vice President for Finance***

Candidate statement: The constitution of the state of New Jersey dictates that it is the responsibility of the state to ensure that each child receives a thorough and efficient education. In addition, the mission of the NJSBA is to provide training, advocacy and support to advance public education and promote the achievement of all students through effective

governance. As a member of NJSBA, it is my honor and privilege to serve my community and state in ensuring these doctrines are carried out. I believe my years of advocacy and professional experience make me a quality candidate for the NJSBA Executive Board. I look forward to ensuring our children receive more than a thorough education to compete in a global economy, and helping our districts fiscally meet those responsibilities. Having a personal understanding of the challenges faced by both the urban and rural districts would allow me to effectively work with the diverse group of committed fellow board members throughout the state.

Local Board Activities

- Board member, Knowlton Township Board of Education, Warren County, 2010-2011. Served on the Policy Committee.
- Board Vice President, 2012-2013. Member, Finance, Policy and Contract Negotiations Committees. Delegate Assembly.
- Board President, 2014 to present. Finance, Facilities and Contract Negotiations Committees. Delegate Assembly.

County Level Positions

- Vice President, Warren County School Boards Association, 2017 to present. Served on Legislative Committee.

NJSBA Activities

- Legislative and Finance Committees, 2017 to present.
- Certified Board Member, May 2018.

Education

- Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (BSBA), Trinity College & University.

Employment/Community Activities

- Chief Executive Officer, Dunbar Center.
- Insurance Consultant, Fairview Insurance Agency.
- Governor Appointee to N.J. Department of Health – Office on Minority and Multicultural Health Board Member.
- Saint Michael's Medical Center – Community Advisory Board.
- United Negro College Fund (UNCF) N.J. Leadership Council.



Karen Cortellino, M.D. ***Vice President for Legislation/Resolutions***

Candidate's statement: I have served at leadership levels on my local school board and in the County Association. I would like to serve and contribute at the state level by serving as the NJSBA Vice President for Legislation/Resolutions. I have developed relationships with state legislators in my capacity as

President of my local school board, as President of the Morris County School Boards Association (MCSBA) and as a member of the MCSBA Legislative Committee. I believe I will be a strong voice and advocate for public schools in our state. I look forward to serving in this crucial position.

Local Board Activities

- Member Montville Township Board of Education, May 2006 to present.
- Served as board president, May 2010-January 2016.
- Served on every standing board committee and various ad hoc committees.
- Served on four MTEA teacher negotiations, chairing this year's, when the board committee recently reached an amicable settlement.

County Level Activities

- Morris County School Board Association, President, 2013 – present.
- May 2006 to present. Active member.
- May 2008-April 2010 — Board of Directors.
- May 2010-May 2013 – Vice President.

NJSBA Activities

- March 2014 – Master Board Member.
- March 2015 – Certificated Board Leader.
- Invited to participate in NJSBA Strategic Planning 2018-2020, Sept. 9 and Oct. 6, 2017.

Education

- Post Graduate Training: Maryland General Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland.
- Medical School: Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara, Guadalajara, Mexico.
- Undergraduate College: Queens College of the City University of New York, New York.

Employment/Community service

- July 2013 – present: Pink Breast Center, an imaging facility dedicated to breast and women's imaging.
- Chair, 2018 Montville Good Scout Award.



AD HOC COMMITTEE TO REVIEW NJSBA BYLAWS 2019

**By
President Daniel Sinclair**

**Prepared for the Annual Delegate Assembly
May 18, 2019**

Charge to the Ad Hoc Committee

The Ad Hoc Committee's charge is to review NJSBA's *Bylaws* for any changes deemed necessary in terms of the needs of NJSBA's membership and the efficient and orderly operation of the Association's governance structure. The Committee recommended the amendments set forth below to the Board of Directors, which approved them. The Board of Directors recommends that the Delegate Assembly approve these recommendations for adoption at the May 18, 2019 Delegate Assembly. GO/8600.

Background

A. Resolution Process

Resolution cutoff date The *Bylaws* require that NJSBA receive resolutions and bylaw amendments no later than 75 days before the Delegate Assembly (DA). *NJSBA Bylaws, Art. V Sec. 7.* When scheduling the November DA, NJSBA must take into consideration the Thanksgiving holiday, which historically places the date to receive resolutions and bylaw amendments on the Tuesday after Labor Day. Occasionally the spring deadline runs up against Easter or Passover.

