

MINUTES
of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

September 14, 2018
7 p.m.

The New Jersey School Boards Association Headquarters
Trenton, NJ

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MINUTES OF September 14, 2018
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS
NEW JERSEY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION
TRENTON, NJ

September 14, 2018
7 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held on Friday, September 14, 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, general counsel; 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; Ray Pinney, director of member engagement; Patty Maillet, director of business development; Jane Kershner, director of field services; Joseph Hsieh, director of IT; 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 | Anne Erickson | Salem | Eileen Miller |
| Bergen | Diane Holzberg | | Dominick Miletta (Alt.) |
| | Sheli Dansky (Alt.) | Somerset | Robert Morrison* |
| Burlington | Jennifer Montone | | Barry Walker * (Alt.) |
| Camden | Not Represented | Sussex | Ray Morris |
| Cape May | Not Represented | Union | Helen Kirsch |
| Cumberland | Not Represented | Warren | Gus Rutledge |
| Essex | Sandra Mordecai | | Paul Williams (Alt.) |
| | Erika Jacho (Alt.) | | |
| Gloucester | Not Represented | County | Judith Amorim Dias (Alt.) |
| Hudson | Matthew Cheng *(Alt.) | Association | |
| Hunterdon | Laurie Markowski | Leadership | |
| | Charles Miller (Alt.) | | |
| Mercer | Gregory Stankiewicz | Urban Boards | Dr. Jonathan Hodges |
| Middlesex | Lucille Bloom | | William Monk |
| Monmouth | Mark Bonjavanni | | Diane Johnson (Alt.) |
| Morris | Not Represented | | |
| Ocean | Not Represented | Vocational | Not Represented |
| Passaic | Jeff Fischer | | |
| | | NSBA Rep. | Kevin Ciak * |

** At the September 14 meeting, four members attended the meeting remotely: Matthew Cheng, Robert Morrison, Barry Walker and Kevin Ciak.*

ROLL CALL

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

MOMENT OF SILENCE

President Sinclair asked for a moment of silence for the victims of Hurricane Florence.

FLAG SALUTE

President Sinclair led the members in reciting 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 made general comments about board of education conflicts of interest.

RECOGNITION OF NEW AND RETIRING MEMBERS/OATH OF OFFICE

The Board of Directors recognized retiring members Gail David, who represented Camden County, and Marsha Hershman, who represented the Urban Boards Committee.

Erika Jacho of the Bellville Board of Education was recognized as the new alternate representing Essex County.

The following members were recognized for moving from the alternate position to the member position: Naomi Davidson, representing Camden County, and William Monk, representing the Urban Boards Committee.

All members took the oath of office.

CODE OF CONDUCT

All Board of Director members and alternates are required to read and sign a Code of Conduct form each year at the annual reorganization meeting. Members were given a form and asked to hand them in at the end of the meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent Agenda Items

President Sinclair asked for a motion to approve the following consent agenda items: open session minutes of the May 11, 2018 meeting; closed session minutes of the May 11, 2018 meeting; the Legislative Committee appointments, and the extension of payment of dues for BOD members' boards.

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

Roll Call Agenda Items

President Sinclair asked for a motion to approve the request of the Educational Leadership Foundation of New Jersey (ELF NJ) for funding through the Alliance for Competitive Energy Services (ACES) for a grant in the amount of \$130,000, for fiscal year 2018-2019.

Ms. Miller moved to APPROVE the motion for a grant for \$130,000 for fiscal year 2018-2019 to ELF NJ from ACES. The motion was duly seconded and carried. Vote was unanimous.

President Sinclair asked for a motion to approve the 1st reading of the revisions to GO/4133, *Travel Authorization and Meal Expenses*.

Mr. Bonjavanni moved to approve the motion on the revisions to GO/4133. The motion was duly seconded and carried. Vote was unanimous.

ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REPRESENTATIVES TO THE 2019-2020 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.

Governance and Operations File Code 8462R outlines the composition of the Nominating Committee. The File Code states "...Board of Directors members of the Nominating Committee shall be elected one each from the four geographical areas, by county on a rotating basis, to the extent possible."

The following members were elected by the Board of Directors to serve on the Nominating Committee:

- **Northwest Area** (Hunterdon, Morris, Somerset, Sussex, Warren) – Laurie Markowski, Flemington-Raritan Regional Board of Education (Hunterdon County)
- **Northeast Area** (Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Passaic, Union) – Sheli Dansky, River Edge Board of Education (Bergen County)
- **Central Area** (Burlington, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean) – Jennifer Montone, Burlington City Board of Education (Burlington County)
- **Southern Area** (Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem) – Anne Erickson, Greater Egg Harbor Regional Board of Education (Atlantic County)

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

Association Activities Update:

Basic School Law, part of NJSBA's School Board Library Series, is being updated and a new volume is scheduled to be available by late spring.

The Non-College-Bound Learner Task Force has completed its work and will roll out its final report on October 2. A goal for the coming year is to advance the findings and recommendations of that study and advocate for funding and initiatives to expand post-secondary opportunities for the career-focused learner.

A new task force will begin meeting this fall to study the nexus of mental health services with school security, healthy school climate, and overall student health and wellness. The task force will consult with experts in mental health, counseling, school climate and related areas. The study group will issue a report by the end of the fiscal year.

The NJSBA Governmental Relations team continued its tradition of summer meetings with lawmakers. The visits give NJSBA members the opportunity to meet face to face, with their state and federal elected representatives. Over the past few years, the number of district visits has increased as part of the NJSBA plan to provide an advocacy framework at the local level.

