



New Jersey School Boards Association

INFORMATION ITEM

MEMORANDUM

To: Officers, Board of Directors Members/Alternates

From: Lawrence S. Feinsod, Ed.D., Executive Director

Date: January 18, 2019

Re: NJSBA President and Officers' Reports

Attached are the reports from the following officers:

- President
- Immediate Past President
- Vice President for County Activities
- Vice President for Finance
- Vice President for Legislation/Resolutions

**New Jersey School Boards Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Report of the President**

Dan Sinclair

January 18, 2019

I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year from your officers.

The Association has made progress on our goal to implement the findings of the Task Force on the Non-College Bound Learner. Dr. Feinsod and I met with the New Jersey State Board of Education, where the report was well received. Members of the board asked questions and were impressed with the Association's work.

An NCBL Exploratory Committee met several times to discuss common areas where county vocational schools and comprehensive school districts could work together to promote student achievement in this very important area for our children. Currently plans are underway to expand this committee to include additional school board members, comprehensive school superintendents, vocational school superintendents, union leaders and NJSBA Staff.

On Wednesday, January 16, Dr. Feinsod and I met with Commissioner Repollett and members of his staff at NJSBA headquarters to discuss educational matters. The Commissioner praised our organization as an important player in public education. I am looking forward to continued dialogue the department of education as we move forward on mutual interests. The Commissioner also expressed his support for the work of the NCBL Task Force.

Board members are encouraged to contact me directly at dsinclair@njsba.org if you are interested in being a part of the expanded NCBL committee. With the interest shown so far by board members, I anticipate we will have many volunteers. While we may not be able to assign every member to the committee, rest assured that we will find something that will enable you to contribute.

I have traveled around the state collecting data relative to the task force report meeting with superintendents, board members, union leaders, trade schools and business groups. The response and enthusiasm for this change has really been overwhelming. Together we will make a difference.

Last weekend we held our New Board Member Orientation Weekend in Princeton. I want to personally thank the NJSBA Staff, presenters, group leaders, and officers but most importantly, the 100 newly elected school board members that attended. Their energy and obvious dedication was electric. This training is special!!! The best training by far in the country for new board members. I am already looking forward to our next training in February.

I was proud to represent the 5,000 plus school board members at the January State Board of Education meeting to accept a resolution honoring all of the wonderful board members for School Board Appreciation Month. Thank you all for what you do to promote public education.

In about a week's time the officers, board members and NJSBA staff will travel to Washington, D.C., to participate in the NSBA Advocacy Conference. This is an opportunity for our members to advocate for the children of our state on a federal level. On Tuesday, January 29, we will meet with our state's legislators to discuss federal legislation that will impact public education in New Jersey. More to come on that very shortly. We have a lot to discuss.

While watching an episode of the *This Old House* television show, imagine my surprise when I saw Congressman Donald Norcross on the program talking about apprenticeships and job training. I believe the Congressman is a former electrician. So, I gave his office a call and arranged a meeting with the Congressman for January 29 while we are in Washington for the NSBA Advocacy Conference. I am looking forward to meeting with him to discuss the findings of our NCBL Task Force.

Finally, I can report that 12 members have applied for four open officer positions. In reviewing the applicants, I can tell you the committee has a difficult task ahead. I don't remember ever seeing a more highly qualified group of candidates in my 20 year involvement with NJSBA. Training for the nominating committee is on January 19. Candidate interviews are scheduled for February 8. I wish good luck to all.

Thank you for what you do for the children in your community.

Regards,

Daniel Sinclair, President
New Jersey School Boards Association.

Meetings Attended:

11/2/2019	Paterson Public Schools	School 21 student presentation/Jason Valenti
11/2/2019	NJSBA	Board of Directors Meeting
11/7/2019	NJ State Board of Education	Presented Task Force Report on the Non-College-Bound Learner
11/7/2019	Morris County School Board Association	Mental Health Presentation
11/8/2019- 11/9/2019	NJEA Convention	Steam Tank Award
11/13- 11/14/2019	League of Municipalities	Task Force Report on School Safety
11/15/2019	Lee Meeting	Discussion on state assessment and November Bond Act

**New Jersey School Boards Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Report of the Immediate Past President**

Don Webster

January 18, 2019

NJSBA Association Activities

I attended and spoke at the joint Monmouth/Ocean County SBA meeting on 12/6 at the Howell Township Middle School North. At this meeting, President Sinclair spoke about the work of Non-College Bound Student Learners Task Force and its recently released report. He also played a video that described our concerns surrounding vocational education and the need to address this important issue. I spoke about our potential concerns related to the upcoming state budget process, the impact of A2/S2, and the school consolidation proposals that came out of the legislative task force report "Path to Progress" in response to the state's fiscal situation.

