



New Jersey School Boards Association

INFORMATION ITEM

MEMORANDUM

To: Officers, Board of Directors Members/Alternates

From: Lawrence S. Feinsod, Ed.D., Executive Director

Date: November 3, 2017

Re: NJSBA President and Officers' Reports

Attached are the reports from the NJSBA President and Officers to the Board of Directors for the November 3, 2017 meeting

**New Jersey School Boards Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Report of the President
November 3, 2017**

Daniel Sinclair

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

Serving the first six months as your president has been an exciting and rewarding experience. We have accomplished some great things working in harmony with the officers, staff and members of the NJSBA.

On September 9 and October 6, the strategic planning committee met to update our strategic plan, identifying goals and objectives for our organization. NJSBA staff compiled the information taken from the committee meetings and developed a new strategic plan that will be presented to the Board of Directors on November 3 for approval. We look forward to implementation of our new plan.

In consultation with Technology Consulting Services, LLC, NJSBA has taken an in-depth look at its technology systems. As a result of an exhaustive study, recommendations on updating NJSBA's technology systems have been developed. NJSBA's technology has not been updated for many years and, while the organization will have to invest a significant amount of money to do so, it is important that we be future ready in this vital area. A recommendation for approval will be presented to the Board of Directors at the November meeting.

The Task Force to Study Educational Opportunities for Non-College Bound Learners had its first meeting on November 1. Executive Director Feinsod charged the committee with its task and work began. Having spent my professional life working in this area, I look forward to the Task Force's report. Many of our members asked to serve on this committee and I would have liked to have included every last one that volunteered. Sadly that was not possible. However, please contact me at (201) 739-3284 with any questions or ideas that you would like the Task Force to consider. I assure you that all of your contributions will be carefully considered. Special thanks to Don Webster for agreeing to chair the Task Force.

Director Feinsod and I had a productive meeting with NJEA President Marie Blistan and Vice President Sean Spiller as we continue to dialogue with all players in the NJ educational community. We look forward to working closely with the NJEA on common education related goals.

What can I say about Workshop 2017? It was a fantastic conference that brought 8000+ educators together towards one common goal, to advance for public education and promote student

achievement. Thank you all for participating. I had the opportunity to sit in on many training sessions, one better than the other, on over 200 topics. The presenters were exceptionally talented and the resulting dialogue was inspiring.

A special shout out to Commissioner Kimberly Harrington for her inspiring speech to our members. Kimberly is always on point and most importantly, in my mind, always discusses education on a personal level. Her speeches are just great fun to listen to. She teaches us as if we are students in her classroom and it is appreciated. Thank you Commissioner Harrington.

I watched NJSBA staff during the conference and I have to tell you that their energy and enthusiasm was contagious. Whether directing traffic, presenting in a highly professional manner or just talking to our members, the staff was terrific. I will avoid the temptation to name particular staff members here and just say thank you. Thank you all for what you do.

One of the most important things that we do as officers at Workshop is listening. We listen to our members as they tell us about education in their communities. We did a lot of that at Workshop 2017 as our members love to talk about education in any forum. Let's continue this dialogue throughout the year so that we can bring your thoughts back to Director Feinsod and his staff for consideration. I can always be reached at dsinclair@njsba.org.

Thank you for all you do.

Meetings

9/16/2017	Legislative Committee Meeting Resolution Subcommittee Meeting
9/27/2017	Essex School Boards Association Meeting
10/2/2017	NSBA President's First Monday Call-In
10/3/2017	Board Candidates Meeting
10/4/2017	Bergen County School Boards Association Meeting
10/5/2017	Hudson County School Boards Association Meeting
10/6/2017	Strategic Planning Meeting
10/12/2017	Passaic County School Boards Association Meeting

10/17/2017 Executive Committee Meeting

10/18/2017 NJ Junior Achievement Meeting

10/19/2017 Conference Call, Sustainable Schools
 Morris County School Boards Association

10/23-26/2017 Workshop 2017

11/1/2017 NJEA meeting with Marie Blistan, president and Sean Spiller, vice president

**New Jersey School Boards Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Report of the Vice President for County Activities
November 3, 2017**

Christy Tighe

I would like to congratulate the 2017-2018 Board Member of the Year, Bruce Young. As president of the Bergen County School Boards Association, Bruce implemented a county presidents' breakfast, and committed himself to visit local school board meetings to promote the county associations.

