

MINUTES
of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
January 20, 2017

The New Jersey School Boards Association Headquarters
Trenton, NJ

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MINUTES OF JANUARY 20, 2017
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS
NEW JERSEY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION
TRENTON, NJ

January 20, 2017

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held on Friday, January 20, 2017 at the NJSBA 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; Michael Vrancik, director of governmental relations; Jane Kershner, director of field services; Ray Pinney, director of county activities & member engagement; Vincent DeLucia, director of training and educator-in-residence; Michael Kaelber, director of legal and labor relations services; John Faford, director of finance; Kimberly Blum, director of human resources; Kristen Krulikowski, administrative/search assistant, and Ann Marie Smith, executive administrative assistant, executive office/communications.

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

Atlantic	Not Represented	Somerset	Not Represented
Bergen	Diane Holzberg	Sussex	Ray Morris
Burlington	Brandon Pugh (Alt.)		Anthony Fasano
Camden	Not Represented	Union	Helen Kirsch
Cape May	Andrea Olenik-Hipkins	Warren	Christy Tighe (Alt.)
Cumberland	Treemanisha Stewart		
Essex	Not Represented	County	
Gloucester	Not Represented	Association	
Hudson	Michael Baruch, MD	Leadership	Cynthia Auberger
Hunterdon	Laurie Markowski		Ginny Murphy
Mercer	Not Represented		
Middlesex	Lucy Bloom	Urban Boards	George Cook
Monmouth	Mark Bonjavanni		Marsha Hershman
Morris	Irene LeFebvre		William Monk (Alt.)
	Michael Scarneo (Alt.)		Jonathan Hodges, MD (Alt.)
Ocean	John Barton		
Passaic	Jeff Fischer	Vocational	Not Represented
Salem	Eileen Miller		
	Dominick Miletta	NSBA Rep.	Not Represented

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 for the continued success of public education.

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 requested that, during the course of the meeting, NJSBA provide clarification on the three proposed school funding formulas, their impact, and what the NJSBA is doing to influence these proposals and keep its members informed on the status of each.

OATH OF OFFICE

President Webster administered the Oath of Office to Irene LeFebvre, member representing Morris County, and Brandon Pugh, alternate member representing Burlington County.

RECOGNITION OF RETIRING MEMBERS

President Webster recognized Tom Kasper, retiring member representing Somerset County, who was not present at the meeting. Mr. Webster acknowledged Mr. Kasper's dedication to the students of his school district and his service to the New Jersey School Boards Association.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent Agenda Items

1. Open session minutes of November 18, 2016 meeting
2. Legislative Committee appointments
3. Resolution Subcommittee nominations
4. At-Large Appointment to the Nominating Committee

President Webster asked for a motion to approve the open session minutes of November 18, 2016.

Ms. Holzberg moved to APPROVE the minutes of the November 18, 2016 meeting. The motion was duly seconded and carried. Abstentions: Mr. Pugh, Ms. LeFebvre, Ms. Olenik-Hipkins, and Ms. Kirsch.

President Webster asked for a motion to approve the 2017 Legislative Committee appointments.

Ms. LeFebvre moved to APPROVE the Legislative Committee appointments. The motion was duly seconded and carried.

President Webster asked for a motion to approve James Gaffney, Oakland Board of Education, Bergen County, as the at-large member from the Northeast Region for the NJSBA Nominating Committee.

Background: In accordance with Bylaws Article X, Section 3, a(3), four at-large members of the Nominating Committee are appointed by the President, with the advice and consent of the Board of Directors. At its November 18, 2016 meeting, the Board of Directors approved the following at-large members:

Northwest: Susy Golderer, Parsippany-Troy Hills, Morris (At-large)
Northeast: Bruce Young, Carlstadt, Bergen (At-large)
Central: Chanta Jackson, Neptune, Monmouth (At-Large)
Southern: Dominic Miletta, Pittsgrove Twp., Salem (At-large)

Due to unforeseen circumstance, Bruce Young is not able to serve. President Webster has recommended James Gaffney, Oakland Board of Education, Bergen County, to fill the vacant position.

