



New Jersey School Boards Association

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DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS TO NJSBA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE **August 29, 2017**

Business Development

Workshop 2017 Update: I will be providing an update at the meeting

School Leader Advertising: A targeted email campaign has been developed for the 2017-18 budget year.

Marketing:

- All NJSBA programs, County programs and NJSBA Products/Services continue to be marketed to our members
- Lauren and Michael continue to increase our social media presence on Facebook and Twitter

Policy Writing Services: A revised yearlong marketing campaign to school districts has begun and continues to bring in new policy writing clients. We have five new contracts for policy writing services.

New Policy Service: BoardDocs continues to expand with our membership. An extensive marketing and webinar campaign was launched this summer and will continue throughout the year.

21st Century Classroom: Many new products were added to our NJSBA TEC program:

- Erate Consulting
- Crossstar
- Fusfoo
- ISchool Initiative
- 21st Century Classroom Products and Services-SHI

Business Development Programs: Numerous programs have been scheduled from our department for the 2017-18 year.

- School Security Conference- Lisa Deon
- Charter School Conference-Lou Schimenti
- Technology Conference- Michael Kvidahl
- School Finance Conference-Lou Schimenti and Billie Barnett

ELFNJ Programs

- 4 - "Are you Future Ready?" working sessions in collaboration with the NJDOE – JoAnn Dempsey
- 2 - Sustainable Practices working sessions – Marianne Leone
- 5 - Are you ISTEAM Ready?
- 1 - Working with your Education Foundation

NJSBA Webinar Series: Lou Schimenti will be hosting a bi-weekly webinar series. The webinars will be a combination of promoting NJSBA departments, NJSBA products and services and other educational topics and collaborations.

NJSBA Corporate Partnership Program: As of today, we have 44 Corporate Partners.

NJ Future Ready Schools: The first certified schools will be announced at Workshop

Call Center: Billie continues to improve and update member census data. This has assisted our marketing efforts to the members, member certification tracking, and our ability to communicate effectively with the membership.

Communications

Media Relations: We arranged for a [*NJ Spotlight interview*](#) with Kevin Ciak, NSBA president and former NJSBA president. The article appeared on August 17.

Over the summer, the Communications Department developed the following news releases for distribution to the news media and/or posting on the homepage: “NJSBA Applauds Federal Approval of New Jersey’s ESSA Plan”; “NJDOE Provides Guidance on Use of Additional State Aid”; “School Aid in Final State Budget: NJSBA Provides Summary”; “REMINDER: July 31 School Board Candidacy Deadline Is Approaching”; “NJSBA Applauds Jersey City’s Return to Full Local Control”; “July 4 Update: Budget Signed, Shutdown Ends”; “Consider School Board Membership! July 21 Nominating Petition Deadline”; “A State Aid Compromise Should Help Underfunded District, but Not Penalize Others,” and “Joint Statement Issued in Support of Teacher Leader Endorsement.”

We responded to press inquiries on a variety of subjects, including the following: Non-compensation statute for New Jersey school board members (*Education Week*); school funding compromise/state aid adjustments (*Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Press of Atlantic City*, *Politico*, *Asbury Park Press*, *Record*); superintendent turnover (*Record*); school board attorney retainers (*Asbury Park Press*); non-binding ballot questions (*Record*); nepotism policies (*New Jersey Herald*); homeschool tax credit proposal (*Jersey Journal*); weather emergencies/school closings (*NJ.com*); charter school regulations (*NJ.com*); school ethics (*northjersey.com*); removal of board members from office (Gloucester daily news blog); status of negotiations (*northjersey.com*).

With the assistance of John Burns, counsel in governmental relations, and the communications staff, the Executive Director submitted an FAQ on special education to the *Asbury Park Press*. The article was scheduled to appear in August.

Position Paper for Gubernatorial Candidates: Communications and Governmental Relations produced a 16-page position paper, “Current Issues in Public Education,” which has been shared with the gubernatorial candidates. The paper addresses school funding, student achievement, school choice, special education, and school facilities, among other subjects.

