

MINUTES
of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
September 30, 2016

The New Jersey School Boards Association Headquarters
Trenton, NJ

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2016
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS
NEW JERSEY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION
TRENTON, NJ

September 30, 2016

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held on Friday, September 30, 2016 at the NJSBA headquarters, Trenton, NJ.

Executive Committee members present were Donald Webster, Jr., president; Dan Sinclair, vice president for county activities; Jason A. Jones, vice president for legislation/resolutions; Michael R. McClure, vice president for finance; 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; Michael Vrancik, director of governmental relations; Joseph Hsieh, director of information technology; Michael Kaelber, director of legal & labor relations services; Jane Kershner, director of field services; Ray Pinney, director of county activities & member engagement; Patty Maillet, director of business development; 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		Robert Morrison (Alt.)
Bergen	Diane Holzberg	Sussex	Ray Morris
	Bruce Young (Alt.)		Anthony Fassano (Alt.)
Burlington	Jennifer Montone	Union	Helen E. Kirsch
Camden	Not Represented	Warren	Not Represented
Cape May	Andrea Olenik-Hipkins		
Cumberland	Treemanisha Stewart	County	
Essex	Not Represented	Association	
Gloucester	Not Represented	Leadership	Cynthia Auberger
Hudson	Dr. Michael Baruch		Ginny Murphy (Alt.)
Hunterdon	Charles Miller (Alt.)		
Mercer	Not Represented		
Middlesex	Lucy Bloom	Urban Boards	Marsha Hershman
Monmouth	Cherie Adams (Alt.)		Tafari Anderson
Morris	Michael Scarneo (Alt.)		William Monk (Alt.)
Ocean	Ben Giovine		Jonathan Hodges, MD (Alt.)
	John Barton (Alt.)		
Passaic	Jeff Fischer	Vocational	Anthony Wilcox (Alt.)
Salem	Eileen Miller		
	Dominick Miletta (Alt.)	NSBA Rep.	Kevin Ciak
Somerset	Thomas Kasper		

ROLL CALL

President Webster called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A roll call indicated five (5) officers, 15 counties, urban boards, county association leadership and vocational boards were represented.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

President Webster asked for a moment of silence to remember the victims of Hurricane Matthew.

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 addressed the two school aid reform proposals, which were put forth by Governor Christie and State Senate President Steve Sweeney. He said he is particularly concerned about the impact of the governor's proposal on economically challenged students. Mr. Snyder urged NJSBA to generate awareness about the proposals and that we are in a school funding crisis.

RECOGNITION OF NEW MEMBERS AND OATH OF OFFICE

The following new alternate members were recognized: Charles Miller, Hunterdon County; Mike Scarneo, Morris County; John Barton, Ocean County; Robert Morrison, Somerset County and Anthony Wilcox, Vocational Boards of Education.

President Webster administered the Oath of Office to all officers, members and alternates present.

The following member was recognized for being elected to the member position from the alternate position: Ben Giovine, Ocean County. The following members were recognized for being re-elected to their office for their first full term or to serve a second term: Eileen Miller, member, Salem County; Dominick Miletta, alternate, Salem County; Ray Morris, member, Sussex County; Anthony Fasano, alternate, Sussex County and Helen Kirsch, member, Union County.

CODE OF CONDUCT

President Webster informed members and alternates that they are required to read and sign a Code of Conduct form each year. Members were asked to complete the form and return it to Cyndy Jahn or Ann Marie.

REPORT OF THE TASK FORCE TO STUDY NJSBA GOVERNANCE

President Webster reported on the final report of the Task Force to Study NJSBA Governance. In April 2016, he appointed the six-member group to review Association *Bylaws* provisions concerning an individual's eligibility to serve in NJSBA positions, including Officer, Board of Directors member and county association leader, when running for a partisan political office. NJSBA is a non-partisan organization which must work with elected officials from both political parties, he explained.

President Webster told the board that the task force recommended that a *Bylaws* amendment requiring board members step down from state and county association office at the time they announce candidacy for another office.

The recommended changes will be presented to the Delegate Assembly on December 10.