I participated in the Executive Committee meeting on 1/8. At this meeting we heard an update from the Executive Director, reports from the individual Association department directors, listened to a presentation about the proposed replacement of the current Association Management System (AMS) "Personify," approved travel vouchers for the Officers, and talked about the agenda for the upcoming Board of Directors Meeting.

I attended the NBMO Program on 1/11-1/12 in Princeton where I interacted with, and answered questions from new board members. I also provided input at the group presentation discussions as needed.

On 1/14, Dr. Feinsod, President Sinclair and I met with representatives of the State Vocational Education Leadership at the Monmouth County Vocational Education Center in Freehold. We took a tour of the facility and heard about the various programs they offer. Then we met to continue our discussions concerning our Non-College Bound Student Report with a focus on areas of mutual agreement. The hope is that, in the areas we agree on, we can move the proposed changes forward with one unified voice.

President Sinclair and I have been working with our staff to put together the documents and materials needed for the upcoming Nominating Committee Interviews scheduled for 2/8-2/9. On 1/19, the committee will be meeting at Association headquarters for an orientation and training session.

Education Leadership Foundation of NJ (ELF NJ) Activities

No activity.

Sustainable Jersey

Dr. Feinsod and I participated in a Sustainable Jersey Trustees meeting on 12/6 at the PSE&G facility in Edison, NJ. We heard an end-of-year-report on the overall status of the organization from the Executive Director and the individual Program Directors. The Finance Committee provided us with an update on the organization's finances. We also elected our Officers for the coming year and appointed and/or re-appointed Trustees for the organization.

Dr. Feinsod and I also attended and participated in the Sustainable Jersey for Schools Certification Standards Committee meeting on 1/9 at Association headquarters. We talked about the actions completed by the committee during the past year and discussed the work that still needs to be done in the coming year.

**New Jersey School Boards Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Report of the Vice President for County Activities**

Christy Tighe

January 18, 2019

Congratulations to all who were recently re-elected to your positions, and thank you for your continued dedication to the children of your communities as well as to the NJSBA. Last weekend, I had the opportunity to attend New Board Member Orientation Weekend in Princeton. For me, it was extremely valuable and eye opening. When I was elected in 2007, weekend orientation was not available. I now understand the impact the weekend orientation makes and the level of professional, quality training the experience provides to our newest members. I was also able to witness just how amazing the group leaders are, and how their experience, wisdom, and mentorship enable first year school board members to move their districts forward and enhance student achievement.

The County Associations are back in action after a short holiday hiatus. This week, the Somerset SBA featured three breakout sessions at their meeting, so board members could attend small group discussions of their choice. Hudson, Salem, Morris, and Middlesex Counties are hosting the Foundations for Success Series, which will provide new and veteran board members the opportunity to fulfill training requirements and gain professional development. Looking ahead, many counties will feature student recognition programs and 8th grade dialogues, which serve as a forum to bring all education stakeholders together in a celebration of student success. We also plan to continue to share information on the Educational Opportunities for the Non-College Bound Learner Task Force Report at County CSBA and local stakeholder meetings.

Our next County Association Leadership meeting will take place here on February 2. We will have a legislative update, and conversations on pressing issues on both the local and state level, based on feedback from a recent survey sent to our county presidents and vice presidents. These topics include budgeting/school finance, school safety, mental health/social-emotional learning and how to identify students at risk, governance/roles and responsibilities, the Janus decision, the impact of marijuana legalization, and health insurance.