Public Relations: The Communications Department coordinated the joint letter from the LEE Group organizations, urging high schools to schedule a Military Opportunities Day this fall. The letter highlighted the post-secondary opportunities available through the military. In addition, at the request of the U.S. Army’s Mid-Atlantic Recruiting Battalion and NJSBA, Governor Christie and Lt. Gov. Guadagno have issued a proclamation declaring September 2017 as Military Opportunities Month.

The Communications Department and the Marketing Unit are assisting Junior Achievement of New Jersey on the roll-out of the Finance Park program, which meets all financial literacy requirements under the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

The Manager of Communications/Publications represented NJSBA at the annual meeting of NSBA's Council of School Boards Association Communicators.

We have compiled the entries for judging of the 33rd annual School Leader Award, which recognizes outstanding education programs in New Jersey's public schools.

Publications: The July/August issue of *School Leader* featured an interview with NJSBA's new president, Dan Sinclair, as well as a special "back-to-school" section that included an article on changes in statute and regulations for 2017-2018. The issue also included an item on NJSBA's cooperation with Steven Van Zandt's foundation. The September/October issue will include a special section on sustainability and an update on HIB decisions.

Support Services: Publications staff edited the Workshop Program descriptions, while the Graphics Unit continued to update the Workshop website and exhibitors' prospectus. The Graphics staff also worked with IT and the Marketing Unit on the design of the upgraded ecommerce site, which handles registration for Association programs.

We also contacted the 21 county clerks offices for the names and addresses of school board candidates in the November General Election, and forward the information to the Call Center for data entry.

County Activities and Member Engagement

Videos and Podcasts

- This summer we started *NJSBA's Monthly Minute*. This is a news video which highlights the important education news of the month. It is about a minute long, hence the name. The most recent one has had almost 200 views. We think it will catch on when the school year starts.
- We have confirmed video interviews with gubernatorial candidates, Lt. Gov. Guadagno and Ambassador Murphy. The interviews will inform our members of education views of the two candidates. We will also have a lengthier written interview with more in depth questions that we will include in School Board Notes.
- Two "School Law Today" interviews are being scheduled for September. One will address First Amendment rights of students, while the other will explore First Amendment rights of staff. "School Law Today" is produced in conjunction with law firms that are part of NJSBA's Corporate Members Program.

County Activities

- We are putting the finishing touches on the county meeting schedule. This fall's county association training and informational programs will feature a wide variety of topics.
- Working with the Field Services Department, we conducted three leadership programs, which drew approximately 140 attendees.

Field Services

- New CSA Evaluation Tool – Working with the New Jersey Association of School Administrators, the Field Services staff created an up-to-date, standards-based annual CSA Evaluation tool. The field service representatives worked closely with representatives of the administrators association for a couple of years to develop the instrument. Both NJASA and NJSBA will roll out the new evaluation this fall. NJSBA will conduct group sessions and an action lab at Workshop 2017 at which the FSRs will explain the tool and the process. NJASA, in conjunction with FSRs, will present the tool and process to its members at the annual Superintendent Institute for which NJSBA will be the sole presenter. We also plan to present jointly at venues throughout the school year.
- Three Leadership Programs were created and presented by FSRs during the summer - one in each region of the state. The summer programs were developed as a direct result of the feedback we got from the three regional Leadership Programs on February 4, 2017. These were held on different evenings so if a board member could not make the area program, he or she would have the opportunity to attend a program in another region. The leadership programs have been very well attended and the subjects were very well received.
- Last, but clearly not least, Field Services hosted a meeting with small group leaders on August 23 to plan the Leadership Weekend, which is scheduled for April 2018. We are very grateful to Larry and you for making such a weekend possible. Everyone is very excited about it - especially our members! I will be giving updates to you as the year progresses.
- Two FSRs, Charlene Peterson and Kathy Helewa, along with Frank, are facilitating the NJSBA Strategic Plan in the early fall.
- Terri Lewis has been in charge while I am out with knee surgery. She has done a commendable job. Her capabilities are much appreciated.