The 75 day deadline is intended to “promote an orderly and democratic process for delegate action and to ensure that proper research be conducted prior to delegate action so that the delegates shall have as much pertinent information available as possible to aid them in their decisions.” *NJSBA Bylaws, Art. V Sec. 1.*

The Committee considered shortening the deadline to allow more opportunity for members to submit resolutions/bylaws amendments before the cut-off date, and avoiding the Labor Day holiday, in particular, which may cause many boards to miss the cut-off date. Staff reviewed the reasonableness of reducing the cut-off date against properly researching the resolutions/bylaws submitted, as well as the scheduling of the Resolutions Subcommittee meeting to review all submissions for the DA agenda. After review and discussion, the Committee recommends amending and reducing the cut-off date to 65 days.

Reinstatement of resolutions removed from agenda. Subsequent to the Resolution Subcommittee's removal of a resolution from the DA agenda, the current Bylaw allows a delegate, on the DA floor and by a simple majority, to move to overrule the Resolutions Subcommittee and return a resolution removed from the agenda. *Art. V, Sec. 6*. This process doesn't promote an orderly and reasoned deliberation as stated in the Purpose of the Procedures. The Committee considered requiring adequate notice to return a resolution to the DA agenda and aligning such notice with the bylaw provision regarding submission of emergency resolutions, which requires ten days' notice prior to the DA. Therefore, a delegate wishing to return a resolution to the DA, over the recommendation of the Resolutions Subcommittee, would be required to provide adequate notice to the assembly.

The Committee determined that this was not a burden on the delegate that sought to return a resolution to the DA agenda, and would provide the association with the necessary time to prepare materials for consideration by the delegates in the event the motion was made.

B. Officer Qualifications

Art. VII Sec. 2a states that if an officer's board hasn't paid its annual dues by September 30th, the Board of Directors may, by a two-thirds vote, extend the payment date to the October meeting. The provision applying to board of directors' members allows for an extension to the next following board of directors meeting. *Art. VI Sec. 2a*. This inconsistency isn't intentional. The Committee recommends amending *Art. VII Sec. 2c* with the provision applicable to board of director members.

C. Committees

UBC definition The bylaw provision references the state designation of an "Urban Board" as directed by a formula used by the NJ Department of Community Affairs and Department of Education. *Art. X Sec. 6a*. The departments have not used a formula for several years. The State of New Jersey designates urban areas. The Committee recommends amending the bylaw to reflect that urban areas are designated by the state.

Number of committee members Staff advised the Committee that it is increasingly difficult to secure a quorum for committees that exceed nine members. The following standing committees exceed nine members: School Finance: eleven; Special Education: nine-12; and Standards and Assessment: nine-12. The Committee recommends amending the membership of these committees to nine members each, and asking the Board of Directors to approve a new policy to designate up to three alternates per committee.

School Finance Committee Membership on the SFC also refers to "District Factor Groups" or DFG. This designation has fallen out of use. The bylaws shouldn't be aligned with readily changeable terms. The intent of this reference is to assure that the committee reflects the membership's diversity and the varying socio-economic factors found in member districts. The Committee recommends amending this reference.

Recommended Bylaw Amendments:

NEW JERSEY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

GOVERNANCE & OPERATIONS

FILE CODE: GO/9207

BYLAWS RESOLUTIONS

Procedures

- A. Timing: Resolutions and bylaw amendments to be considered at either regular or special meetings of the delegates shall be received at the Association office no later than **[75] 65** days prior to the meeting. At least 90 days before the foregoing date, the executive director shall make known to all district boards of education the last date for submitting resolutions and bylaw amendments.
- B. Form of Resolutions: The executive director shall make available to all district boards of education resolution forms. These forms shall set forth the proper resolution format.
- C. Emergency Resolutions: The Emergency Resolutions Subcommittee shall review all resolutions submitted by a duly authorized body after the cutoff date and no later than 10 days prior to the Delegate Assembly, and shall accept for agenda placement all emergency resolutions which it determines are of such urgency and importance that they merit consideration by the delegates. Resolutions not accepted for placement on the agenda by the Emergency Resolutions Subcommittee shall be referred to the Resolutions Subcommittee for review prior to the next delegates meeting in accordance with these bylaws. Emergency resolutions that are placed on the resolutions agenda shall be acted upon by the delegates prior to consideration of regular resolutions in the order determined by the Emergency Resolutions Subcommittee. Copies of emergency resolutions that are placed on the resolutions agenda shall be mailed to all district boards of education. Decisions of the Emergency Resolutions Subcommittee with respect to placement of emergency resolutions on the resolutions agenda are specifically not subject to override as outlined in Section 6 of this article.