Fall County Meetings

County meetings continue to feature the most up-to-date and relevant information school board members need, and provide a forum for meaningful conversations on important and timely topics.

In August, the NJ State Board of Education released Social Emotional Learning Competencies, which provide schools with guidelines for integrating SEL across all grades and subject areas. If you were fortunate to hear Dr. Elias's keynote address at workshop, you learned that SEL is linked to student achievement. Monmouth, Cape May, and Atlantic Counties focused on SEL and mental health at their meetings, giving attendees information on this important subject.

Essex, Cumberland, and Warren Counties addressed issues of student safety with the internet and in school. Sussex County had a discussion about the legal aspects of social media use. Burlington County featured information on student homelessness and human trafficking.

Study of the arts in its many forms—whether as a stand-alone subject or integrated into the school curriculum—is increasingly accepted as an essential part of achieving success in school, work and life. The Somerset/Hunterdon meeting stressed the importance of Arts Education, and Commissioner Harrington was the opening speaker. Passaic County also focused on student achievement by holding their own STEAM Tank challenge, where several student groups from elementary to high school, exhibited their STEAM programs.

School board members must possess an array of skills in order to be successful and move their district forward. One of these is listening to and understanding others' points of view. Middlesex and Ocean Counties held a meeting on "Special Education from different perspectives." Two attorneys—one who represents Boards of Education and the other who is a parent advocate—presented the issue from their own point of view. Morris County held a panel discussion on charter schools, and the panel included a trustee from a charter school.

Workshop

The County Chat Room on Monday was a great place to meet and network with other county representatives and leaders, enjoy a cup of coffee after the drive to AC, and plan your workshop program schedule. It was nice to see many of you there, and we welcome your feedback on how we can build on this great opportunity.

The County Café not only served as a respite during a busy day on the convention floor, but also featured outstanding performances from Governor Livingston High School's Deaf and Hard of Hearing Percussion Ensemble and The Paramus High School Jazz Combo. The annual Leadership Breakfast was also a success, thanks to our sponsor NJ Schools Insurance Group, and an inspiring presentation from NSBA President Ciak. Thank you to everyone who visited the county areas at Workshop.

Looking Ahead

NJSBA is rolling out a new governance training series, designed to equip new and seasoned board members with the skills they need to deal with the issues they face at the board table. The three sessions will focus on School Finance, Student Achievement, and School Law, and will be offered regionally, hosted through the local county school board associations. These highly interactive and informative programs will offer members a new way to fill their training requirements of the School District Accountability Act. For seasoned board members, this will allow you an opportunity to attend multiple sessions and advance your knowledge on these topics. In addition, it's a wonderful way to engage school board members and increase awareness of our county associations.



New Jersey School Boards Association

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**New Jersey School Boards Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Report of the Vice President for Finance
November 3, 2017**

Michael McClure

Association Finance

As you heard earlier tonight, the audit for the 2016-2017 fiscal year was completed and presented to the Board. The audit resulted in a “clean” audit with no adjustments proposed by the auditors. When the non-cash items such as depreciation and the non-cash portion of our pension obligation are excluded, NJSBA generated a positive cash position during the recently completed fiscal year.

For the new 2017-2018 fiscal year, we are tracking favorably versus budget through September. Specifically, we have had staff vacancies in the Legal & Labor Relations department and in the Mailroom. Additionally, we are underrunning our budget for health care benefits, and I am hopeful that this trend continues throughout the rest of the fiscal year.



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New Jersey School Boards Association Board of Directors Meeting Report of the Vice President for Legislation/Resolutions November 3, 2017

Brandon J. Pugh

Dear Board of Directors Members,

It is hard to believe we are already in November and that Workshop 2017 is complete! With over five months being in office, I have greatly enjoyed my time as Vice President for Legislation/Resolutions so far. Whether it is attending county meetings or chairing the Legislative Committee, I am truly humbled to be a state officer. In this report I recap the last Legislative Committee meeting, reflect on Workshop 2017, provide state legislative developments, and share recent meetings attended.