Finance

- The auditors' field work for the 2016 – 2017 fiscal year-end has been completed. The auditors were pleased with the condition of the books and all of the supplemental, supporting documentation that was provided. The audit report is expected to be available in the early Fall.
 - I am happy to report that NJSBA strengthened an already strong financial position in the fiscal year recently completed.
- The new switches purchased from CDI were successfully installed in early August. There was very minimal disruption to our operations due to a well-coordinated collaboration between CDI, Mercadien and our IT team.
- We have a signed contract with PJM Mechanical Contractors for the purchase and installation of a new chiller for our Trenton headquarters. This purchase was approved at the May 2017 Board meeting. PJM plans to install the chiller in late Fall.

General Counsel

DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

The cutoff date to receive resolutions is September 5th.

Received requests about two resolutions : Bloomfield (Essex) seeks to adopt belief that special education should be fully funded and the money to follow the student. Logan (Gloucester) seeks to remove reference to “subgroup” in the ESSA and NJ statutes and regulations that follow the ESSA.

The Resolutions Subcommittee will meet to review NJSBA’s policies on charter schools, as directed by the DA in May 2017, to determine if the policies should be supplemented, amended or left as is. A report will go to the November 2017 DA.

MANDATED TRAINING

In June and July the NJSEC issued an order to show cause to remove eight board members who had not completed their training for the 2016 cycle; and numerous recommendations for reprimand for failure to complete training in a timely manner.

NJSBA TEC

NJSBA’s cooperative pricing system (CPS): NJSBA signed three contracts for TEC services that do not require competitive bidding for telecom billing review; PD through the iSchool Initiative; and digital website platform. Issued contract awards for E-Rate consulting to E-Rate Consulting, LLC; and SHI International for 21st Century Classroom products and services. Preparations for a RFP for Cyber Security products, to be issued shortly, are under way.

ACES

The program has added three new members during the first half of 2017.

Human Resources

May/June

- Recruiting for director of legal and labor relations; total of 69 resumes received; 13 interviews; 2 candidates to interview with executive director
- Coordinate administrative assistant coverage for NJSBA programs and conferences throughout the summer
- Serve as interim director of legal and labor relations
- Landscaping
- Development of 2017-18 Salary Guide
- Emails to staff regarding summer hours, dress down
- Performance Management beginning
- Emails to staff and directors w/self-evaluation attached
- Review, calculate increases, prepared merit increase letters
- Calculate medical insurance changes w/salary adjustments for payroll
- Send LTD salary adjustments to Metlife and payroll

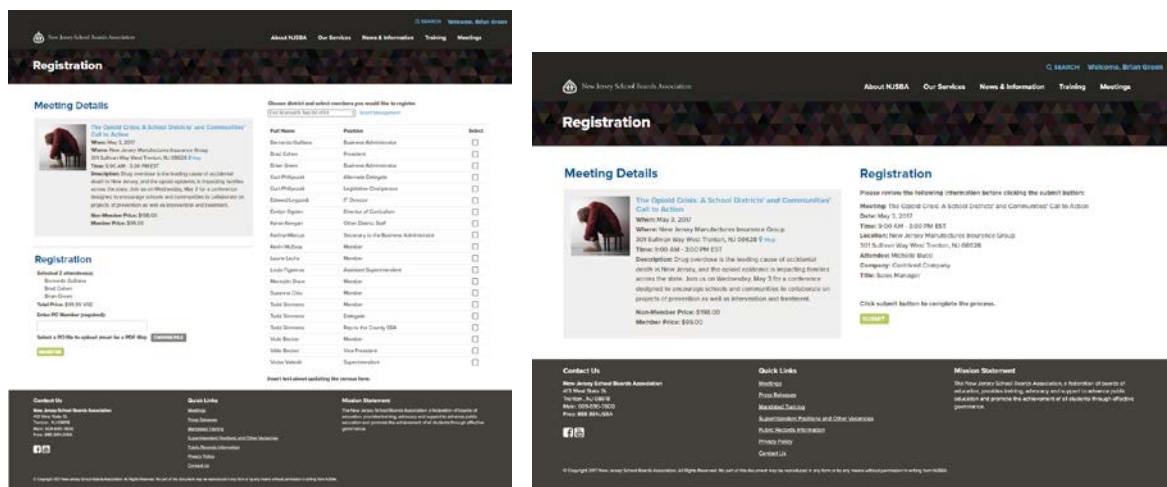
- Performance Management process continues
- Chiller contract awarded
- Participate in network switch refresh meetings and support with CDI and Mercaden
- Participate in Association Master Calendar planning meetings
- Food drive; reserved Holiday Party at Mountainview Golf Course

