

MINUTES
of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

January 26, 2018
7 p.m.

The New Jersey School Boards Association Headquarters
Trenton, NJ

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MINUTES OF JANUARY 26, 2018
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS
NEW JERSEY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION
TRENTON, NJ

January 26, 2018
7 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held on Friday, January 26, 2018 at the NJSBA headquarters, Trenton, NJ.

Executive Committee members present were Daniel Sinclair, president; Christy Tighe, vice president for county activities; Mike McClure, vice president for finance; Brandon Pugh, vice president for legislation/resolutions; Donald Webster, immediate past president, and Dr. Lawrence 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; Vincent DeLucia, director of training and professional development/educator-in-residence; Carl Tanksley, director of legal and labor relations services; John Faford, director of budget and finance; Ray Pinney, director of member engagement; Kimberly Blum, director of human resources; Billie Barnett, member services representative; and Ann Marie Smith, executive administrative assistant, executive office/communications.

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

Atlantic	Dr. Anne Erickson	Somerset	Robert Morrison
Bergen	Not Represented	Sussex	Ray Morris
Burlington	Jennifer Montone		Anthony Fasano
Camden	Gail David	Union	Helen Kirsch
Cape May	Andrea Olenik-Hipkins	Warren	Gus Rutledge
Cumberland	Not Represented		Paul Williams (Alt.)
Essex	Sandra Mordecai		
Gloucester	Peter Calvo	County	Ginny Murphy
	Karen Vick (Alt.)	Association	Judith Amorim Dias (Alt.)
Hudson	Dr. Michael Baruch	Leadership	
	Matthew Cheng (Alt.)		
Hunterdon	Not Represented	Urban Boards	Dr. Jonathan Hodges (Alt.)
Mercer	Gregory Stankiewicz		Marsha Hershman
	Anthony Messina (Alt.)		William Monk (Alt.)
Middlesex	Lucy Bloom		Sudhan Thomas
Monmouth	Cherie Adams		Diane Johnson (Alt.)
Morris	Irene LeFebvre		
	Michael Scarneo	Vocational	Barbara Dawson
Ocean	Not Represented		Anthony Wilcox (Alt.)
Passaic	Jeff Fischer		
	Nancy Schwartz (Alt.)	NSBA Rep.	Kevin Ciak
Salem	Eileen Miller		
	Dominick Miletta (Alt.)		

Guests: Patti Pawling, former president, Cynthia Auberger, George Cook, Michael Heller, Treemanisha Stewart and Lisa Weinstock.

ROLL CALL

President Sinclair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A roll call indicated five officers, 17 counties, urban boards, vocational boards and county association leadership were represented.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

President Sinclair asked for a moment of silence for a more caring and peaceful world.

FLAG SALUTE

President Sinclair led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT – No public comments.

RECOGNITION OF NEW MEMBERS/OATH OF OFFICE

The Board of Directors recognized Ginny Murphy, who was elected to move into the member position representing the County Association Leadership; Judith Amorim Dias, the new alternate member representing the County Association Leadership, and Nancy Schwartz, alternate representing Passaic County. The new members took the oath of office with the following returning members; Jennifer Montone, Andrea Olenik-Hipkins, Cherie Adams, Jonathan Hodges and Anthony Wilcox. The Board of Directors also recognized retiring members Cynthia Auberger, George Cook, Michael Heller, Treemanisha Stewart and Lisa Weinstock.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent Agenda Items

1. Open session minutes of the November 3, 2017 meeting
2. Legislative Committee Appointments
3. Resolution Subcommittee Appointments
4. Association Advocacy Agenda-Action Plan

President Sinclair asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda items.

Ms. LeFebvre moved to APPROVE the consent agenda items. The motion was duly seconded and carried.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT AND OFFICERS

President - Dan Sinclair reported on the upcoming NJSBA Leadership Conference scheduled for April 20-22, 2018; the success of the New Board Member Orientation held on January 5-7, 2018, and the status of the Non-College Bound Learner Task Force.

Vice President for County Activities - Christy Tighe reported on the Winter County Association Leadership meeting held on January 20, 2018, which was attend by 25 County Association leaders and how the county associations play a vital role in leadership development.

Vice President for Finance – Michael McClure reported that, for the current 2017-2018 fiscal year, NJSBA is tracking favorably versus budget through December and thanked the Audit Committee and Association staff for their hard work.

Vice President for Legislation/Resolutions - Brandon Pugh reported on the Legislative Committee meeting held on December 2, where the members developed the Advocacy Agenda for the new legislative session for the approval of the NJSBA Board of Directors; the new Senate and Assembly Education Committee members; a summary of bills signed by Governor Christie before leaving office, and current proposed legislation.

