

MINUTES  
of the  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
March 18, 2016

The New Jersey School Boards Association Headquarters  
Trenton, NJ

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MINUTES OF March 18, 2016  
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
NEW JERSEY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION  
TRENTON, NJ

March 18, 2016

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held on Friday, March 18, 2016 at the NJSBA headquarters, Trenton, NJ.

**Executive Committee members present were** Donald Webster, Jr., president; 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; Ray Pinney, director of county activities & member engagement; Kimberly Blum, director of human resources; Michael Vrancik, director of governmental relations; Joseph Hsieh, director of information technology; Michael Kaelber, director of legal & labor relations services; Fran Pullo, director of finance; Lauren Cuervo, marketing manager; 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	Diane Holzberg	Sussex	Ray Morris
	Bruce Young (Alt.)		Anthony Fassano
Burlington	Brandon Pugh (Alt.)	Union	Helen E. Kirsch
Camden	Gail David	Warren	Gusna Rutledge
Cape May	Andrea Olenik-Hipkins		
Cumberland	Treemanisha Stewart	County	
Essex	Shane Berger	Association	
Gloucester	Not Represented	Leadership	Ginny Murphy (Alt.)
Hudson	Dr. Michael Baruch		
Hunterdon	Laurie Markowski (Alt.)		
Mercer	Bruce Gunther	Urban Boards	George Cook
Middlesex	Lucy Bloom		Dr. Jonathan Hodges (Alt.)
Monmouth	Not Represented		Marsha Hershman
Morris	Irene LeFebvre (Alt.)		
Ocean	Not Represented	Vocational	Barbara Dawson
Passaic	Jeff Fischer		
Salem	Not Represented	NSBA Rep.	Kevin Ciak

Non-Board members present: Richard Snyder

**ROLL CALL**

President Webster called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A roll call indicated four officers, 16 counties, urban boards, county association leadership and vocational boards were represented.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

President Webster asked for a moment of silence in recognition of those individuals dealing with the severe weather across the country.

## **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.

## **OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Richard Snyder expressed his desire to see the NJSBA take some action on the issue of lead found in some schools' water systems.

## **RECOGNITION OF NEW MEMBERS AND OATH OF OFFICE**

President Webster administered the Oath of Office to Treemanisha Steward, new member representing Cumberland County.

## **RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION**

*Ms. LeFebvre moved to APPROVE the resolution to enter into closed session to discuss the Executive Director's contract. The motion was duly seconded and carried.*

The Board entered into closed session at 7:15 p.m.

*Ms. LeFebvre moved to APPROVE the motion to go back into open session. The motion was duly seconded and carried.*

The Board entered back into open session at 7:30 p.m.

## **NJSBA 2016-2017 BUDGET**

Members received a presentation on the 2016-2017 budget, the highlights of which include:

- Does not increase dues, for the 7th consecutive year
- Maintains dues-based services
- Decreases reliance on dues by increasing non-dues revenue through initiatives such as the Corporate Partners Program, Workshop sponsorships, and support for county associations and training through ELFNJ.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **Roll Call Agenda Items**

1. Executive Director's contract.

*Ms. Dawson moved to APPROVE the Executive Director's contract. The motion was duly seconded and carried. Vote was unanimous.*

2. NJSBA 2016-2017 budget.

*Mr. Fischer moved to APPROVE the 2016-2017 budget. The motion was duly seconded and carried. Vote was unanimous.*

3. GO/4133.2 and GO/8260 – Reimbursement Policy

*Mr. Kasper moved to APPROVE the first reading and waive the second reading of the revisions to GO/4133.2 and GO/8260 reimbursement policies. The motion was duly seconded and carried. Vote was unanimous.*

### **Consent Agenda Items**

1. Resolution of Support for John Bulina's candidacy for a seat on the NSBA Board of Directors as a representative from the Northeast Region.
2. Open session minutes of February 5, 2016
3. Closed session minutes of February 5, 2016
4. Second reading of the Governance and Operations policy numbers 4020, 4111, 4111.1 and 4111.3 – personnel policies
5. Legislative Committee appointments

*Mr. Fischer moved to APPROVE the consent Agenda Items. The motion was duly seconded and carried.*

### **OFFICERS' REPORTS**

Received an update on activities from the NJSBA President, Vice President for Finance and Immediate Past President:

*President* – Represented school board members from around the state at the Governor's FY 2017 Budget Address. NJSBA Executive Committee agreed to sell the solar Renewal Energy Credits generated by the solar panels on the roof of the building at 413 West State Street resulting in approximately \$30,000 in revenue.

*Immediate Past President* – Participated in the March 2016 New Board Member Orientation weekend funded by the Education Testing Services. Invited to a U.S. Army-sponsored trip to Washington, DC, with John Henry, NJSBA steam & sustainable schools specialist, to tour Arlington National Cemetery, the Pentagon and Aberdeen Proving Grounds.

*VP for Legislation/Resolutions* – Acknowledged the members of the NJSBA Legislative Committee, Mike Vrancik, NJSBA director of Governmental Relations and the GR staff for their work and continued support. Attended the NJSBA technology conference, which was very successful. NJSBA Resolution Subcommittee received eight resolutions for consideration by the Delegate Assembly in May.