July/August

- Recruiting for call center: total of 207 resumes received; interviewed 5 applicants, candidate recommended to the executive director
- Formed an NJSBA Employee Professional Development Committee to engage staff in continuous professional growth that contributes to the Association's mission and goals
- Build-out additional work station on the 3rd floor
- Respond to auditors regarding personnel files and audit of payroll
- Address personnel issues
- Assist with personnel policy revisions
- Recruiting for ELFNJ Program Coordinator
- Development of cleaning checklist for outside cleaning service

Information Technology

- New network switches were successfully installed on Friday, August 4th, by CDI. The actual impact to board members was four hours, from 12 to 4 p.m., for program registration and other eCommerce functions. Other website features remained accessible.
- Building new online program registration by dropping steps down to three or less (if no fee involved). The layout and design was done by the Graphic Design team and actual programming development by our own IT staffs. The new process will be on Production by August 31st. Both old and new processes will coexist for a few weeks until no programs/meetings are promoted via the old process links.



- Completed the New Board Member Certificate automation process. Back tracked all board member training credits for the past two years starting from January 1 2015.

- Continue to scope the rewrite of new Online CSA Evaluation. The project is due in mid-February 2018. The new evaluation process is based on new proposed procedures and questionnaires and will be compatible with all web browsers.
- Working with Workshop badge vendor to provide badge data transition process for all attendees, including speakers, vendors/exhibitors. The data transition will ensure the data accuracy for all badge onsite printing.

Governmental Relations

STATE LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY SINCE JUNE

Besides approving changes to school aid, which added \$150 million in new funding for FY 2018, there are several other notable legislative items to report:

Since the end of June, Gov. Chris Christie has signed several education-related bills into law, including one that requires aspiring board of education members to affirm that they have a clean criminal background prior to running for office ([A-4206/S-2676](#)).

The new law requires a member of a board of education, before entering into the duties of the office, to take an oath that must include a specific declaration that the member is not disqualified from holding office due to a conviction of one of the disqualifying crimes or offenses. A member who falsely swears or affirms that he or she is not disqualified due to a conviction is guilty of a crime of the fourth degree. However, the law does not require a member to undergo a criminal background check until after they are elected.

The bill signed by the governor earlier this month requires a school board candidate to file with his or her nominating petition a specific affirmation that he or she has not been convicted of any of the crimes that disqualify an individual from membership on a board of education or a charter school board of trustees. According to its sponsors, the bill was inspired by a situation in which an individual attempted to run for school board after previously serving six months in a federal prison for a crime that would have disqualified him from holding office.

The requirement to submit to criminal history record checks subsequent to being elected still stands.

The new measure goes into effect on July 1, 2018.

The governor also approved the following NJSBA-supported bills, both of which take effect immediately:

- Reducing School Food Waste [A-3056/S-2360](#) requires the state Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) to establish voluntary guidelines for K-12 schools and institutions of higher education to reduce, recover, and recycle food waste.
- Farm to School Coordinating Council [A-3058/S-2366](#) establishes the “Farm to School Coordinating Council.” The council will consist of five members as follows: the N.J. Secretary of Agriculture, the N.J. Commissioner of Education, and three members of the public who have experience working with the New Jersey Farm to School Program.

Gov. Chris Christie also took action on several bills impacting New Jersey's public school districts, while conditionally vetoing two other school-related bills and returning them to the Legislature.