Mr. Fischer moved to APPROVE the at-large appointment to the Nominating Committee. The motion was duly seconded and carried. Abstentions: Mr. Pugh, Ms. Tighe, Mr. Bonjavanni, Mr. Fasano, Mr. Sinclair, Mr. McClure and Mr. Jones.

REPORT OF THE NJSBA NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Ms. Jahn, NJSBA general counsel, reported that eight petitions were filed for NJSBA officer positions: three for president; two for vice president for county activities; two for vice president for legislation/resolutions, and one for vice president for finance.

Ms. Jahn also reported that in anticipation of the election of officers at the May 2017 Delegate Assembly, Board of Director members are being asked to complete an electronic survey on the qualifications for the NJSBA president. Members will be asked to choose the characteristics they feel are important for the new president to possess. Board members will be emailed the survey link electronically.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

The Board of Directors received written updates on activities from the NJSBA President, Vice Presidents and Immediate Past President. Below are the highlights of the reports made by the President, Vice Presidents and Immediate Past President during the meeting.

President – Mr. Webster reported on his attendance at the State Board of Education meeting, at which he and Dr. Feinsod accepted, on behalf of the NJSBA membership, a resolution proclaiming January as “School Board Member Recognition Month” in New Jersey. The resolution, read by state board member Edith Fulton, notes the many hours, hard work and dedication exhibited by volunteer local school board members across the state. Mr. Webster and Dr. Feinsod thanked the members of the state board, in particular President Mark Biedron and Vice President Joseph Fisicaro, for their efforts on behalf of public education.

Vice President for Legislation/Resolutions – Mr. Jones reported that the state Legislature is at the mid-point of the 2016-2017 legislative sessions and NJSBA is tracking 1,495 bills. Of the 1,495 bills being tracked, 20 have become law, and another eight tracked bills are pending executive branch review. Notable bills passed include concepts recommended by NJSBA’s Special Education and School Security Task Forces. Mr. Jones thanked the Governmental Relations Department staff for all their hard work.

Mr. Jones also reported that the National School Boards Association’s Advocacy Institute is scheduled for January 29-31 and the Equity Symposium is scheduled for January 28. Mr. Jones, the NJSBA officers and Dr. Feinsod will be attending, as well as some Board of Director Members.

Finance – Mr. McClure reported that John Faford, NJSBA director of finance, and the NJSBA staff worked very hard on the budget for the next fiscal year. He and Dr. Feinsod are very pleased with the outcome. The 2017-2018 budget will be presented to the Board of Directors for approval at the March 3 meeting. Mr. McClure also commented on the success of the new Board Member Orientation Weekend held on January 6-8.

Immediate Past President – Mr. Bulina reported that he and President Webster attended the Menorah and Tree Lighting ceremony at the Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (JBMDL). Mr. Bulina, along with President Webster and Executive Director Larry Feinsod, attended a tour and meeting of the 87th Air Support Squadron and Military Family Support Center at the JBMDL. The hope is that NJSBA will be able to develop a relationship with the Air Squadron similar to the relationship that it has with the U.S. Army. Mr. Bulina also represented NJSBA at the presentation of the STEAM Tank Challenge trophy and cash award to the DeMasi Middle School in Evesham Township. The awards were donated by the U.S. Army.

Vice President for County Activities – Mr. Sinclair reported that at the December 6 Bergen County meeting, the New Jersey School Board Member of the Year, Sheli Dansky, was honored for her service to education. Mr. Sinclair commented that Sheli is very deserving of this award. More than 125 members attended the ceremony.

The New Board Member Orientation weekend, held January 6-8, was a great success. As a follow-up, on February 4 there will be a joint program on leadership facilitated by both the Field Services and County Activities/Member Engagement Departments. The “Leadership Conference,” will be held in three regional locations simultaneously.