The Chairperson of the Emergency Resolutions Subcommittee shall deliver a report at each delegates meeting. The report shall include:

- (1) A complete statement of all emergency resolutions received by the subcommittee;
- (2) A complete statement of all action taken by the subcommittee and the reasons therefore;
- (3) Background information on each emergency resolution which is to be presented to the delegates meeting for action; and
- (4) Recommendations for action on the emergency resolutions which are presented to the delegates meeting. However, the Emergency Resolutions Subcommittee shall not review the recommendation of emergency resolutions submitted by the Board of Directors.

Article V, Section 7

Authority: DA 5/13-CR (NJSBA Governance)

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3 **N E W J E R S E Y S C H O O L B O A R D S A S S O C I A T I O N**

4
5 **GOVERNANCE & OPERATIONS**

FILE CODE: GO/9206

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8 BYLAWS
9 RESOLUTIONS

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12 Override of Resolutions Subcommittee
13

14 Action taken by the Resolutions Subcommittee pursuant to Section 5 of this article may be overridden
15 upon motion and affirmative majority vote of the delegates assembled **provided that notice of intent to**
16 **make a motion to override the Resolutions Subcommittee is received at the Association office no**
17 **later than 10 days prior to the Delegate Assembly**. The motion to override Resolutions Subcommittee
18 action may be made only during the time set forth in the meeting agenda, which shall be after the
19 consideration of emergency resolutions and prior to delegate action on regular resolutions. The motion to
20 override must state specifically the remedy sought by the moving party. The motion to override action
21 taken by the Resolutions Subcommittee shall not be subject to debate except that both the maker of the
22 motion and the chairperson of the Resolutions Subcommittee shall be given three minutes to address the
23 delegates concerning the motion.
24
25

26
27 Article V, Section 6

BYLAWS

OFFICERS: QUALIFICATIONS AND ELECTION

Qualifications and Terms of Officers

- A. The president and the three vice presidents shall be elected from among the members of the district boards of education in good standing, which boards must be in good standing at the time an individual is nominated for an officer position and at the time he or she takes office. Those officers elected for full two-year terms at a regular election shall hold office until the conclusion of the second annual meeting of the Association succeeding the date of their election, and until their respective successors are elected and shall have qualified.

In the event that an officer's district board of education fails to pay its dues in accordance with Article IX, Section 1 of these bylaws [by September 30,] the officer's term shall immediately cease and his or her successor shall be selected in accordance with the procedures described in Article VII, Section 7. The Board of Directors, by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting, may extend this period pursuant to Article VI, Section 2a to the [October] next following Board of Directors meeting.

- B. If any of the foregoing officers shall cease to be a member of a district board of education, his or her term as an officer shall immediately cease and his or her successor shall be selected in accordance with the procedures described in Article VII, Section 7. In the event the president ceases to be a member of his/her district board of education 60 days or less prior to the second annual meeting of the Association succeeding the date of his/her election, subject however to subsection c of this section, he/she shall remain in office until his/her successor is elected.

- C. In the event an officer assumes an elected office as a member of a municipal or county governing body that would, by operation of law, cause his local board membership to immediately cease (i.e., mayor, town council, county freeholder), his/her term as an officer shall immediately cease upon being sworn in to said elected office. In the event that an officer should be removed, by law, from membership on the local board of education for reasons other than assumption of elected office, his/her term as an officer shall immediately cease upon said removal. In the event that an officer shall accept a position in which there may be an ongoing direct conflict of interest, his or her term as an officer shall immediately cease upon a determination by the Board of Directors that said appointed position constitutes an ongoing direct conflict of interest, which cannot be cured by abstention. A successor shall be elected or appointed according to the procedures outlined in Article VII, Section 7.

- D. The executive director shall be selected by the Board of Directors and need not qualify as a member of a district board of education. The immediate past president need not qualify as a member of a district board of education, but shall be subject to subsection c of this section.