New Laws

- Sending District Voting Rights S-3191/A-3370 (P.L.2017, c.140) broadens the voting rights of representatives of sending school districts who are eligible for membership on a receiving district board of education. This new law provides that the representative may also vote on any matter directly involving sending district pupils or programs and services used by them; approval of the annual receiving district budget; any collectively-negotiated agreement involving employees who provide services used by sending district pupils; any individual employee contracts not covered by a collectively-negotiated agreement, if those employees provide or oversee programs or services utilized by sending district pupils; and any matter concerning governance of the receiving board, including, but not limited to, the selection of board president and vice-president, approval of board bylaws, and the employment of professionals or consultants such as attorneys, architects, engineers, or others who provide services to the receiving district board of education.

The NJSBA-initiated bill is based on policy adopted at the May 2014 Delegate Assembly. It takes effect immediately.

- Special Ed Legal Decisions Database S-1451/A-3856 (P.L.2017, c.103) directs the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) to create an electronic database, available on its website, of legal decisions concerning special education. The purpose of the database is to provide anyone – parents, school districts, child study team members, members of the public – with easily accessible information on legal decisions regarding New Jersey special education matters.
- Head Injury Safety Training S-2348/A-3799 (P.L.2017, c.105) applies the student-athlete head injury safety program to intramural sports programs. It essentially broadens the scope of existing law to provide that students participating in intramural sports will be included in the student-athlete head injury safety program, and that the coaches of intramural sports programs must complete a safety training program.

The new law goes into effect 90 days after the governor approved it.

- Opioid Education A-3944/S-2402 (P.L.2017, c.167) requires the state education commissioner to develop an educational fact sheet that provides information concerning the use and misuse of opioid drugs in the event that a student-athlete or cheerleader is prescribed an opioid for a sports-related injury. The law requires school districts and nonpublic schools to distribute the fact sheet annually to the parents or guardians of student-athletes and cheerleaders, and to obtain a signed acknowledgement of its receipt. NJSBA supports the measure.

The law takes effect immediately. However, the commissioner has 120 days to develop the educational fact sheet.

- School Security Surveillance S-742/A-1205 (P.L.2017, c. 119) requires that if a school building is equipped with video surveillance equipment that is capable of wirelessly streaming live video to a remote location, the board of education must enter into a memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement authorities giving the authorities the ability to activate the equipment and view live-streaming videos. The law's provisions only apply to those buildings already equipped with video surveillance equipment. Therefore, its impact is limited to a small number of districts statewide. NJSBA supports the legislation, which takes effect immediately.
- Guidance on Transgender Students S-3067/A-4652 (P.L.2017, c.137) requires the state commissioner of education to develop guidelines for school districts regarding transgender students. The guidelines are intended to provide direction for schools in addressing common issues concerning the needs of transgender students, and to assist schools in establishing policies and procedures that ensure a supportive and nondiscriminatory environment for transgender students. The guidelines will also include information on organizations or other resources available to students and parents that provide support to transgender individuals.

In addition, the law requires the commissioner to provide school districts with guidance and resources regarding: (1) providing professional development opportunities to school staff regarding issues and concerns relevant to LGBTQ students; and (2) making developmentally-appropriate information about LGBTQ issues available in school facilities. NJSBA supported the bill, which went into effect immediately upon the governor's approval.

- School Safety Specialists A-3347/S-2242 (P.L.2017, c.162) establishes the "New Jersey School Safety Specialist Academy" within the NJDOE. The purpose of the academy will be to serve as a repository for best practices, training standards, and compliance oversight in matters regarding school safety and security. Under the law, the academy will develop and implement a school safety specialist certification program. Each school superintendent will be required to designate a school administrator as a school safety specialist who must complete the certification program. The school safety specialist will be responsible for the supervision and oversight of all school safety and security personnel, policies, and procedures in the school district; ensure that these policies and procedures are in compliance with state law and regulations; and provide the necessary training and resources to school district staff in matters relating to school safety and security. The school safety specialist will also serve as the school district liaison with local law enforcement and other agencies and organizations in matters of school safety and security.