Mr. Sinclair concluded his report by saying that in the current political climate, education is under siege. It is more important now than ever for board of education members to receive the training and information they need to be effective educational leaders. He encouraged the members to motivate their colleges to attend county school boards association meetings.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

At the last Board of Directors meeting, Dr. Feinsod reported on Mr. Fischer’s successful challenge to a 2007 statute that, up to now, has been interpreted as prohibiting a person from simultaneously serving on the school boards of an elementary school district and a high school regional school district. The Superior Court judge issued the decision favorable to Mr. Fischer. Before beginning his report, Dr. Feinsod read from Judge Redden’s written decision in which he states, “We need school boards. It goes to the heart of the education of the youth here in New Jersey. We ask these people who are going to fill these school board positions, to do it without pay. Very rarely are they thanked for what they do, I’m sure they are often criticized for what they do.”

Dr. Feinsod reported on the following Association activities: NJSBA’s testimony on the Accountability Regulations before the NJDOE on January 9 and 11; an update on NJSBA’s impact on recent legislation, including the creation of a new category of law enforcement officers, Class III officers, recommended by the NJSBA School Security Task Force, and the new law creating a Response to Intervention (RTI) initiative in the Department of Education, recommended by the NJSBA Task Force on Special Education; a new effort with the New Jersey Department of education, “Finding, Buying and Saving Technology for Schools,” the goal of which is to help local boards of education procure the technological equipment they need for 21st century education programs; the NJSBA’s relationship with the U.S. Army to advance STEAM education, which resulted in one of the most successful features at Workshop 2016, the STEAM

Tank Challenge; new projects such as regional leadership training and a new podcast series titled, “School Law Today;” and the State Board of Education’s recognition of the 16th annual School Board Recognition Month.

Advocacy Update – Michael Vrancik, director of governmental relations, reported that there have been several hearings on the proposed new school funding formulas. NJSBA has been actively educating the legislature on what the current school funding formula was intended to do, how it was supposed to operate and the impact of the three proposed reforms.

Mr. Vrancik explained in detail the three proposals and their impact. He addressed the concern over the Governor’s attempt to implement his “fairness formula” as part of the state budget, which will be released at the end of February. If the Governor does this, there is the possibility that one or both houses of the Legislature would file an injunction questioning the authority of the Governor to use the budget as a means to change a law declared constitutional by the state Supreme Court. School business officials have talked about the possibility that some of their business administrators might prepare two budgets: one which assumes a hold-harmless level of state aid, and another that represents the proposed “fairness formula.”

The Senate Select Committee on School Funding Fairness, a bipartisan commission charged with examining the state’s current school funding system and recommending any necessary reforms, is planning several hearings across the state. The committee will receive testimony from invited guests and from members of the public on inequities in school funding in New Jersey.

The Assembly Education Committee has announced its second public hearing on the issue of school funding. The committee will receive testimony from members of the public regarding the “School Funding Reform Act of 2008” and other matters related to education funding in the state. The committee held its first public hearing on school funding at the State House in Trenton on Jan. 18. The NJSBA testified at that hearing along with representatives from various educational organizations. The committee is expected to hold two more hearings in the near future, one each in the central and southern regions of the state.

NJSBA also testified on the accountability regulations and the proposed charter school regulations. NJSBA will also have an opportunity to address federal funding issues when representatives visit Washington D.C. for the NSBA Advocacy Institute.

INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION

Members shared various technological initiatives taking place in their districts including digital learning, computer equipment for students and social media programs to communicate with parents. In addition, there appears to be a need for additional professional development for teachers in the use of technology.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

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 8:47 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence S. Feinsod

Lawrence S. Feinsod, Ed.D.
Executive Director

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2017\Drafts\1-20-17 Minutes – BOD (full)