Immediate Past President Donald Webster reported on the Education Leadership Foundation of New Jersey (ELFNJ) activities; the Sustainable Jersey for Schools Trustees meeting on December 7, 2017; a conference call for the Schools Certification Standards Committee, and the actions taken by the Task Force to Study Education Opportunities for the Non-College Bound Learner.

REPORT OF THE NSBA REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Kevin Ciak, president, National School Boards Association, provided a report on the current focus of the national association's efforts, which includes developing an equity belief statement; the school board's role in identifying and removing obstacles to equity in education, and partnering with businesses and other organizations that need to cultivate students as a resource for future employment. He complimented NJSBA as being one of the country's best state associations in terms of the depth and breadth of programs and services, especially Annual Workshop.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERS

President Sinclair invited members to report on what is happening in their districts. Several members cited successful programs and activities while others commented on some of their challenges.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Larry Feinsod's report focused on NJSBA moving forward under a new administration and NJSBA's vision for 2020.

- Mike Vrancik, director of governmental relations and Dr. Feinsod served on Governor Murphy's transition committee and since then have been in communication with key members of his staff. On Tuesday, Dr. Feinsod will be meeting with Cary Booker, the governor's senior policy advisor for education.
- NJSBA has a long-standing relationship with the new lieutenant governor, Sheila Oliver. She is a former Speaker of the General Assembly and a former school board member.
- Dr. Feinsod received a phone call from Dr. Lamont Repollet, Governor Murphy's nominee for the state's commissioner of education, to discuss education issues.
- Senate President Steve Sweeney requested an interview on NJSBA's podcast, *Education Matters*, to address several subjects of concern, including school funding, and pension and health benefits reform. NJSBA is planning to conduct interviews with the new Assembly Speaker, Craig Coughlin, as well as with the Republican leaders of the Senate and Assembly, Tom Kean and Jon Bramnick.
- NJSBA continues to establish and strengthen its relationship with the U.S. Army. We have enhanced the New Board Member Orientation program, which now includes an equity component. In April, NJSBA will implement GPS for Visionary Leadership, a

program for board of education presidents and vice-presidents and those aspiring to leadership positions. And we have rolled out the new CSA Evaluation in collaboration with the New Jersey Association of School Administrators. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration has approached NJSBA to help with education efforts to combat the Opioid crisis for third-through 12th grade students.

2018-2020 Strategic Plan

Executive Director Dr. Larry Feinsod provided the activities identified by staff to implement the Association's new Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan's goals and objectives were approved by the Board of Directors on November 3, 2017.

The Action Plan includes approximately 100 activities. They were identified by five staff task forces—one for each of the Strategic Plan's goal areas. Activities include:

- Publication of an information resource to advise school board members on how they can become involved in NJSBA;
- Efforts to increase member participation in professional development, both in-person and remote, through the use of new technology and data analysis;
- Development of a technology wellness audit for local school districts;
- Refinements to the Board Member Academy certification and credit process, and
- Creation of an "Equity Council," consisting of board members and experts in various fields, who will advise the Association and local school boards on research and best practices in curriculum, educational opportunity, school climate, policy and other areas.

Technology Assessment

Dr. Feinsod reported that Cisco Systems, a multinational technology firm, will make a \$200,000 in-kind contribution of video-conferencing equipment. This is a critical element of the Association's technology plan and will enable distance learning and communication among the membership. The contribution will not only save the Association and its members a substantial amount of money, it also moves NJSBA closer to becoming the Future Ready Association envisioned by the 2018-2020.

Advocacy Update

The advocacy update included reports on NJSBA's success in getting amendments to the bill that would have given school districts with multiple high schools the ability to merge athletic teams and force school districts to place private school, charter school and homeschooled students on teams. The final bill retains local school board discretion over private, charter and homeschooled students. The legislation was not signed by Governor Christie, so it was pocket vetoed.

The Senate Education Committee met on Thursday, January 25. During the meeting the Committee reviewed proposal, [S414](#), requiring school districts to ask job candidates and their former employers specific questions about sexual misconduct. Notably, the bill would require school districts to share information about sexual misconduct and child abuse investigations unless the claims were proven to be false or unsubstantiated, and would grant the districts legal immunity in doing so. It would also ban the separation agreements that force districts to destroy or withhold information about those probes. After including a series of amendments, the bill was passed and will now go before the Assembly Education Committee. The Senate Committee also considered legislation regarding Early Childhood Education.

The Governmental Relations Department has a meeting scheduled with an aide to Assemblywoman Lampitt, who is the new chair of the Assembly Education Committee.

Discussion will include the key points that NJSBA hopes to see addressed in the coming year and to inform the chair about the Association's positions on issues impacting education.

INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION

Members shared their ideas on the challenges they believe the new administration and Legislature should address in the coming year in the areas of curriculum, funding, negotiations, facilities, and school climate.

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 8:45 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,



Lawrence S. Feinsod, Ed.D.
Executive Director