Jeff Fischer, Passaic County delegate, asked for clarification concerning application of the proposed restriction to party chairs—that is, if a board member would have to step down if he or she sought office as a state, county or municipal party chair, or if the restriction would apply only to the state and county level positions. Mr. Webster indicated that the Task Force recommended that the proposed *Bylaws* provision apply only to county and state party chair positions.

The task force's recommendations will be presented to the December 10 Delegate Assembly.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent Agenda Items

1. Closed session minutes of May 13, 2016 meeting
2. Open session minutes of May 13, 2016 meeting
3. Legislative Committee appointments

Two amendments to both the Open and Closed session minutes were proposed concerning the following: (1) The spelling of the first name of Marsha Hershman should be corrected, and (2) Andrea Olenik-Hipkins was incorrectly listed as participating in the May 13 meeting, but was not present at the May 13 meeting.

Mr. Kasper moved to APPROVE the closed session minutes of the May 13, 2016 meeting as amended. The motion was duly seconded and carried.

Ms. Hershman moved to APPROVE the open session minutes of the May 13, 2016 meeting as amended. The motion was duly seconded and carried.

Abstentions: Ms. Hipkins, Mr. Giovine, Mr. Barton, Ms. Bloom, Mr. Fischer and Ms. Montone.

Roll-Call Agenda Items

1. Approval of Extension of Payment of dues for BOD Members' Boards

Ms. Holzberg moved to APPROVE the extension of payment of dues for BOD Members' Boards. The motion was duly seconded and carried. Vote was unanimous.

2. Approval of the ACES grant request from ELFNJ.

Ms. Kirsch moved to APPROVE the ACES grant request from ELFNJ in the amount of \$35,000 for fiscal year 2016-17 to cover the costs of the county meetings through December 31, 2016. The motion was duly seconded and carried. Vote was unanimous.

3. Approval of the following GO/4000 Series Personnel Policies: GO/4113.1 Official Office Hours; 4113.11 Flextime; 4113.12 Compressed Workweek; 4113.13 Telecommuting; 413.2 Inclement Weather/Emergency Closings; 4117 Termination of Employment.

Mr. Kasper moved to APPROVE the 1st reading, waive the 2nd reading, on the revisions to GO Policy numbers 4113.1, 4113.11, 4113.12, 4113.13; 4113.2 and 4117. The motion was duly seconded and carried. Vote was unanimous.

ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REPRESENTATIVES TO THE 2017-2019 NJSBA NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Background: Article X, Section 3 of the *Bylaws* of our Association requires that the Nominating Committee be established prior to the Annual Delegates Meeting.

Article X, Section 3 of the *Bylaws* states that the Nominating Committee shall consist of the following persons selected in the following order:

- (1) Four members of the Board of Directors, one from each of the geographical areas of the state as defined in Article X, Section 15, shall be elected by the Board of Directors. Each Board of Directors member selected by the Urban Boards Committee or the President shall participate in the election of the Board of Directors members of the Nominating Committee by deliberating with the Board of Directors members from the geographical area in which his or her local board is located;
- (2) Four persons, one from each of the geographical areas of the state as defined in Article X, Section 15, shall be elected by the county school board association presidents;
- (3) Four persons shall be appointed at large by the President with the advice and consent of the Board of Directors;

The geographical areas specified in Article X, Section 15 are:

- Northwest Area – Counties of Hunterdon, Morris, Somerset, Sussex and Warren;
- Northeast Area – Counties of Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Passaic and Union;
- Central Areas – Counties of Burlington, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean;
- Southern Area – Counties of Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem.

Committee members shall be appointed/elected for a two-year term and shall hold office until their respective successors have been appointed or elected. Vacancies among the members of the Committee shall be filled for the unexpired term in the same manner by which the original appointments were made.

No two members of the Nominating Committee, excluding the President and Immediate Past President, shall represent boards of education in the same county.