The NJSBA supported the legislation, which codifies one of the recommendations of the New Jersey School Security Task Force, which released its final report in July 2015. Earlier in the legislative process, the NJSBA successfully obtained amendments to the bill clarifying that the certification program and any related training and professional development will be provided free of charge to designated school safety specialists. This new law takes effect in January 2018, 180 days after enactment.

- College Readiness Commission A-4088/S-2567 (2017, c.170) establishes a "High School to College Readiness Commission." Under the law, the commission will consist of 18 members including: the commissioner of education, the secretary of higher education, the executive director of the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority, and 11 members from various

associations representing the K-12 and higher education communities. NJSBA will have a representative on the commission.

The law took effect immediately and the commission shall issue a report of its findings and recommendations to the governor and to the Legislature no later than one year after it organizes.

- ELL Students in G&T Programs A-4175/S-2808 (P.L.2017, c. 171) directs the state education commissioner to develop guidance for school districts regarding the identification of English language learners for gifted and talented programs. The purpose of the guidance is to assist districts in identifying English language learners in grades kindergarten through 12 who are gifted and talented in order to match them with programs that will help them achieve in accordance with their full capabilities; and provide guidelines on appropriate identification methods that may help reduce the underrepresentation of English language learners in gifted and talented programs. NJSBA supported the new law, which takes effect immediately.

Conditional Vetoes

Pursuant to his conditional veto authority, the governor returned the two bills described below to the Legislature with recommended changes. The Legislature can now either adopt the governor's recommendations, or attempt to override the vetoes, which would require the approval of at least two-thirds of the members of each House.

- Joint Bracketing in School Elections S-1297/A-3751 would have permitted two or more candidates for the office of member of a board of education who seek election at the annual school election held in either April or November of each year to circulate a nominating petition jointly and to be bracketed together for the same term. The bill also permitted the inclusion of a short, non-political designation on the petition and the ballot of the principles that the candidate or candidates represent.

In conditionally vetoing S-1297/A-3751, the governor stated that "The provision of this bill, may create a justifiable perception that bracketed school board members are surrendering their independent judgment to special interest or partisan political groups, violating the public's trust and confidence in members of local boards of education."

- Students on Naval Property A-4453/S-2881 would have required pupils who reside on the Naval Weapons Station Earle to enroll in the resident school district in accordance with an enrollment schedule determined by the executive county superintendent. The schedule would provide for the transition, over a period of four school years, of all pupils enrolled in the designated district to enrollment in the schools of the district in which the pupils reside, so that by July 1, 2020 all pupils are enrolled in the schools of the district in which they reside.

A 1988 law authorized the executive county superintendent of schools in Monmouth County to designate a school district as the district of residence for the students who reside on federal property at the Naval Weapons Station Earle. The property on which Earle is located is within the geographic boundaries of two separate school districts. Pursuant to that law, the Tinton Falls School District has provided educational services to children who reside on Earle since the 1988-1989 school year.

Rather than approve the bill as passed by the Legislature, the governor is instead recommending that a “Naval Weapons Station Earle Study Commission” be established to study the impact of changing the designated district for the students residing on the base. Should the Legislature concur with the governor’s recommendations and the bill become law, the commission is to issue a final report to the governor by June 1, 2018.

Training & Professional Development/Educator-in-Residence

The World We are Preparing the Class of 2030 to Successfully Enter

As a next step in addressing student achievement after the release of NJSBA’s Student Achievement Task Force Report, personal/professional goals have been to identify the world we are preparing this year’s Kindergarten class to enter, to identify the high school and post-secondary educational opportunities that will facilitate the success of students who are not planning to attend a 2 of 4 year degree program, and to identify certificate and other programs that will qualify HS graduates for careers in technology, health care, trades, etc.