*VP for Finance* – Acknowledged Fran Pullo, director of Finance, and his staff for their work on the 2016-2017 budget. Reported that the Educational Leadership Foundation of New Jersey held a trustee meeting on Monday, March 14. The Foundation staff's fundraising efforts are going very well. Thanked the Board of Directors for its support of the 2016-2017 budget and the Audit Committee for its approval of the 2016-2017 audit firm.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Dr. Feinsod reported on the following:

1. During the State Board of Education meeting on March 2 Dr. Feinsod, Commissioner Hespe and the New Jersey Institute of Technology President Joel Bloom announced the Future Ready Schools – New Jersey Project. The program will be a partnership among NJSBA, the New Jersey DOE and NJIT. The program will be launched at Workshop 2016. Future Ready Schools will recognize district efforts to effectively use technology in teaching and learning;
2. Sustainable Jersey for Schools program membership stands at 428 schools in 161 districts, representing 28% of the state's school districts;

3. On March 1, Commissioner Hespe, Assistant Commissioner Bob Bumpus and top officials of the New Jersey DOE's Office of School Preparedness and Emergency Planning visited NJSBA to discuss school security concerns. The discussion focused on the need to expand training in school security to all stakeholders, including board members, parents and school district staff. NJSBA is planning to incorporate a module on the local board's role in school security into its online Governance training.
4. On June 3, NJSBA will conduct a "School Security and Student Safety Conference" at Mercer County College. Commissioner Hespe and Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, chair of the Assembly Education Committee, will be featured speakers;
5. Assembly Speaker Vincent Prieto and Assemblyman Nicholas Chiavalloti participated in the March 7 Hudson County SBA meeting. On March 9, Assemblywoman Sheila Oliver (former Speaker) and Assemblywoman Mila Jasey participated in the Essex County SBA meeting.
6. Acknowledged Anthony Fasano, member, Hopatcong Board of Education and alternate member of the board of directors, representing Sussex County for addressing the students and other participants at the "Unsung Heroes" recognition program at the Middlesex County SBA meeting on March 2.
7. Attended 16 county meetings, with re-visits to four. During the spring will attend meetings in the remaining five counties.
8. The U.S. Army is providing a grant of \$20,000 for the iSTEAM Command Center at Workshop 2016, that is up from \$10,000 last year; ETS again sponsored NJSBA's weekend New Board Member Orientation in March, a \$40,000 value; and New Jersey Schools Insurance Group will also increase their sponsorship of Workshop from \$10,000 to \$20,000.
9. Met with Mark Biedron, State Board president, to discuss the School District Accountability Regulations, which will sunset in November. On February 11, addressed the State Board's Strategic Planning Committee to present NJSBA's perspective on the direction of public education, stressing the need to preserve local authority, character education, and STEAM education.
10. On Thursday, March 17, NJSBA hosted a cutting edge program on an issue that is just now being embraced by the corporate sector, "Hidden Bias: Gender, Race and Zip Code."

### **ADVOCACY UPDATE**

The advocacy updated included a report on the progress of the following legislation/issues: funding disparity, requiring full-day kindergarten, expanding pre-k, school security, adjustment of some school aid numbers, pension underfunding and the proposed constitutional amendment requiring the state to fully fund the pension on a quarterly basis.

Several NJSBA-supported initiatives are moving in the Legislature, including the creation of a Class III police officer designation, designed for school security. S-86/A-1244 passed the Senate 38-0 on March 14 but has not yet been considered by the Assembly. This bill would give school districts an alternative to School Resource Officers. The Class III officers would receive training, similar to that of an SRO, in working with students, and like SROs would report to the Chief of Police. The Class III officers would be drawn from the ranks of qualified retired law enforcement officials. Any use of law enforcement in the schools is at the sole discretion of the board of education. This bill would provide a cost-saving option for boards that believe a law enforcement presence would be a valuable addition to the education program, as well as student safety.

The new NJSBA Website was previewed highlighting the following:

- Easier navigation
- Information will be much more accessible to members
- Clearly illustrates NJSBA's purpose and mission to the public.
- Projected to launch at the end of this month

### **INTERACTIVE SESSION - *Accountability Regulations***

The School District Accountability Regulations (N.J.A.C. 6A:23A) will sunset in November. Currently, the NJSBA Accountability Regulations Task Force, formed late last year, is reviewing the regulations, which were first adopted in 2008. The Task Force's charge includes the development of proposed revisions to the regulations that will ensure responsible and efficient operations without red tape, administrative burden, and additional expense. The Task Force will survey school business administrators, superintendents and board presidents about the impact of the regulations on their districts.

In an effort to draw on Board of Directors' experience, Dr. Feinsod facilitated a group discussion on how the following provisions impacted the board members' respective districts:

1. **CSA SALARY CAP:** Establishes maximum salaries for superintendents based on district enrollment, with stipends allowed for a shared superintendent position and overseeing a district with a high school. This provision also allows bonuses for achievement merit goals.
  - Lost a superintendent the district was all set to hire, now starting the superintendent search all over.
  - Took two superintendent searches to find a qualified candidate.
2. **NEPOTISM:** Requires school boards to adopt policies addressing employment of "relative" and "immediate family member" that are different than those in the School Ethics Act and sets limits on board member participation in hiring and negotiations.
  - Confusing because most of it comes from the ethics commission, who keeps expanding the definition of who is included.
3. **TRAVEL/TRAINING REIMBURSEMENT:** Governs board member travel and professional development, including a 50-mile-from-conference-site limit for reimbursement of overnight travel expenses.
  - Would like to attend more training but very limited without being able to stay overnight because of the limit on mileage for overnight stay.
  - Mileage cut-off is too arbitrary
  - Too restrictive with having to get preapproval from the board.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Member requested a review of the new Master Board Member test, citing that it was very difficult and did not reflect the content of the training sessions.
- Request for NJSBA to consider in discussions with legislators a system of rewards for districts that do their due diligence and come in under the 2 percent levy cap.

## **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 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lawrence S. Feinsod, Ed.D.  
Executive Director