State Aid: The 2018-2019 state budget, along with Senate Bill 2, changes the school funding landscape. For about two-thirds of our members, the legislation promises to put school funding back on track. But it also resulted in last-minute funding cuts—some severe—in the remaining one third of our districts. This fall, NJSBA will conduct three regional meetings for districts that have suffered cuts in state aid. The programs will provide forums where school board members can address their particular situations, learn about options, and receive guidance on advocacy.

Advocacy Update: On August 9, the New Jersey Economic and Fiscal Policy Workgroup issued a report on reducing the cost of government. For public education, the report, called the Path to Progress, focuses primarily on two areas: regionalization, and special education. The working group also made recommendations to control the cost of health benefits for public employees. Following the release of the report, NJSBA issued a public statement expressing our position on the recommendations:

- First, NJSBA encourages districts to consider regionalization. However, voters in the affected communities must have the final say on the matter and only after a study of the educational and financial impact is conducted.
- Second, as reflected in NJSBA’s 2013 Special Education Task Force Report, as well as its policy, the Association supports efforts to alleviate the financial difficulties school districts face in providing special education services.
- Third, NJSBA has been a leader among education organizations in advocating for strategies to control the rising cost of employees’ health benefits.

The legislature is continuing discussion of bills requiring depression screenings in an effort to control the level of teen suicides, mandatory videotaping of all board of education meetings and cost-reimbursement for local food services providers.

Workshop 2018 Update: Dr. Feinsod reported that Workshop 2018 is well on its way toward meeting its training, attendance and revenue goals. Earlier this month, the exhibit floor sold out. Now in its third year, the STEAM Tank Challenge is growing in popularity. The first STEAM Tank Challenge, in 2016, attracted 32 entries. Last year, that number grew to 193 student teams. For 2018, we had 409 schools apply for the competition.

Association Finances: In the last fiscal year, NJSBA met overall revenue goals and maintained a high level of service, while controlling expenditures. As a result, the 2018-2019 budget has no dues increase, representing the ninth consecutive year in which there has been no increase in district dues. The independent auditor has given NJSBA a clean report, with no recommendations.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT AND OFFICERS

President – Dan Sinclair reported on the Association’s new research report on “Educational Opportunities for the Non-College-Bound Learner,” which will be officially released this month. It is a comprehensive review of programming for the career-focused student. The report

identifies issues and makes recommendations for improvement. Members were encouraged to work together to ensure that we provide outstanding programming for students who are bound for college immediately after high school.

This year, President Sinclair is scheduled to attend the meetings of each of the 21 county school boards associations. The focus of his remarks will be the “Task Force on Educational Opportunities for the Non-College-Bound Learner.”

The Executive Summary and recommendations contained in the report were distributed to the Board of Directors. The September/October issue of *School Leader* will feature a cover story about the report. In addition, the completion of the report will be announced in the September 25th issue of *School Board Notes*.

President Sinclair thanked the volunteers and staff who made the report possible.

Vice President for County Activities – Christy Tighe reported that the county school boards associations ended the 2017-18 school year on a very positive note. Attendance was up once again, and over 4,100 school officials attended county meetings. In addition, several counties held special student programs, which brought students, teachers and parents together to hear from their young leaders and celebrate public schools.

Ms. Tighe thanked the NJSBA Communications team for the opportunity to write an article for *School Leader* magazine titled, “A 21 County Salute,” which provided an overview on how the county associations contribute to individual leadership and school board advancement. Another article, “Meet the County Leaders from Cape May to Sussex,” featured profiles on every county president, and a third article, highlighted the locally driven, impactful, and inspiring student programs held each year.

Vice President for Finance – Mike McClure reported the draft 2017-2018 NJSBA audit report was reviewed with the Audit Committee. The auditors did not find a need to make any recommendations to improve the Association’s financial operations or controls. NJSBA experienced a strong financial performance during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018. The auditors will review the audit report with the Board of Directors during the November 2 meeting.

Vice President for Legislation/Resolutions – Brandon Pugh reported that President Sinclair asked him to chair the committee that will review NJSBA’s Bylaws. The first meeting will be held on September 27. Mr. Pugh also reported that the Legislative Committee will meet on Saturday, September 15. The agenda will include updates on the State Board of Education, health benefits, school funding, and federal legislation. The speaker for the meeting on the September 15th will be Deborah Rigsby, program director of Lobbying and Federal Legislation at the National School Boards Association (NSBA).

Mr. Pugh also reported on NSBA’s 2018 Summer Leadership Seminar in Chicago in August and distributed an update report on legislative activity in Trenton.

Immediate Past President – Don Webster reported that the amendment to the School Security Task Force Report of 2014 is currently being drafted and finalized for release. There will be a separate presentation of the updated recommendations at Workshop 2018 on October 23 in addition to a joint League of Municipalities/NJSBA panel discussion regarding school security at Workshop 2018 and at the League’s convention.

INTERACTIVE SESSION

Dr. Feinsod led a discussion on shared service strategies that are in place in local school districts in special education, school security, business operations, administration, technology, and other areas.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – There was no unfinished business

NEW BUSINESS

- Request that NJSBA communicate with legislators about standardized testing/PARCC and the reduction of the teacher assessment to 5%.
- Request that NJSBA have a seat at the table on the discussion regarding a lawsuit concerning school segregation and racial balance in the schools.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, *Mr. Bonjavanni moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was duly seconded and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,



Lawrence S. Feinsod, Ed.D.
Executive Director