- **Governance III:** Governance III has been revised. In order to give Boards direction on how they can be an effective governing body, there continues to be a focus on the Lighthouse Study and its recommendations. New content includes the predicted role of artificial intelligence/ automation/ robotics on employment when this year’s Kindergarten class graduates from high school in 2030. There is a great need to revise not only curricula but also the organization of schools to emphasize a focus on preparing student to enter the workforce upon HS graduation as well as those who will be attending post-secondary educational programs. The expansion of dual enrollment in high schools that enable students to earn their Associates and HS Diploma simultaneously or a certificate that qualifies them for a job in health care, technology, or another field. Internships, apprenticeships, and career exploratory programs must be explored. Are we preparing students for careers in i-STEAM as well as we can with our current course offerings and curricula Pre-k through 12? Are boards considering Engineering programs at all levels? Have boards considered the Physics first movement that supports the academic requirements of future careers? Exciting and challenging work lies ahead.
- **NJBIA Education & Workforce Development Policy Committee**
Department of Labor Workforce Development Board
John Henry, Jonathan Pushman, Sgt. Simpson, Patty Maillet and Vincent DeLucia presented to these two groups in the Spring to discuss the future needs of students and some of the plans, initiatives, programs and thoughts that NJSBA and we as individuals believe will help us meet the challenge of preparing all students for their futures.
- **ETS and the Education Law Center** co-sponsored a lecture I attended and represented Dr. Feinsod on educational justice for all and the role of foundations like Dodge.
- **Drive Web Technology**, who have offices in Middlesex County, designs and manufactures switches for automation and robots. In a pilot program, they met with John Henry, Sgt. Simpson and me with an interest to determine the role, if any, of that

technology in middle and high school engineering and coding programs. Drive Web is collaborating with North Brunswick to provide the professional development to teachers and administrators in this technology in order to provide hands-on classroom instructional experiences with it.

NJ State Library

John Henry and I met with the professional staff of the NJ State Library to identify potential collaborations, especially in iSTEAM. The collaborations will be not only between NJSBA and the Library, but also with districts.

NJ School Development Council

The NJSDC is a prestigious organization that has been providing exemplary professional development on leadership and school improvement topics for decades. They are associated with Rutgers and the Graduate School of Education. I serve on their executive board and have been elected vice-president of same. Dr. Feinsod and I have been discussing a relationship with the NJSDC to provide professional development opportunities that will benefit boards and districts in areas that we do not.

Mid Continent Research Education Lab

Since 1966 McREL has been a leader in education research that provides the resources to address school improvement challenges. Internationally known education researchers and practitioners like Robert Marzano and Tim Waters are among those whose work began with McREL. Their **Balanced Leadership Framework is** a resource for educators and boards to address school improvement. Having collaborated with them in prior districts, Dr. Feinsod and I have been discussing potential forums for them to share their work through the NJSBA since their prior NJ partner (EIRC) has ceased operations.

NJ Public School Labor Management Collaborative (Rutgers-Dr. Rubenstein)

Interest in the Collaboration Project continues. Earlier this summer, the professional development for the new participating districts began (see below). Training is a total of 5 days; two, two and one over a 3 month period.

- Atlantic County Institute of Technology
- Clearview
- Evesham
- Hawthorne
- Lower Cape May Regional
- Pompton Plains (Passaic)
- Ocean City
- South River
- Teaneck Community Charter Milltown
- Wanaque

Best Practices, Strategies and Tips for NJ Traditional Public and Charter Schools

On June 9th more than 60 traditional public and charter school educators attended a BEST PRACTICES forum to learn about six best practices: 3 from traditional public schools and 3 from charter schools. It was a marvelous means for colleagues to learn from each other. The agenda is attached.



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Best Practices, Strategies and Tips for NJ Traditional Public and Charter Schools

**June 9, 2017
NJM**

8:30-9 Continental Breakfast and Registration

9-9:15 Welcome
Dr. Lawrence Feinsod, Executive Director, NJSBA
Rick Pressler, Director of School Services,
New Jersey Charter Schools Association

9:15-10:15 Overviews

- Delran Township
- Greater Brunswick Charter School
- Mercer County Technical Schools
- Piscataway Township, 2017 National School Board Association Best Practice Magna Award Winner
- Philip's Academy Charter School
- Unity Charter School

10:15-11:30 Table Top Conversations

11:30 Closing Thoughts

QSAC – Commissioner Kimberly Harrington

In addition to the leadership of the other NJ education organizations, Dr. Feinsod and I participated in a dialogue with Commissioner Harrington regarding the revised QSAC indicators. Generally, the revisions will make the QSAC preparation process less labor intensive and fairer. However, the Dr. Feinsod recommendation to not specific the name of the state assessment (PARCC) in the indicators and instead use the generic term “state assessments” was both well received and reflective of a best practice to give a longer life to the latest set of indicators.