Article VII, Section 2

Authority: DA 6/95-BA 1

Revised: DA 11/10-BA 1

1 **N E W J E R S E Y S C H O O L B O A R D S A S S O C I A T I O N**

2
3 **GOVERNANCE & OPERATIONS**

FILE CODE: GO/9456

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5
6 **BYLAWS**
7 **COMMITTEES**

8
9 Urban Boards Committee

- 10
11
- 12 A. There shall be a standing committee of the Association called the Urban Boards Committee. The
13 Urban Boards Committee shall consist of one board member designated by each district, which shall
14 qualify as an urban district as determined by the State of New Jersey [under a formula promulgated
15 by the New Jersey Departments of Community Affairs and Education]. Members shall serve for a
16 one-year term until their successors are named.
- 17
- 18 B. There shall be one alternate for each member, selected in the same manner as the member by the
19 same authority. The alternate shall act for the member in the absence of the member. Any vacancy
20 among the members of the Committee shall be filled for the unexpired term by the urban district. Until
21 such vacancy is filled, the alternate shall serve as member.
- 22
- 23 C. The Urban Boards Committee shall elect a chairperson from among its members who shall serve for
24 a two-year term and until his or her successor is elected. Any vacancy in the chairperson position
25 shall be filled in accordance with the Urban Boards Committee policy and procedures for filling
26 vacancies.
- 27
- 28 D. The Urban Boards Committee shall study the problems of urban school districts. It shall submit a
29 report on such problems at the annual meeting of the delegates and may submit a report at any other
30 regular meeting of the delegates. The Urban Boards Committee may recommend to the Board of
31 Directors additions, modifications or deletions to policy.
- 32

33
34 Article X, Section

NEW JERSEY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

GOVERNANCE & OPERATIONS

FILE CODE: GO/9459

BYLAWS

COMMITTEES

School Finance Committee

- A. There shall be a Standing Committee of the Association called the School Finance Committee consisting of nine [11] members appointed annually by the president. The membership of the School Finance Committee shall reflect not only the geographical appointment criteria set forth in Article X, Section 15: Geographical Areas, but shall also reflect, to the extent possible, a balance of [district factor groups] the membership's diversity and socio-economic factors.
- B. The School Finance Committee shall monitor the school funding law in New Jersey and its impact on all types of school districts in the state of New Jersey.
- C. The School Finance Committee shall study issues relating to school finance, report periodically to the Delegate Assembly and shall recommend additions, modifications, or deletions to policy as needed.
- D. The president shall name one member as chairperson of the School Finance Committee.
- E. The vice president for finance shall serve as an ex officio member of the School Finance Committee.
- F. Vacancies among members of the committee shall be filled for the unexpired term in the same manner by which the original appointment was made.

Article X, Section 9

Revised: DA 5/11

Cross Filed: GO/3112
GO/3140
GO/8461

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2 **N E W J E R S E Y S C H O O L B O A R D S A S S O C I A T I O N**

3
4 **GOVERNANCE & OPERATIONS**

FILE CODE: GO/9460

5
6
7 **BYLAWS**
8 **COMMITTEES**

9
10 Special Education Committee

- 11
12
13 A. There shall be a standing committee of the Association, called the Special Education Committee,
14 consisting of nine [to 12] members appointed annually by the president. Membership on the Special
15 Education Committee shall be based upon an expressed interest and demonstrated expertise in
16 special education.
17
18 B. The president shall name one member as chairperson of the Special Education Committee.
19
20 C. Vacancies among members of the Committee shall be filled in the same manner as the original
21 appointment was made.
22
23 D. The Special Education Committee shall prepare and present appropriate testimony on special
24 education issues affecting the delivery of special education services to children in New Jersey and in
25 support of Association policies. The Committee shall report periodically to the Delegate Assembly and
26 may also recommend positions on special education issues for consideration by the Board of
27 Directors.
28

29
30 Article X, Section 10

1
2 **N E W J E R S E Y S C H O O L B O A R D S A S S O C I A T I O N**

3
4 **GOVERNANCE & OPERATIONS**

FILE CODE: GO/9461

5
6
7 **BYLAWS**
8 **COMMITTEES**
9

10
11 Standards and Assessment Committee
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- 13
14 A. There shall be a standing committee of the Association called the Standards and Assessment
15 Committee consisting of nine [to 12] members appointed annually by the president. Membership on
16 the Standards and Assessment Committee shall be based upon an expressed interest and
17 demonstrated expertise in curriculum development and student assessment.
18
19 B. The president shall appoint one member as chairperson of the Standards and Assessment
20 Committee.
21
22 C. Vacancies among members of the committee shall be filled in the same manner as the original
23 appointment was made.
24
25 D. The Standards and Assessment Committee shall monitor the code on New Jersey Core Curriculum
26 Content Standards and the state's assessment program and their impact on all types of districts in the
27 state of New Jersey.
28
29 E. The Standards and Assessment Committee shall study issues relating to the New Jersey Core
30 Curriculum Content Standards and the state assessment program, report periodically to the Delegate
31 Assembly and shall recommend additions, modifications or deletions to policy as needed.
32
33 F. The Standards and Assessment Committee shall prepare and present appropriate testimony on
34 issues involving standards and assessment affecting the delivery of education to and assessment of
35 the children in New Jersey and in support of Association policies. The Committee may also, when
36 necessary and appropriate, recommend positions on standards and assessment issues for
37 consideration by the Board of Directors.
38