The Board of Directors broke into four groups, according to geographical area, to select representatives to the 2017-2019 Nominating Committee. Following their deliberations, President Webster read the names of their selections:

- Northwest Area: *Cynthia Auberger, Vernon Township Board of Education, Sussex County*
- Northeast Area: *Jeff Fischer, Halden Board of Education, Passaic County*
- Central Area: *Ben Giovine, Toms River Regional Board of Education, Ocean County*
- Southern Area: *Andrea Olenik-Hipkins, Upper Township Board of Education, Cape May County*

OFFICERS' REPORTS

The Board of Directors received updates on activities from the NJSBA President, Vice Presidents and Immediate Past President:

Vice President for County Activities – Mr. Sinclair highlighted his attendance at several of the county school board association planning meetings that took place this summer. The discussion at these meetings focused on how to make the county meetings more relevant to the membership. He also highlighted the new programs offered this year, for example, technology and merit goals. Mr. Sinclair thanked Ray Pinney and the county coordinators, Marcia Lavigne and Patti Reese, for their hard work in making the county meetings a success.

Vice President for Finance – Mr. McClure reported that the Audit Committee will recommend that the Board of Directors approve the 2015-2016 audit at the November meeting. We received an unmodified opinion (a clean audit) from the auditor, Suplee, Cooney & Co. Mr. McClure thanked Kathy Shambe, manager of general accounting, and the Finance Department staff for their work. He also reported on the ELFNJ Trustees meeting and provided an update on the most recent corporate donations and their importance in supporting the county meetings.

Vice President for Legislation/Resolutions – Mr. Jones reported on the September 17 Legislative Committee meeting. He also reported on the legislative updates provided by the Governmental Relations staff at county meetings. He thanked the GR staff for their hard work over the summer organizing legislative district meetings with state Senators and Assembly Representatives throughout the state.

Immediate Past President – Mr. Bulina reported on NJSBA’s unique relationship with the U.S. Army, which advances STEAM education in New Jersey schools. The relationship has been recognized by the U.S. Army leadership as a national model.

President – Mr. Webster acknowledged GR staff on the success of their meetings over the summer with the state legislators. Mr. Webster felt NJSBA got the word out about what it supports and the legislators were very receptive.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

As part of his report, Dr. Feinsod introduced Donna Drewes, co-director of The Sustainability Institute at the The College of New Jersey. Ms. Drewes provided an update on Sustainable Jersey for Schools, including membership, certification standards and new initiatives. Her presentation will be made available on the Board of Directors’ webpage.

Dr. Feinsod also reported on the following:

- The Association’s position on the two proposed state aid reform proposals, which included making our position known to the Governor’s office, the state legislative leadership and the state department of education;
- The progress toward meeting the goals of the 2015-2017 Strategic Plan through the following activities:
 - A video and discussion program presented at county meetings on the local school board’s role in advancing student achievement;
 - The relationship NJSBA has built over the past two years with a wide range of organizations within the education community, in higher education and in the business and non-profit sectors;
 - The establishment of a “symbiotic” relationship with the United States Army;
 - The collaborative project with school district labor and management organizations in conjunction with Rutgers University, which was awarded a \$113,000 grant from the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Services, which is dedicated to building productive relationships through joint problem-solving and constructive activities;
 - The development of printed resources, such as the recent publication *Fundamentals of School Board Membership*;
 - Ensuring the relevancy of training; strengthening partnerships and building new ones;
 - Supporting advocacy at the local and county levels, and becoming a resource on

educational policy decisions for state leaders.

- Dr. Feinsod asked Michael Vrancik, director of governmental relations, to provide an update on the Association's advocacy efforts. Mr. Vrancik addressed NJSBA's position on current school funding proposals and its interaction with the Governor's office, the State legislative leadership and the New Jersey Department of Education on numerous educational issues.
- At Dr. Feinsod's request, Patty Maillet, director of business development, provided an update on Workshop 2016. NJSBA has met all financial and programmatic goals for the upcoming conference. Ms. Maillet noted that current efforts are focusing on promoting attendance at the event.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Miller reported that the new Acting Commissioner of Education, Kimberly Harrington, visited her school district, Woodstown-Pilesgrove Regional. It was the first school district the acting commissioner visited after taking office.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, *Ms. Miller moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was duly seconded and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,



Lawrence S. Feinsod, Ed.D.
Executive Director