Legislative Committee & Resolutions Subcommittee

The Legislative Committee met on September 16, 2017 and we had two guest speakers. First, we heard from Rose Accerra, the President of the NJ State PTA. Ms. Accerra discussed the work of the NJPTA, their partnership with NJSBA, and their advocacy efforts. Second, we heard from Diana Pasculli, the Chief Public Affairs Office for the NJ Department of Education. Ms. Pasculli provided an update on the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) as it relates to assessing local district performance. Additional information on ESSA can be found at www.nj.gov/education/ESSA. The meeting also included updates from the Governmental Relations staff and an open dialogue on how committee members can be more active outside of Legislative Committee meetings, how we can ensure board members are aware of legislative developments and support our advocacy efforts, and how we can strengthen the Committee.

The Legislative Committee meeting was followed by a meeting of the Resolutions Subcommittee. During this meeting, we considered three resolutions and reviewed select NJSBA Positions/Policies as part of the periodic review process. We also had a discussion on charter schools based on the Delegate Assembly in May.

Workshop 2017

Workshop was another exceptional training and networking opportunity. The hard work of the NJSBA Staff was abundantly clear. There were many great speakers and programs during the four days, but I would like to highlight a few.

- Members of the New Jersey State Board of Education spoke on Tuesday, October 24th, which included an opportunity to ask questions. The State Board members present included Sylvia Sylvia, Mary Beth Berry, Dr. Ron Butcher, and Kathy Goldenberg.
- Members of the New Jersey Legislature spoke on a panel on Wednesday, October 25th on topics ranging from school funding to state-imposed caps. The panelists included Senate President Stephen Sweeney, Assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli, Assembly Speaker Lou Greenwald, Assemblywoman Patricia Egan Jones,

Assemblyman Declan O'Scanlon Jr., and Assemblyman James Kennedy. This panel was cohosted by the Garden State Coalition of Schools and was moderated by Governmental Relations Director Michael Vrancik.

- I had the honor of coordinating and speaking on a panel about cybersecurity for schools on Wednesday, October 25th, which included steps before, during, and after a cyber incident. Panelists included Phil Frigm, Supervisory Special Agent - FBI Newark; Daniel Garrie, Esq., Managing Partner - Law and Forensics, Forensic Neutral - JAMS & Partner – ZEK; and Shawn Hopkins, President - NJGMIS & Chief Technology Officer - Jefferson Township.
- I would like to specifically thank Commissioner Kimberly Harrington for her support of Workshop 2017. In addition to delivering a great keynote address on Tuesday, she took the time to join us for most of Workshop 2017, including the Officers Reception on Wednesday.

Legislative Developments

With the election just days away on November 7th, activity at the State House has been very quiet. Therefore, there have been few developments since my September 2017 report. Below are a few items to draw your attention to.

- At the time of this report, the State Board of Education is scheduled to meet on November 1st. Their agenda includes a discussion on proposed amendments to QSAC and extending purview for HIB incidents at private schools for the handicapped to local boards.
- The Governmental Relations staff is following up on proposed changes for food service contracts and on classification of non-public school students for special education services issued by the state departments of Agriculture and Education respectively. These proposals would impact the next school year and may be reviewed further by the new administration.
- The Washington Post is reporting that the U.S. Department of Education is withdrawing nearly six hundred policy guidance documents it says are outdated, including seventy-two in special education previously announced, and others in offices dealing with K-12 and higher education. This part of a broader effort to reduce existing or planned regulations, many of them from the previous administration. The report is fairly dense and is available here: https://www.scribd.com/document/362786812/Regulatory-Reform-Task-Force-Progress-Report-2-1#from_embed. Governmental Relations is reviewing this carefully and information will be conveyed in the future.

Recent Meetings

In addition to those already shared, below are highlights of some recent activities and meetings I have participated in.

