

MINUTES
of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

March 16, 2018
7 p.m.

The New Jersey School Boards Association Headquarters
Trenton, NJ

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MINUTES OF MARCH 16, 2018
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS
NEW JERSEY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION
TRENTON, NJ

March 16, 2018
7 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held on Friday, March 16, 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; Michael Vrancik, director of governmental relations; 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; Patty Maillet, director of business development; 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	Amber Umphlett	Salem	Eileen Miller
Bergen	Diane Holzberg		Dominick Miletta (Alt.)
Burlington	Not Represented	Somerset	Robert Morrison
Camden	Gail David	Sussex	Ray Morris
Cape May	Not Represented		Anthony Fasano
Cumberland	Not Represented	Union	Not Represented
Essex	Sandra Mordecai	Warren	Not Represented
Gloucester	Karen Vick (Alt.)		
Hudson	Dr. Michael Baruch	County	Ginny Murphy
	Matthew Cheng (Alt.)	Association	Judith Amorim Dias (Alt.)
Hunterdon	Not Represented	Leadership	
Mercer	Gregory Stankiewicz		
	Anthony Messina (Alt.)	Urban Boards	Dr. Jonathan Hodges (Alt.)
Middlesex	Lucy Bloom		Marsha Hershman
Monmouth	Mark Bonjavanni		William Monk (Alt.)
Morris	Irene LeFebvre		Diane Johnson (Alt.)
	Michael Scarneo		
Ocean	Not Represented	Vocational	Barbara Dawson
Passaic	Jeff Fischer		
		NSBA Rep.	Not Present

ROLL CALL

President Sinclair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A roll call indicated five officers, 14 counties, urban boards, vocational boards and county association leadership were represented.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

President Sinclair asked for a moment of silence for all of our children and their safety and well-being.

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 – Mr. Richard Snyder spoke to the need for more technologically sophisticated security equipment in schools.

RECOGNITION OF NEW MEMBERS/OATH OF OFFICE

The Board of Directors recognized Amber Umphlett from the Egg Harbor Township Board of Education, who was elected to serve as the alternate representing Atlantic County.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Larry Feinsod's report focused on NJSBA's recent initiatives.

NJSBA 2018-2019 Budget Highlights

- Further reduces reliance on district dues to 64.5% from a high of 80% in the 2010-2011 fiscal year, resulting in the lowest level of reliance on district dues in NJSBA history
- District dues will be maintained at the current level, representing the 9th consecutive year without an increase
- Maintains the practice of providing mandatory training as a dues-based service
- Consistent with the last five years' budgets, the FY 2018 - 2019 budget will make \$225,000 available from free balance
- Projects an increase in revenue over the 2017-2018 budget, primarily as a result of higher non-dues-based income:
 - BoardDocs – an example of our positive revenue growth
 - Workshop – revenues expected to continue to increase
 - TEC Program – expansion of discounted procurement offerings to members for IT and telecommunications products and services
- Expenses projected to increase 2.0% due to normal inflation increases, higher pension costs (11.1%), and incremental expenses associated with a higher level of fee-based services
- New purchasing arrangements, personnel changes and lower utility and telecommunications costs are helping to control expenditures.

School Security

- NJSBA appointed a new task force to review and update the 2014 school security study, *What Makes Schools Safe?* The 2014 report contains 84 recommendations in areas such as building access, relations with law enforcement, security personnel, building alterations, training, and emergency planning and response procedures. The new committee will hold its first meeting on March 27 and will be chaired by Don Webster, immediate past president.
- In anticipation of the March 14 student walk-out, NJSBA issued a guidance document to help local school leaders determine the appropriate course of action for their districts. The document provided balanced information from NJSBA and other education organizations. The demonstrations raised issues of school attendance, board discipline

policies, students' right to free speech and, above all else, safety. The guidance document was very well received by the membership.

- NJSBA developed a sample resolution for those local school boards that wanted to advocate on security-related issues.
- Later in the meeting, the Board of Directors will consider proposing to the May Delegate Assembly an updated school security policy that it addresses the totality of issues that impact the safety and well-being of students. It would enable NJSBA to address proposed laws and regulations concerning access to firearms, mental health services and interagency collaboration, and would codify in NJSBA policy certain recommendations of the 2014 School Security Task Force report.

2018-2019 State Budget Address

Dr. Feinsod summarized Governor Murphy's proposed budget, which would increase formula aid to school districts by \$283.6 million. The proposal would expand pre-kindergarten, a focus of the NJSBA Strategic Plan approved by the Board of Directors in November. And it would advance education in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Critically important, Governor Murphy has made a commitment to fully fund the state aid formula within four years.

During the Legislature's budget deliberations, NJSBA will continue to emphasize the predicament faced by underfunded school districts.

Individual school district state aid numbers were released Thursday afternoon, March 15. Districts will use those figures in developing their budgets for 2018-2019. However, NJSBA staff caution that there is no certainty that announced state aid numbers will remain in place at the conclusion of the appropriations process in June.