39
40 Article X, Section 11



New Jersey School Boards Association

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AD HOC COMMITTEE TO REVIEW NJSBA BYLAWS 2019

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Piscataway Twp. BOE (Middlesex)

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CHARGE: The Task Force was charged with reviewing NJSBA's *Bylaws* for any changes necessary. The Task Force will issue a report at the conclusion of its work. Depending on the findings, changes to the *Bylaws* may be recommended and referred to the Delegate Assembly for action.



REPORT OF THE RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

by

**Donald Webster, Jr.
Immediate Past President and Chair**

**Prepared for the Annual Delegate Assembly
May 18, 2019**

The Resolutions Subcommittee met Saturday, April 13, 2019 at NJSBA Headquarters, Trenton, to review the resolutions that will come before the Annual Delegate Assembly on May 18, 2019.

The Association received 1 resolution from a local board of education for submission to the agenda for the Annual Delegate Assembly by the official cutoff date on March 5. One resolution was received past the official cutoff date. Pursuant to Article V, Section 6, action taken by the Resolutions Subcommittee may be overridden upon a motion and simple majority vote. The motion to override must state specifically the remedy sought by the moving party. The motion to override shall not be subject to debate except that both the maker of the motion and the chair of the Resolutions subcommittee shall be given three minutes to address the delegates concerning the motion.

Enclosed is the resolution admitted to the Delegate Assembly agenda by the subcommittee.

Enclosure



RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

JANUARY--DECEMBER 2019

CHAIR Vacant, NJSBA VP for Legislation/Resolutions

REGION A - MEMBERS

District 2	Peter Castellano,	Egg Harbor Twp. BOE (Atlantic)
District 5	Martha Wilson,	Camden (Camden)
District 6	Joyce Miller,	Gibbsboro BOE (Camden)
District 8	Dennis Quinn,	Berlin Borough BOE (Camden)

REGION B – MEMBERS

District 11	Bob English,	Eatontown BOE (Monmouth)
District 15	Jo Ann Groeger,	Lawrence Twp. BOE (Mercer)
District 13	Melissa Mohr	Henry Hudson BOE (Monmouth)
District 17	Dr Tom Connors,	Piscataway Township BOE (Middlesex)

REGION C – MEMBERS

District 22	Deborah Bridges,	Rahway BOE (Union)
District 24	Robert Carlson,	Wallkill Valley Regional BOE (Sussex)
District 26	Karen Cortelino,	Montville BOE (Morris)
District 30	Albert Miller,	Howell BOE (Monmouth)

REGION D – MEMBERS

District 34	Judith A. Bassford,	Clifton BOE (Passaic)
District 35	John Vander Molen,	Passaic Co-Manchester Reg. BOE (Passaic)
District 40	Catherine Kazan,	Wayne Twp. BOE (Bergen)
District 37	Clara Williams,	Teaneck BOE (Bergen)

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REGION A – ALTERNATES

District 3	Carolyn Kegler,	Logan Twp. BOE (Gloucester)
District 7	Lester Holley	Edgewater Park BOE (Burlington)
District 8	Thomas Maier,	Pemberton Twp. BOE (Burlington)
District 10	Steve Shohfi,	Lavalette BOE (Ocean)

REGION B – ALTERNATES

District 13	Maryann Fiel	Highlands Borough BOE (Monmouth)
District 14	Steven Riback,	Monroe BOE (Middlesex)
District 17	Anthony Brooks,	North Brunswick BOE (Middlesex)
District 19	Daniel Harris,	Woodbridge Twp. BOE (Middlesex)

REGION C – ALTERNATES

District 22	Sharon Schueler,	Middlesex Borough BOE (Middlesex)
District 25	Michael Bertram	Morris Hills Regional BOE (Morris)
District 27	Elizabeth Baker	South Orange-Maplewood BOE (Essex)
District 28	Jill Fischman,	Bloomfield BOE (Essex)

REGION D – ALTERNATES

District 34	Jessica De Koninck	Montclair BOE (Essex)
District 38	John Walsh,	Oradell BOE (Bergen)
District 38	Joseph Steele,	New Milford BOE (Bergen)
District 39	Peter J. Wendrychowicz,	Mahwah Twp. BOE (Bergen)