In December, the Officers and I attended NJSBA's Legislative Committee meeting here at Headquarters. The highlight of the meeting was Deborah Rigsby from the National School Boards Association, who joined via webex. Ms. Rigsby gave an overview of the education-related priorities of the 116th Congress: Reauthorization and funding of The Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act, teacher education, school infrastructure, net neutrality, FY2019 appropriations, and the Perkins Career and Technical Education Act. She also referenced the coming Federal Equity Symposium and Advocacy Institute in Washington D.C., which the Officers and I will be attending. NJSBA's GR staff summarized the status of the Securing Our Children's Future ballot question and discussed possible next steps, bills heard in the Assembly Ed Committee about child sexual abuse, teacher misconduct and a bill that requires the Attorney General to develop a protocol for retaining footage from school surveillance systems. Also

discussed was the testimony NJSBA provided to the Joint Committee on the Public Schools about NJ QSAC, including when a board member is sanctioned for violating the School Ethics Act, the board member's school district should not also be punished. In cases where the State Ethics Commission and the New Jersey Commissioner of Education have already determined appropriate sanctions for individual members who violated the ethics act, the NJSBA believes that also penalizing the district is unnecessary. NJSBA recommended that this "double penalty" be addressed by eliminating a provision in the governance section of NJ QSAC.

Open discussion included the Council on Affordable Housing requirements and their impact on district enrollments if new low-income housing has to be built in more suburban communities, curriculum requirements for Holocaust and Amistad Commission, concerns about PILOTs (payment in-lieu of tax deals) negotiated by municipal governing bodies and their impact on local districts, and P-Tech grants to expand vocational opportunities for students in Paterson, New Brunswick and Burlington City.

As an officer and representative of the NJSBA, I try to attend informational events and meetings throughout the state that pertain to education and our work as school board members. Recently these include a meeting with Charles Menifield, Dean of the Rutgers School of Public Affairs and Administration. Dean Menifield is planning to conduct a research study on the impact of cannabis legalization in NJ. It is important for our association to utilize research and information as we consider how we can collaborate and use education to empower youth to make informed decisions. In November I participated in the NJDOE's charter school collaborative held here at NJSBA, which brought together various stakeholders to share their viewpoints and provide feedback to the Department. I also attended the NJ Business and Industry Association's "Meet the Decision Makers" forum along with several NJSBA staff members. Although the discussion primarily focused on economic development, much of the conversation touched on education and workforce development. As a member of the SEL 4 NJ Leadership Team, I attended their November meeting held at NJPSA's headquarters along with leaders and representatives from PSA, ASA, NJSBA, NJEA, educators, advocacy groups, and social service providers, and shared updates and information on Social Emotional Learning at several county meetings. Finally, I attended NJ's Age of Agility Summit, sponsored by NJ CAN and America Succeeds. We heard from leaders in business and education, and how we all need to collaborate to ensure our students are ready for the workplace of the future.

I've also attended recent Urban Boards Committee meetings, and am working with UBC members and NJSBA staff to design an informational and collaborative event that focuses on equity and other issues that many school districts are faced with, not just those in urban areas.

I'd like to thank every member of the NJSBA Board of Directors for your leadership and dedication to your County Associations. It is crucial that the work we do as Directors be shared at the county level, and that the voices from our membership be brought back to our BOD meetings. We appreciate you making the effort to attend, share your thoughts, and join the

conversations. We all must continue to work together to advance public education and help all our schools and students succeed. I'd also like to thank NJSBA staff for sharing your professional expertise at all County SBA meetings, and especially to Marcia Lavigne for her nine years of service and dedication as County Activities Coordinator for South Jersey. I wish Marcia good luck in her new position, and we look forward to working with the new CAC.

**New Jersey School Boards Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Report of the Vice President for Finance**

Mike McClure

January 18, 2019

Association Activities

November 17 - attended the Delegate Assembly at Mercer County Collage. This the best attended meeting we have had over the past several years. I hope this trend will continue for all of our future DA meetings. Very important dialog took place between the speakers and the Delegates.

November 26 - attended the Cumberland County SBA meeting. The meeting was well attended for this busy time of the year. The presentation and discussion on Non-Collage-Bound Learners was very well received by the participants.

November 27 - attended The Bergen County SBA meeting along with President Dan, where he presented the Non-Collage-Bound Learners topic. Over 100 participants attended the meeting.