Advocacy Update

- In February, the Middlesex County School Boards Association hosted the new Speaker of the General Assembly, Craig Coughlin, who is a former school board member. Assemblyman Coughlin discussed education issues before the Legislature.
- Dr. Feinsod met with Governor Murphy's education policy advisor, Cary Booker for a very frank and candid discussion of many issues. At Mr. Booker's request, NJSBA provided the administration with a report on the statutory and regulatory impediments to voluntary, community-initiated regionalization. There is a follow-up meeting scheduled with Mr. Booker. NJSBA believes that decisions on regionalization should only be made by the communities involved. The information provided to Mr. Booker should help the administration understand NJSBA's position.
- Dr. Feinsod and Mike Vrancik, director of governmental relations, have a meeting scheduled later this month with Assemblywoman Pamela Lampitt, who chairs the Assembly Education Committee.
- Mike Vrancik, director of governmental relations, reported that the Governor's budget proposal assumes income that has not yet been received. It is a fifty-fifty chance that the Governor's proposal will succeed. The biggest increase in the school funding is for transportation. There is no increase for education adequacy. Mr. Vrancik cautioned that the state aid figures received may change if the proposed revenue is not realized.

Other Business

- The New Jersey Public School Labor Management Collaborative hosted a conference at Rutgers on March 6. The guest speaker was Governor Phil Murphy. The initiative includes NJSBA, NJEA, the AFT-New Jersey, the NJPSA and the NJASA and involves

13 pilot districts, which encompass 59 schools, 209 administrators, 4,014 teachers, and 35,704 students.

- In response to the Jersey City teachers' union work-stoppage, NJSBA issued a press statement expressing its absolute support of the Jersey City Board of Education and urging the teachers to return to the classroom.

ACTION ITEMS

Roll Call Agenda Items

1. 2018-2019 NJSBA Budget

President Sinclair asked for a motion to approve the 2018-2019 NJSBA Budget

Ms. LeFebvre moved to APPROVE the 2018-2019 NJSBA Budget. The motion was duly seconded and carried by unanimous vote.

2. Recommendation to the May 19 Delegate assembly: Policy on School Security

Proposed policy: The NJSBA believes that ensuring the safety of our students requires meaningful and uniform laws governing access to firearms including stringent background checks throughout the nation; inter-agency collaboration to ensure the effective delivery of mental health services and early intervention strategies; and state and federal financial support for security enhancements at the local school district level.

President Sinclair asked for a motion to approve the proposed policy on school security.

Mr. Webster moved to APPROVE the proposed policy on school security. The motion was duly seconded and carried by a vote of 23 to 0 with one abstention by Dr. Hodges.

Consent Agenda Items

1. Open session minutes of the January 26, 2018 meeting
2. Legislative Committee Appointments

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

Ms. Murphy moved to APPROVE the consent agenda items. The motion was duly seconded and carried with one abstention by Ms. Holzberg.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT AND OFFICERS

President - Dan Sinclair reported on his admiration for the high school students who are standing up for their rights to a safe and secure school environment. NJSBA has responded to several requests from school boards for help in drafting their own resolutions on violence prevention and mental health services. NJSBA has also been proactive in addressing this topic in training sessions. He complimented the county associations for the flexibility in changing their planned program topics to address school security. NJSBA has also re-activated their school security task force to update its report.

Immediate Past President— Don Webster reported the Task Force to Study Education Opportunities for the Non-College Bound Learner is progressing nicely. Mr. Webster will once again chair the School Security Task Force.

Vice President for County Activities - Christy Tighe also complimented the county associations for their ability to re-focus attention on the topic of school security during county meetings. She encouraged Board of Director members to bring back to the board any issues or concerns from the county representatives in order to develop a two-way communication between the county associations and their state association. Ms. Tighe also reported on the success of the county association student programs.

Vice President for Finance –Mike McClure thanked the NJSBA staff for their hard work on the Association’s 2018-2019 budget.

Vice President for Legislation/Resolutions - Brandon Pugh reported on the Legislative Committee meeting held on February 10, where the members received a presentation by Diana Pasculli, the chief public affairs officer for the New Jersey Department of Education. The Committee also heard from Judy Savage, executive director of the NJ Council of County Vocational-Technical Schools, and Chris Nagy, superintendent of the Burlington County Institute of Technology, on the work of the Council, legislative goals and vocational-technical education in New Jersey. Mr. Pugh also reported on the NSBA 2018 Equity Conference and Advocacy Institute held on February 3-6. New Jersey’s representatives met with multiple members of Congress, including Congressman Leonard Lance, Congressman Donald Payne, Jr., Congressman Donald Norcross, and Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman. The group also met with the education policy staff for Senators Bob Menendez and Cory Booker. Mr. Pugh provided the members with a list of current legislative initiatives in Trenton.

INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION

Members shared their initiatives on their districts developments in school security.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

A member requested that NJSBA focus some effort on the real cost drivers of education in New Jersey such as energy and benefits, etc., and have a discussion on incentives for reducing these costs.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, *Ms. Hershman moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was duly seconded and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,



Lawrence S. Feinsod, Ed.D.
Executive Director