

MINUTES  
of the  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

September 27, 2019  
7 p.m.

The New Jersey School Boards Association Headquarters  
Trenton, NJ

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MINUTES OF September 27, 2019  
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
NEW JERSEY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION  
TRENTON, NJ

September 27, 2019

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held on Friday, September 27, 2019 at the NJSBA headquarters, Trenton, NJ.

**Executive Committee members present were** Michael McClure, president; Dan Sinclair, immediate past president; Tammeisha Smith, vice president for finance; Bruce Young, vice president for county activities, Dr. Karen Cortellino, vice president for legislation/resolutions, 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; Joseph Hsieh, director of information technology; Carl Tanksley, director of legal & labor relations services; John Faford, director of budget & finance; Vince DeLucia, director of training; Jane Kershner, director of field services; Patty Maillet, director of business development; Kim Blum, director of human resources; Billie Barnett, member services representative, and Ann Marie Smith, administrative assistant, executive office/communications.

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

Atlantic	Dr. Anne Erickson Noel Criscione-Naylor (Alt.)*	Ocean	Melanie Biscardi Richard Casey (Alt.)
Bergen	Diane Holzberg	Passaic	Not Represented
Burlington	Harry Litwack Erica Campbell	Salem	Dominick Miletta
Camden	Naomi Davidson (Alt.)	Somerset	Not Represented
Cape May	Not Represented	Sussex	Marie Bilik
Cumberland	Michelle Kennedy	Union	Brendan Galligan
Essex	Sandra Mordecai	Warren	Paul Williams Scott Nodes (Alt.)
Gloucester	Not Represented	County	Judith Dias
Hudson	Not Represented	Association	
Hunterdon	Not Represented	Leadership	
Mercer	Gregory Stankiewicz		
Middlesex	Lucy Bloom	Urban Board	Diane Johnson (Alt.)
Monmouth	Mark Bonjavanni		
Morris	Irene LeFebvre Paul Breda (Alt.)	Vocational	Elizabeth Martin

*\* At the September 27, 2019 meeting, one member, Noel Criscione-Naylor, attended the meeting remotely.*

**ROLL CALL**

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

## **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

President McClure asked for a moment of silence in recognition of the victims of the recent storms.

## **FLAG SALUTE**

President McClure led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

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

## **OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments

## **RECOGNITION OF NEW AND RETIRING MEMBERS/OATH OF OFFICE**

The Board of Directors recognized the following new NJSBA Officers: Bruce Young, vice president for county activities; Tammeisha (Tammy) Smith, vice president for finance; Dr. Karen Cortellino, vice president for legislation/resolutions, and Dan Sinclair, immediate past president

The Board also recognized the following new members and alternates: Noel Criscione-Naylor, alternate representing Atlantic County; Harry Litwack, member representing Burlington County; Erica Campbell, alternate representing Burlington County; Michelle Kennedy, member representing Cumberland County; Paul Breda, alternate representing Morris County; Richard Casey, alternate representing Ocean County; Marie Bilik, member representing Sussex County, and Brendan Galligan, member representing Union County

The Board recognized the following members appointed to move from the alternate position to member position: Melanie Biscardi, representing Ocean County, and Dominick Miletta, representing Salem County.

All members took their oath of office.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **Roll Call Agenda Items:**

- **President McClure asked for a motion to approve the extension of payment of membership dues for Board of Directors members' boards to the November 15, 2019 Board of Directors meeting.**

*Dr. Erickson moved to APPROVE the extension of payment of membership dues for Board of Directors members' boards to the November 15, 2019 Board of Directors meeting. The motion was duly seconded and carried, with 23 members voting in the affirmative.*

- **President McClure asked for a motion to approve 1<sup>st</sup> reading, waive the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, on the revisions to GO Policy 8107, *Loss of Membership Rights* –**

**Background:** Changes the date for NJSBA to restrict member services to districts that are not in good standing from January 1<sup>st</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup>. The Bylaws provide that dues are

to be paid within 10 days of the district's first meeting of the fiscal year, or July 31<sup>st</sup>, whichever is later. Changing the date from January 1<sup>st</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup> still provides districts several months to make payment of their dues and is consistent with the Bylaws directing that Officers and Board of Directors members are subject to losing their NJSBA positions when their local board has not paid its dues by the reorganization meeting held in the fall of the fiscal year, and that any district that has not paid its dues loses its representation in the Delegate Assembly.