November 29 - attended the Camden/Gloucester joint SBA County meeting. The program include an excellent panel discussion. The panelists actively engaged the audience, who participated in a lively question and answer session.

December 1 - attended the Legislative Committee meeting at Headquarters. The meeting was well attended and very informative.

December 4 - attended Burlington County SBA meeting. It was a good meeting. The focus of the discussion was on the issue of vaping and was very well received. Participants had many questions on the topic. We also gave best wishes for success to Brandon Pugh, as this was his last meeting. He has big furfure ahead of him.

December 6 - attended Monmouth County meeting.

January 8 - attended the Executive Committee meeting at Headquarters. It was very good to hear from our department directors. The state of the Association is very healthy.

January 11 and 12 -attended the NBMO in Princeton. Even with the weather, it was well attended, with 100 new board members. Participants were very happy with all the programs and were very interactive in all the programs throughout the entire weekend. As always, hats off to our fine group leaders that did an outstanding job. Also to our staff for a job well done.

Association Finance

- The Association's financial performance through November 2018 is tracking favorably versus the year-to-date budget. Workshop 2018 significantly surpassed its budget, driven by higher levels of registrations and sponsorships. Salary expense is less than budget, primarily due to several vacancies that have recently been filled, and we have not had the need to use any of our Temporary Help budget through the first two months of the fiscal

year. The TEC (Technology for Education and Careers) program has also picked up momentum, as more members are participating in these cooperative purchasing opportunities for discounted technology-focused products and services.

- 2019 – 2020 Budget Cycle:
 - Meetings were held with department heads individually to review their revenue projections and funding needs.
 - Internal review & approval by the Executive Director of combined budgets expected by the end of January.
 - The proposed budget will be presented to the Finance Committee in late February.
 - Board approval will be sought at the March 15 meeting.

**New Jersey School Boards Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Report of the Vice President for Legislation/Resolutions**

Brandon Pugh

January 18, 2019

I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season! It is hard to believe we are more than halfway through January. I am sad to say that this is my last report as Vice President for Legislation/Resolutions. With my recent passage of the bar exam and uncertainty on where my career will take me, I made the difficult decision not to seek reelection to the Moorestown Board of Education. I was fortunate to serve for my entire adult life since campaigning at eighteen and being elected at nineteen. This unfortunately means I must also leave my position as a state officer after serving for about twenty months.

I have greatly enjoyed my six years of service as a Board Member, as President and Vice President of the Burlington County School Boards Association, as a Member of the New Jersey School Boards Association's Board of Directors, and as Vice President for Legislation/Resolutions of NJSBA. I also had the privilege to serve on and/or chair multiple NJSBA Committees, including the Bylaws Review Committee, the Security Taskforce, the Resolutions Subcommittee and the Centennial Planning Committee, among others. Personal highlights of my service were attending education programs around the country through NSBA and supporting military recruiting efforts, including the United States Marine Corps, Army, and Air Force.

In addition, I loved chairing the Legislative Committee and supporting our advocacy efforts. Quality public education is critical, and we have many dedicated staff members and board members that advocate for that. As Vice President, I was fortunate to make several positive changes in my role, including having a special speaker at each committee meeting, providing additional resources to local members to advocate and share important updates, ensuring the smooth operation of the Delegate Assembly, and working to be visible personally in this role, among other areas. I know the other officers will take over these VP responsibilities and I am excited to see the new team in May.

Lastly, I would like to thank you for your support by first electing me and allowing me to serve since, including the County Associations that graciously welcomed me to provide an officer's report. In addition, our incredible staff at NJSBA makes a lot of this possible and I thank them too. Of course, this is not the end of my involvement in public education or public service, so I am excited to cross paths with many of you again.

Below are highlights on the Legislative Committee, recent meetings/events I was involved with, and legislative activity.

Legislative Committee

The Committee last met on December 1, 2018. We heard from Deborah Rigsby of the National School Boards Association on federal legislative efforts and the Advocacy Institute in Washington DC in 2019. Ms. Rigsby suggested that IDEA will be a top priority this year for NSBA, including full funding of the federal special education commitment.