EX-OFFICIO: **Daniel Sinclair,** NJSBA President Lakeland Regional BOE (Passaic)

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G:\DA\May 2019\Resolutions Subcommittee\CommitteeRoster

NEW JERSEY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

**413 West State Street
Trenton, NJ 08618**

1-888-886-5722

**ANNUAL DELEGATE ASSEMBLY
May 18, 2019**

**The following resolution was received from the
Weymouth Township Board of Education (Atlantic):**

WHEREAS, New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) must represent all member School Boards equally and equitably in all areas impacting a student's Thorough and Efficient education and is committed to providing advocacy for all students through effective governance; and

WHEREAS, S2 which took funding from perceived "over funded" districts and redistributed those funds to perceived "under-funded" districts which led to over 150 member districts of the NJSBA including Weymouth Township being scheduled to see substantial reductions in state funding over the next six education years and perpetually thereafter; and

WHEREAS, the formulas used to calculate State aid are seriously flawed and result in inequities throughout the State and full implementation of Senate Bill S-2 will result in severe hardships to the students and taxpayers of Weymouth Township and many other New Jersey school districts; and

WHEREAS, the Delegate Assembly is the official policymaking body of the New Jersey School Boards Association; and Education-related policies resulting from prior Delegate Assemblies and Board of Directors actions are codified in the NJSBA's Manual of Positions and Policies on actions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the NJSBA will immediately adopt a policy to assist all districts in maintaining state aid at pre-S2 levels (adjusted annually) and to lobby State government to hold harmless districts where further loss of aid would cause hardships to students and citizens of their community; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the NJSBA will advocate that the State school funding formula should address the financial needs of school districts in which exceptional circumstances involving the community's tax base prevent the calculation of a fair and accurate "local share," which determines the district's school aid; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that, when a community's ability to raise the school tax levy is impeded by discrepancies between aggregate income, as defined by the State school funding formula, and taxable property, as identified by state tax law, the NJSBA will advocate that the State should provide the resources necessary to ensure a fair and equalized allocation of state aid.

Adopted at a regular meeting of the
Weymouth Township Board of Education
on February 21, 2019

Patricia Palmieri
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary

RESOLUTION NO. 1

SYNOPSIS

Resolution No. 1 from the Weymouth Board of Education (Atlantic) proposes additional NJSBA policy on issues related to school funding: (a) The impact of state aid reductions on educational programming and taxpayers, and (b) the method used to determine a school district's local share, which is a factor in the calculation of state aid.

NJSBA received an identical resolution from the Middle Township Board of Education in Cape May County.

BACKGROUND

The School Funding Reform Act (SFRA), enacted in 2008, established a method for distributing state aid to local school districts. At its most basic, the SFRA funding formula determines the following:

- 1) A district's adequacy budget, that is, the expenditure necessary to provide state-identified components of an "adequate" education for each student, multiplied by enrollment, with "weights" added for grade level, special needs, poverty and other factors;
- 2) The amount of money ("local share"), based on community wealth, that a district contributes toward the adequate budget; and
- 3) State aid equal to the difference between (1) and (2) above.

The components used to calculate a district's local share are its property valuation, equalized to provide a comparison against the state as a whole, and its residents' income. Each make up half of the local share.

The Great Recession and other political considerations led to the SFRA formula being superseded by language in the annual state budget for nearly a decade. Therefore, during this period, enrollment growth or decline and changes in community wealth were not reflected in annual state aid allotments, resulting in the underfunding of approximately two-thirds of the state's school districts.

Legislation enacted last year (Senate Bill 2) required the administration to begin applying the SFRA formula. Under the statute, districts previously receiving less aid than that called for by the SFRA will see increases phased in over six years. Conversely, those that received more than the amount resulting from the formula will experience reductions over the same period.

In addition, the proposed FY2020 state budget reflects the second year of a phase-out of "adjustment aid," a hold-harmless application established at the time of the SFRA's enactment to ease in reductions in aid levels during the early years of the 2008 formula. Senate Bill 2 also repealed enrollment caps, which were part of the original SFRA, but intended to be phased out. The caps limited enrollment-based increases in funding to a certain percentage annually, preventing the application of true enrollment in the distribution of state aid.

Weymouth is one of 197 districts that would see a state aid reduction in FY2020 under the recommended state budget. The K-8 district would experience a 9.98% decrease in state funding. Three hundred sixty-nine (369) school districts will receive increases in aid.