- Meeting with Assemblyman Troy Singleton (LD 7) on September 19th with Michael Vrancik, Jonathan Pushman, Christopher Jones, and two Burlington County School Boards Association officers.
- Eagleton Institute's Town Hall Event at Rutgers University with Ambassador Phil Murphy on September 27th: I had the opportunity to attend and ask a question on school funding. The full Town Hall can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BtBJs71wtBY&feature=youtu.be>.
- County Meetings Attended: Mercer on September 28th for a Legislative Panel, Atlantic on October 3rd, Burlington on October 5th, Salem on October 18th, and Middlesex on November 1st.
- NJSBA Strategic Planning: We met on October 6th to continue the work of the September 9th meeting, which included an advocacy breakout group to develop goals.
- Military Opportunities: I attended the Army-Navy Cup on October 15th through the Army's Mid-Atlantic Recruiting Battalion with IPP Don Webster and Past President John Bulina. I was also able to attend "The President's Own" United States Marine Band performance at Washington Township High School and meet cadets of their Air Force JROTC program.

I am looking forward to the Delegate Assembly on November 18, 2017. The next Legislative Committee meeting is scheduled for December 2, 2017, which will focus on the development of the 2018- 2019 Legislative Advocacy Agenda/Action Plan.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at any time.

Respectfully,
Brandon Pugh

**New Jersey School Boards Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Report of the Immediate Past President
November 3, 2017**

Donald Webster, Jr.

NJSBA Association Activities

On 10/6, I joined the other members of the Strategic Planning Committee in Trenton to work on specific goals and objectives related to the plan for 2017-2020. I was involved with the group that focused on our advocacy efforts. We developed a goal and five objectives to be incorporated into the new plan.

I attended and spoke at the County School Boards Association Meeting in Ocean County on 10/10 in Lakewood, NJ. The meeting focused on special education issues from the perspective of parents, their attorneys, and local school district attorneys. Dr. Feinsod also addressed the members regarding the importance of training and professional development.

On 10/11, members of our Government Relations staff and I met with State Assemblyman Ron Dancer in his Cream Ridge office. This meeting was part of our Association's ongoing efforts to help educate and keep our state/federal legislators aware of the issues that local school districts face here in New Jersey. Our discussions focused on school funding, school consolidation, escalating Special Education costs and related federal/state funding problems that adversely impact our school districts. We had a very productive conversation with the Assemblyman and his staff.

On 10/17, I chaired the Executive Committee meeting in Trenton for President Sinclair who had a family commitment. We heard reports from Dr. Feinsod and the Association Department Directors. We received updates on the status of Workshop 2017 and discussed the officers specific roles during the event. Finally, we discussed the agenda for the upcoming Board of Directors Meeting.

I attended Workshop 2017 in Atlantic City along with my fellow officers. I introduced NSBA President Kevin Ciak on 10/24 in conjunction with the Future Ready Schools Program. Kevin presented his Vision 2030 Initiative. I also helped staff the ELF NJ Exhibit Booth and was heavily involved with the Sustainable Jersey for Schools Awards Program.

On 11/1, I chaired the first meeting of the Task Force to Study Educational Opportunities for Non-College Bound Learners. This was the Task Force organization meeting during which we were given our charge by President Sinclair. We also heard from some experts in the field and began to discuss the process needed in order to accomplish our goal. We identified a meeting schedule and talked about developing a survey for our members and their local school districts.

Education Leadership Foundation of NJ (ELF NJ) Activities

As a Trustee, I helped to staff the organization's display booth at Workshop 2017 in Atlantic City on 10/24-10/25. We handed out informational brochures and answered questions about the role and work of the Foundation in relation to the training initiatives and programs provided for local board of education members throughout the state.

Sustainable Jersey

On 10/24, I spoke as a Trustee at the Sustainable Jersey for Schools Awards Program at Workshop 2017. I was also involved in presenting awards to 93 deserving schools/districts who have met the program's certification standards. Since its inception, three short years ago, more than 650 individual schools representing over 246 school districts from around the state have joined this program. The program promotes sustainability and energy saving efforts in schools through education, training, funding, and certification programs and recognizes schools and districts for their efforts. Ultimately, these sustainability efforts help promote cost savings, the greening of our school environments, the education of our students, and the planet's overall health. My local district, Manchester Township is a participating program member and a number of our schools are approaching certification status.