Other highlights included updates on the Securing Our Children's Future ballot question, NJSBA testimony to the Joint Committee on the Public Schools about NJ QSAC, and recent P-Tech grants, among other topics. During the open sharing portion, topics ranged from the Council on Affordable Housing requirements to PILOTs (payment in-lieu of tax deals) negotiated by municipal governing bodies and their impact on local districts.

Blog Talk Radio

I had the pleasure of participating in a podcast with Ray Pinney through "Blog Talk Radio" on December 13 called "The Unique Experience of the Millennial School Board Member." This program featured Rebecca Cruz from the Carlstadt/East Rutherford Regional High School Board, Adam Parkinson from the West New York Board, and me. We discussed the unique challenges and opportunities faced by younger board members.

The program can be found at blogtalkradio.com/njsba/2018/12/13/the-unique-experience-of-the-millennial-school-board-member.

Legislative Developments

Below is an update on legislative activity in Trenton, which includes recent Senate/Assembly activity. Thank you to Mike Vrancik for preparing this. Please do not hesitate to contact the Governmental Relations Department if you have questions or if you would like to be involved.

Governor Murphy recently delivered the State of the State address and the full text can be found at <https://www.insidernj.com/governor-murphy-delivers-state-state-address-january-15-2019-remarks-prepared-delivery/>

The Governor mentioned the rather substantial disparity between our wealthiest and poorest citizens, which he is dedicated to addressing. He referred to Massachusetts as a state that is doing better economically than New Jersey, although no one would say they are a low-tax state.

He also referenced the minimum wage as a goal but did not say a lot to indicate his budget plans for the next cycle.

Otherwise, it has been rather quiet since mid-December. NJSBA is tracking various bills in legislative committees on January 17, although neither Education Committee is meeting. Notably, there is a bill sponsored by the Senate President that pushes the budget address from February 26 to March 5. It's unclear why they are allowing the Governor extra time this year. Mike Vrancik is concerned that the Governor will propose a tax hike of some sort to support new formula aid for districts. If the legislature will not agree, they will have to decide whether to keep the increase and make some other spending reductions or change school aid for the third consecutive year.

The recent court ruling opposing the statewide graduation testing requirements adopted by DOE have created some confusion, but the Department has promised to move ahead with testing this spring based on current federal requirements for statewide assessments generally. Whether or not there will be a statewide graduation test remains to be decided but testing for purposes of assessment will continue.

The determination of cash flow based on the voter-approved bond issue (Securing our Children's Future Bond Act) is still up in the air. The department promises to have more details shortly, but the real issue is not how grants, etc. will be disbursed, but how quickly the bonds will be issued. This could take a while.

Recent Meetings

In addition to those already shared, below are highlights of some recent activities and meetings I have participated in.

- I had the opportunity to introduce the two featured speakers at the November 17 Delegate Assembly, which focused on the 2018 “Path to Progress” Report. The Report is the product of the New Jersey Economic and Fiscal Policy Workgroup. The speakers were former Commissioner of Education Lucille Davy and Policy Expert Mark Magyar. Topics included district consolidation, special education programming, school funding and other related issues contained in the report.
- Provided remarks on behalf of the NJSBA Officers and attended various county school boards associations meetings, including Cape May (November 27 on mental health and suicide prevention), Burlington (December 4 on vaping), and Middlesex (December 6 on budgeting).
- Watched the 2018 Army-Navy Football Game on December 8 at Lincoln Financial Field as a guest of the Mid-Atlantic Recruiting Battalion/First Recruiting Brigade. Similarly, I attended a Philadelphia Pops show dedicated to the military and first responders in December.
- Attended the NJSBA staff holiday party on December 14 to thank the staff for their hard work and dedication.
- Coordinated a meeting with NJSBA Leaders and Col. Rothstein of the 108th Mission Support Group on December 19. I serve as an Honorary Commander with Col. Rothstein for 2018-19, which is a program coordinated by Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst and is designed to build community-military relations. This was an opportunity for Col. Rothstein to learn more about NJSBA and public education, along with NJSBA sharing areas on potential collaboration.

Looking forward, there will be a Legislative Committee Meeting on March 2 and the next Delegate Assembly is in May.

Respectfully,
Brandon Pugh, Esq.