Several school districts facing state aid cuts have testified before the Legislature, stating that the aid reductions would result in hardships to their students' education by necessitating staff layoffs and program reductions, while at the same time placing an additional burden on property taxpayers. Weymouth is asking NJSBA to adopt policy calling for maintaining state aid at the levels that were in place prior to the effective date of Senate Bill 2 and to advocate for the state to hold harmless districts where losses of aid would present hardships to students and citizens.

Along with other school districts marked for state aid cuts, Weymouth also questions the accuracy of data used in the SFRA formulas, particularly those that determine a school district's local share contribution. The district believes that the application of these factors has resulted in inequities in the distribution of state aid for FY2020. They have been seeking information from the state Department of Education about the methodology used to determine the local share and other aspects of the funding formula.

Weymouth Township also faces an unusual situation because a substantial amount of its land, one quarter of its residential property, consists of manufactured housing. Under state tax law, the township cannot collect property taxes on such non-permanent structures. Therefore, it must tax at a higher rate in order to raise the district's local share as required by the SFRA.

The board contends that this, and other exceptional circumstances, should be addressed in the state's school funding formula.

RELEVANT NJSBA POLICY

File Code 3100

Timelines for School Budget Process

Q. The NJSBA believes that it is detrimental to students, school programs, and taxpayers to have the state reduce projected school aid figures to school districts after the Commissioner of Education notifies school districts of their state aid entitlements by the statutory date of notification.

File Code 3220

State School Finance System

B. The NJSBA believes that New Jersey's school finance system should:

- Define the elements of and the resources necessary to provide a thorough and efficient education;
- Provide funds to support and guarantee a thorough and efficient level of education to all public school children;
- Provide that all constituents of the state—individuals, businesses and communities—be required to pay a fair share, but that no one would be required to pay more than a fair share;
- Provide state aid based on predictable statutory formulas which is predictable, transparent and capable of being re-calculated at the local district level;
- Provide current-year funding of all state aid;
- Include a system of evaluation to ensure accountability in the allocation of state aid;

- Be sensitive to legitimate variations in school districts' capabilities to meet student needs, including, but not limited to, proficiency levels, demographics, socioeconomic status, geographical location and physical abilities.
- C. NJSBA believes that the School Finance Committee should, as needed or as requested by the NJSBA Board of Directors, review the equity of distribution for construction state aid in view of socio-economic factors, wealth, geographic characteristics, equalized school tax rate and other financial conditions.

State Revenue Raising System

- A. The NJSBA believes that the state revenue raising system should embody the following characteristics:
- Guarantee sufficient revenues to consistently meet the state's constitutional and statutory funding obligations to school districts;
 - Be balanced with respect to the ability to expand and contract in response to economic conditions (elasticity) and the capacity to produce a stable flow of revenue (stability);
 - Be balanced with respect to sources of revenue (individuals, businesses, property, sales, etc.);
 - Be designed to consider both an individual's and community's ability to pay.

State Aid to School Districts

- A. The NJSBA believes in an equitable distribution of education aid and related support payments which ensure that all school districts have an opportunity to benefit from governmental financial assistance.
- B. The NJSBA believes that as long as aggregate-income is used as a measure of local ability to pay for school costs, school districts and municipalities should have the benefit of a formal appeal process to challenge the assignment of income, similar to the formal appeal process available to challenge property values assigned to a municipality.
- H. The NJSBA believes that school districts should receive state aid based on the school funding formula in current New Jersey statute, without predetermined growth limits, and calculated based on the most recent and available student population statistics.

DISCUSSION

Senate Bill 2, enacted last year, intends to recalibrate state aid by requiring the operation of the SFRA formula after nearly a decade of dormancy. The 2018 law also repealed the SFRA enrollment caps that restricted enrollment-based increases in state aid to a certain percentage annually. Over a six-year period, underfunded districts will be ramped up to full funding. Conversely, districts that have been receiving more aid than the SFRA formula produces would see their aid reduced.

Last year, NJSBA supported legislative efforts to restore underfunded school districts to their full entitlements under the SFRA. This position is consistent with policy, approved by the Association's May 2018 Delegate Assembly with the support of 95% of the delegates in attendance. The policy states the following:

“...school districts should receive state aid based on the school funding formula in current New Jersey statute, without predetermined growth limits, and calculated based on the most recent and available student population statistics.” FC/3220

On another funding-related issue, NJSBA policy, approved by the November 2017 Delegate Assembly, states the following:

“...it is detrimental to students, school programs, and taxpayers to have the state reduce projected school aid figures to school districts after the Commissioner of Education notifies school districts of their state aid entitlements by the statutory date of notification.” FC/3100

Under the latter policy, NJSBA opposed reductions in funding to the so-called *over-aided* districts in 2018-2019. And this same policy would direct NJSBA to oppose any reductions in the prospective state aid increases for the *under-aided* districts in 2019-2020.

