

MINUTES
of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
November 20, 2015

The New Jersey School Boards Association Headquarters
Trenton, NJ

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MINUTES OF November 20, 2015
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MINUTES

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
THE NEW JERSEY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION HEADQUARTERS
TRENTON, NJ**

NOVEMBER 20, 2015

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held on Friday, November 20, 2015 at the New Jersey School Boards Association headquarters, Trenton, NJ.

Executive Committee members present were Donald Webster, Jr., president; Daniel Sinclair, vice president for county activities; Michael R. McClure, vice president for finance; Jason A. Jones, vice president for legislation/resolutions; John Bulina, Immediate Past President, and Dr. Lawrence S. Feinsod, executive director.

Association staff present were Frank Belluscio, deputy executive director/director of communications; Cynthia Jahn, Esq., general counsel; Vincent DeLucia, director of training & professional development; Ray Pinney, director of county activities & member engagement; Michael Vrancik, director of governmental relations; Joseph Hsieh, director of information technology; Jane Kershner, director of field services; Michael Kaelber, director of legal & labor relations services; Patty Maillet, director of business development; Kimberly Blum, director of human resources; Kristen Krulikowski, administrative/search assistant, and Ann Marie Smith, administrative assistant, executive office/communications.

The following members and alternates of the Board of Directors were present:

Atlantic	Not Represented	Somerset	Thomas Kasper
Bergen	Not Represented		Nick Hladick (Alt.)
Burlington	Jennifer Montone (Alt.)	Sussex	Ray Morris
Camden	Gail David		Anthony Fassano
	Naomi Davidson (Alt.)	Union	Helen E. Kirsch
Cape May	Andrea Olenik-Hipkins	Warren	Gusna Rutledge
Cumberland	Not Represented		
Essex	Shane Berger	County	
Gloucester	Peter Calvo	Association	
Hudson	Dr. Michael Baruch	Leadership	Cynthia Auberger
Hunterdon	Dr. John Kulick		Ginny Murphy (Alt.)
Mercer	Bruce Gunther		
Middlesex	Lucy Bloom	Urban Boards	George Cook
Monmouth	Cherie Adams (Alt.)		Jonathan Hodges, M.D., (Alt.)
Morris	Irene LeFebvre (Alt.)		Tafari Anderson
Ocean	Not Represented		
Passaic	Jeff Fischer	Vocational	Barbara Dawson
Salem	Not Represented		
		NSBA Rep.	Kevin Ciak

ROLL CALL

President Webster called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A roll call indicated five officers, 15 counties, urban boards, and county association leadership were represented.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

President Webster asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of the Paris and Mali tragedies.

FLAG SALUTE

President Webster led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MISSION STATEMENT

President Webster led the members in reciting the Association's Mission Statement.

RECOGNITION OF NEW MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES

President Webster recognized the following new board of director members and alternates: Pete Calvo, member, representing Gloucester County, and Nick Hladick, alternate, representing Somerset County.

OATH OF OFFICE

President Webster administered the Oath of Office to the following members: John Bulina, Peter Calvo, Kevin Ciak, Gail David, Barbara Dawson, Bruce Gunther, Nick Hladick, Andrea Olenik-Hipkins and Bruce Young

ACTION ITEMS

Consent Agenda Items

1. Approval of the Open Session Meeting Minutes of September 25, 2015
2. Approval of the NJSBA Legislative Committee appointments

*Mr. Kasper moved to **APPROVE** the Consent Agenda Items. The motion was duly seconded and carried, with two abstentions: John Bulina and Pete Calvo.*

OFFICERS' REPORTS

- *President* - Spoke at 7 County School Boards Association meetings; co-presented a program and panel discussion on collaboration and shared services at the NJSBA Workshop 2015 and League of Municipalities Annual Conference; participated in NSBA monthly conference calls for state association presidents on federal legislative updates, proposed NSBA Advocacy Institute and Equity Program, and public versus private enrollment, educational outcomes, and other related statistics.; participated in an iSteam Study Group meeting at NJSBA with representatives of DOE, Higher Education, local educations, and state legislative staff on professional development in iSteam; participated in the first annual Sustainable Jersey for Schools awards program during NJSBA Workshop 2015.
- *VP for County Activities* - County meeting attendance is up approximately 39 percent over the attendance during the same period last year; county meeting program topics included PARCC Assessments, new state curriculum standards, a question and answer session with State Commissioner of Education David Hespe, and declining enrollment.
- *VP for Finance* - Attended several county meetings, where presentations included the PARCC assessments, issues in labor relations and the Cadillac Tax. As of November 13, NJSBA has collected dues revenue from all but two districts, who have committed to paying by the end of November. Revenue from Workshop 2015 has exceeded the budget estimate.