Governance III

In addition to the 2017-18 revision of this module to reflect the needs of students across the state, the 16-17 version was presented at three regional meetings in May as were Governances II and IV.

Miscellaneous

As a member of the NJSBA Staff PD Committee, we have been developing a needs assessment to determine the offerings and the best ways to provide PD to our staff.

Serving on the Interview/Search Committee for Director of Labor and Legal has been a good process to not only identify potential candidates to recommend, but to also identify solutions to some organizational challenges.

In June, in was my privilege to MC the 50th Anniversary celebration of one of the nation’s first middle schools that implemented professional learning communities, interdisciplinary academic teams and formal collaboration in 1967. More than 200 current and past staff and others reflected on this highly successful and innovative South Brunswick Crossroads Middle School including Willa Spicer, its founding principal (Dr. Fred Nadler) and Asst. Superintendent Joanne Kerekes. State Senator Linda Greenstein provided a proclamation recognizing this unique organization.

Legal and Labor Relations

June 7, 2017 to August 7, 2017

Legal and Labor Relations Services Department staff members provided the following **direct/onsite dues-based services** to boards of education:

- 6/12/17 – Robert Greitz – “You’re 18, Now What?” presented at Toms River High School South
- 6/13/17 – Robert Greitz – “You’re 18, Now What?” presented at Toms River High School North
- 7/17 – Ethics training Hopatcong, John Burns
- 8/7 - Personnel training Newark, Rob Greitz & Carl Tanksley

Dues-based **consultative services** included the following:

- Labor Relations received 29 school district contacts for comparative data during the June 7 to August 7 time period, 167 for the 2016-2017 fiscal year and 15 for the 2017-18 fiscal year to date – Sandy Raup

- Labor Relations has received 8 dues based salary guide analysis requests during the June 7 to June 30 time period; 83 total for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. We have analyzed 76 dues based salary guides during the 2016-2017 fiscal year. For the July 1 to August 7 time period, we have received 10 salary guide analysis requests and 3 have been completed.
- Labor Relations had received 1 request for contract analysis and consultations for the June 7 to June 30 time period; 89 total for the 2016-2017 fiscal year to date; 81 have been completed to date. We have received 42 contract analysis requests for the July 1 to August 7 time period; 4 have been completed to date.

Fee-based service activities include:

- Labor Relations salary guide billings for July \$2,497.50; August \$5,051.25; September \$3,117.90; October \$712.30; November \$6,670.74; December \$3,225.00; January \$4,674.77; February \$4,127.44; March \$6,174.94; April \$4,087.72; May \$6,000.00; June \$4,702.50 Total 2016 – 2017 fiscal year \$51,102.26; Budget for 2016-2017 – \$40,000.00. For the month of July 2017, salary guide billing was \$2,782.50.

The Department's activities in **training and programming** include the following:

- 6/8 – NJASBO Spring Conference – Voting Issues for Boards of Education – Mike Kaelber
- 6/14 – Spring School Law Forum – Cindy Harrison, Carl Tanksley, John Burns, Pat Duncan, Rob Greitz, Mike Kaelber
- 6/21 – Fundamentals of School Law – Rob Greitz, Carl Tanksley, John Burns, Mike Kaelber
- 7/14/17 – Patrick Duncan – NJLERA Meeting
- 7/31/17 – Robert Greitz and Charlene Peterson – Presented on Grievances at Lady Liberty Charter School
- 8/1/17 - Patrick Duncan and Kurt Rebovich presented on Salary Guide Construction and Analysis at NJASBO program.