Restoring aid to underfunded school districts, however, should not create a scenario in which drastic cuts in funding damage the education of children, a situation described by several districts during recent testimony on the FY2020 state budget.

Affirmative Policy Statement

The first resolved clause in Weymouth’s resolution addresses the negative impact of state aid cuts, but it does so by directing NJSBA to assume a specific lobbying strategy. A policy should instead express a belief that enables the Association to pursue a variety of strategies and evaluate the effectiveness of any legislative proposal consistent with that belief. NJSBA implemented this approach in 2001 to ensure that policy advances, rather than restricts, its advocacy efforts.

An affirmative policy statement, for example, would express a belief in full funding for all districts through the use of accurate data in the school finance formula while ensuring that no child’s education is harmed by adjustments in state aid allocations. Such a statement would enable the NJSBA to support a variety of proposed remedies, ranging from hold harmless application of state aid if necessary, to emergency relief funds, to reform of other aid categories such as special education.

Ability to Pay/Accuracy of Data/Exceptional Circumstances

Current NJSBA policy states that New Jersey’s revenue-raising system should be based on a community’s ability to pay. Therefore, the accuracy of factors used to determine a school district’s local share is critical. Support of the use of *accurate* data should be stated in the Association’s policies on state aid to education.

By extension, such policy should also state a belief that a school district’s exceptional circumstances—for example, Weymouth’s high proportion of manufactured housing—should be considered in determining community wealth and the distribution of state aid.

Further Study

Concerns among some districts about the validity of data that determine community wealth, local share and ability to pay should be studied. The SFRA is more than 10 years old. Therefore, the methodology used to allocate state aid, specifically the derivation of each district’s local share and the determination of the multipliers used in the formula, should be reviewed to guarantee accuracy and transparency.

Under *NJSBA Bylaws*, Article X, Section 9, the Association’s School Finance Committee is authorized to “monitor the school funding law in New Jersey and its impact on all types of school districts,” “study issues relating to school finance,” and “recommend additions, modifications, or deletions to policy as needed.”

The New Jersey School Boards Association represents all of the state’s local boards of education in their pursuit of quality education for all students. School districts need a guarantee that the state school funding methodology fairly, appropriately and adequately addresses the educational requirements of all students in all our districts. A study by the School Finance Committee could provide such assurance and/or recommend necessary changes.

STATEMENT OF REASONS

1. The New Jersey School Boards Association represents all local boards of education.
2. Restoring underfunded school districts to their full state aid entitlements must stay on course, but it should not create a scenario in which drastic cuts in funding damage the education of children. Conversely, relief for districts facing state aid cuts should not impact restoration of funding to the under-aided districts.
3. The FY2020 state budget will result in aid reductions for 197 school districts, with many of these districts testifying that the cuts in funding will result in hardship for students’ education.
4. NJSBA policy should enable the Association to advocate for a wide range of remedies to assist districts in school funding matters.
5. A school district’s contribution to the education program (“local share”) should reflect only revenue that the local taxing authority can truly capture.
6. The state’s school finance system should recognize exceptional circumstances that impede an accurate calculation of community wealth.
7. *NJSBA Bylaws* authorize the Association’s School Finance Committee to monitor the school funding law and study issues related to school finance.

RECOMMENDATION

The Resolutions Subcommittee recommends approval of this resolution with the following substitute resolve clauses to create **additional** policy language to be included in *NJSBA’s Manual of Positions and Policies on Education*:

The NJSBA believes in a fair, equitable and adequate allotment of state aid based upon the most recent enrollment and financial data, including adjustments to ensure full funding under the statutory formula, but that no school district and no student should experience hardship as a result of reductions or other adjustments in state funding.

The NJSBA further believes that the state’s school funding formula should address the financial needs of school districts in which exceptional circumstances involving the community’s tax base prevent the calculation of a fair and accurate local contribution to the education program.

17 Further, it is recommended that NJSBA's School Finance Committee conduct a review of the
18 School Funding Reform Act of 2008, particularly the data and methodology used to calculate a
19 district's local share, and report the progress of the study, along with any policy
20 recommendations, to the November 2019 Delegate Assembly.