- *VP for Legislation/Resolution* – The Senate Education Committee held a hearing on early childhood education, where NJSBA provided testimony based on its existing policy; the Joint Committee on the Public Schools heard testimony on mental health in public schools, during which NJSBA presented the recommendations included in the final reports of its Special Education and School Security Task Forces. NJSBA continues to roll out the “Phone-to-Advocacy” platform at county association meetings. Both State Education Committees met to consider a range of bills which were largely permissive and/or contained amendments sought by NJSBA. The Senate State Government Committee met to consider legislation that requires government records to be made available on the internet. The bill contains amendments sought by NJSBA, but is only conditionally supported by NJSBA due to no accompanying appropriation to cover costs to local districts. A meeting of the Legislative Committee, Urban Boards Committee, County Association Leadership and the Board of Directors to discuss the 2016-2017 Legislative Advocacy Agenda is planned for January.
- *Immediate Past President* – Participating on the NJ Standards Assessments Committee which is working on, among other issues, clarification for parents on what the standards and assessments meant to students.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Dr. Feinsod also provided an update on the NJSBA 2015-2017 Strategic Plan. The plan includes 17 objectives in four goal areas: student achievement; advocacy; training/direct services, and finances. A major activity, the reconstruction of NJSBA’s website, facilitates objectives in all areas. The new website is scheduled for completion in early 2016. A written progress report is appended to the minutes.

Advocacy

This fall, as part of the advocacy agenda, two efforts were initiated aimed at state policies that are hand-cuffing board member and paralyzing district operations. The first involves New Jersey’s Accountability Regulations. The regulations are scheduled to sunset in November 2016. In order to effect change, NJSBA has created a Task Force on New Jersey’s Accountability Regulations to review the regulations. The Task Force consists of staff and local school board members, as well as a consultant from the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials. The goal of the Task Force is the adoption of revised regulations that ensure responsible and efficient school operations, but without the red tape, administrative burden and expense.

The second involves the New Jersey School Ethics Commission. This year, the School Ethics Commission released dozens of opinions addressing board member conduct. Some of the Opinions paralyzed local board members and negatively impacted their ability to govern the schools. An increasing number of boards of education frequently has had to implement the Doctrine of Necessity. NJSBA has been reaching out to the Legislative leadership, the Department of Education and the Governor’s office to express the concerns of school board members. NJSBA’s goal is to bring the School Ethics Act back into context.

NJSBA has also set goals to raise the awareness of lawmakers and the public – and to advocate for change – in several key areas: seniority (last in, first out); the need for a special education cap adjustment; unfunded and under-funded mandates; pension reform; funds for technology, and Federal issues. Also NJSBA will not only define issues and lobby on proposed legislation, but will craft legislation and actively seek sponsors.

Michael Vrancik, director of Governmental Relations, provided a brief overview of the purpose of the NJSBA’s Legislative Advocacy Agenda and an update on its current status for 2015-2016 legislative session. The draft Agenda, submitted by the Legislative Committee, will be presented at a meeting of the Legislative Committee, Urban Boards Committee, County Association Leadership and the Board of Directors. Committee representatives will have the opportunity to review the proposed Agenda and make comments and suggestions.

Sustainability

NJSBA has made a commitment to advancing sustainable practices in school districts. Its efforts include a research study on the academic benefits of “greening” existing school buildings including training, consultative services and building partnerships with higher education, the state and federal government, and environmental groups, such as the U.S. Green Building Council.

NJSBA was recently honored by the council for its work with the New Jersey Department of Education on the Green Program of Study.

A new Sustainability Services program is being launched. It will feature a one-day Sustainable Practices Working Session to school district to enable them to identify where their school currently stands with their practices, assess gaps, and identify actions they can take to make their schools sustainable.

The response to the Sustainable Jersey for Schools program, launched at Workshop 2014, has far exceeded expectations. Within one year, more than 325 schools and over 130 school districts have registered with Sustainable Jersey for Schools. At Workshop 2015, 59 schools were recognized for earning certification.

WORKSHOP 2015 DEBRIEFING

Patty Maillet, director of Business Development, provided an update on Workshop 2015. led the members in an interactive session on what worked and what needs improvement at Workshop. The following is a summary of those comments.

WHAT WORKED

- Overall “Awesome”
- Repeated session topics (follow up session for keynotes)
- Highlights of Workshop sessions follow-up programs
- Irene and Shelly’s session
- App was great, especially the survey
- Sound much better in learning labs
- NJSBA Services Area – two thumbs up

NEEDS IMPROVEMENT

- Time in between sessions
- First keynote; seats were empty in the morning, move to early afternoon
- Not enough action labs to build credits
- Expand survey on mobile app
- Shuttles, long waits
- Place signs at sessions so participants don't miss any training programs or areas on the exhibit floor
- Distribute program book earlier (before Workshop)
- Larger room for legislative session
- Town Hall format with legislators/members interaction

INTERACTIVE SESSION

Dr. Feinsod facilitated a group discussion on how school districts are communicating the results of the PARCC assessments to parents and the community. Below is a list of some of the initiatives being taken:

- *Glassboro Board of Education (Gloucester) – Discussed aggregated results and put a link to Dr. Erlichson's presentation on the District website.*
- *Runnemede Board of Education (Camden) – planning a public forum with parents at next month's Board of Education meeting.*
- *Hopewell Valley Board of Education (Mercer) – Superintendent is going to the PTA to explain the results.*

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Calvo acknowledged his appreciation to the Officers for responding to his request for updates on specific initiatives be addressed at the meeting and encouraged other members to request what topics they would like to have addressed at future Board of Director meetings. He also requested that information on NJSBA committee and task force appointments be posted to the website and include the committee/task force charge.

Dr. Hodges encouraged NJSBA to work with school districts in finding a long-term solution to the education funding issue and to take a pro-active approach in presenting it to the legislature.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Ms. LeFebvre moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was duly seconded and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lawrence S. Feinsod, Ed.D.
Executive Director