*Mr. Miletta moved to APPROVE the 1<sup>st</sup> reading, waive the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, on the revisions to GO Policy 8107, Loss of Membership Rights. The motion was duly seconded and carried, with 23 members voting in the affirmative.*

- **President McClure asked for a motion to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> reading, waive the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, on the revisions to GO Policy 4154, Extended Leave Under the Family Leave Act (NJFLA) and the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), which were revised to comply with New Jersey State Law.**

*Dr. Erickson moved to APPROVE the 1<sup>st</sup> reading, waive the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, on the revisions to GO Policy 4154, Extended Leave Under the NJFLA and the FMLA revised to comply with New Jersey State Law. The motion was duly seconded and carried, with 23 members voting in the affirmative.*

- **President McClure asked for a motion to approve the request from the Educational Leadership Foundation of New Jersey (ELFNJ) for funding through the Alliance for Competitive Energy Services (ACES) for a grant of \$150,000 for fiscal year 2019-2020 to cover the costs for the 2019-2020 county school boards association meetings.**

*Dr. Erickson moved to APPROVE the request from ELFNJ for funding through ACES for a grant of \$150,000 for fiscal year 2019-2020 to cover the costs for the 2019-2020 county school boards association meetings. The motion was duly seconded and carried, with 23 members voting in the affirmative.*

### **Consent Agenda Items**

- Approval of the open session minutes of the May 10, 2019 Board of Directors Meeting
- Approval of the NJSBA Legislative Committee appointments

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

*Dr. Erickson moved to APPROVE the minutes of consent agenda items. The motion was duly seconded and carried.*

**Executive Director's Report** Dr. Lawrence S. Feinsod provided a report on NJSBA activities and progress toward the goals of the current strategic plan.

- *Membership Participation* –Member participation in September events and activities has been very healthy. The Legislative Committee met on Sept. 14, with over 60 people in attendance. In addition to the updates and discussion of state and federal legislation,

attendees heard a presentation on student assessments. There was an excellent turnout for the CAL meeting on Saturday, Sept. 21. Leaders of the state's 21 county school boards associations heard a presentation on social-emotional learning. Eleven counties met in September, and overall attendance was up by 9.5 percent compared to their first meetings in 2018.

- *Membership Dues Update* – As reported previously, non-dues revenue is at an all-time high – 36.6 percent. Nonetheless, NJSBA is still primarily a dues-supported organization. And the rate of dues payment serves as another indicator of member support. Over 95 percent of the state's school districts have paid their dues, a rate on par with last year at this time.
- *Military Opportunities Day 2019* – As part of NJSBA's relationship with the Army, each year since 2016, NJSBA has promoted Military Opportunities Day. To help students prepare for post-secondary college and careers, NJSBA encourages schools to provide information on the wide range of opportunities offered by the U.S. armed Forces, including scholarships, training and certification in more than 200 areas. Leadership for Educational Excellence (LEE Group), a coalition of the state's major educational organizations, distributed a letter encouraging school district leaders to hold a Military Opportunities Day.
- *Sustainable Jersey for Schools* – Launched in 2014 by founding partners NJSBA and the Sustainability Institute at The College of New Jersey Sustainable Jersey for Schools has grown to include 57 percent of the state's school districts. Sustainable Jersey has distributed over \$1.8 million in grants to school districts and enabled them to initiate 5,000 sustainability actions.
- *Future Ready Schools* – The administration of Future Ready Schools-New Jersey is being moved from the New Jersey Institute of Technology to Sustainable Jersey. NJSBA believes this change will make Future Ready Schools even more successful. Future Ready Schools was founded by three partner organizations – NJSBA, the New Jersey Department of Education, and the New Jersey Institute of Technology. NJIT will remain a founding partner.
- *Career-Focused Learners* – In 2018, an NJSBA task force reported on educational opportunities for the career-focused learner. Today, we continue to work with the business community, the governor's office, and other educational groups to explore concepts such as apprenticeships, micro-credentialing, and dual-enrollment. The NJSBA is seeking volunteers to serve as ambassadors who will speak at board meetings and other venues about the need to expand educational opportunities for students who do not plan to enroll in four-year colleges immediately after graduation.
- *2019-2020 Goals* -
  - NJSBA Online University – NJSBA, in partnership with the Rutgers University Division of Continuing Studies, will develop an online university. Rutgers will provide in-kind services to develop online programs covering mandated training and other areas of professional development.
  - New Association Management System – NJSBA will implement a new Association management system that will serve as a membership database. It will provide reliable program registration and enable members to track progress toward Board Member Academy Certification. Last year, the Board of Directors approved an appropriation

for the new system, developed by Cobalt, a company with extensive experience in developing management systems for associations.

- Education Equity - During 2019-2020, NJSBA will focus training and information on the concept of educational equity. The goal is to promote the ability of local boards of education to meet the needs of an increasingly diverse student population.
- Mental Health Services in the Public Schools – This year’s goals also focus on the positive impact of effective mental health services and early intervention strategies on student health and wellness, school climate and school security. The key initiative is the study, “Building a Foundation for Hope,” which is the product of the NJSBA Task Force on Mental Health Services in the Public Schools. This is an impressive report with over 70 recommendations in nine areas, including social-emotional learning, school climate, community relations, curriculum, professional development and equity. The initial rollout will take place on Tuesday, Oct. 15 at Highland Park High School. In addition, a special Workshop group session will be devoted to the report.
- *Workshop 2019* – Workshop 2019’s keynote speaker will be Ian Hockley. Ian founded a non-profit group called “Dylan’s Wings of Change,” and named the group in honor of his son, who was one of the children killed in the Sandy Hook mass shooting. The organization works to develop youth leadership in schools through a program called “Wingman,” which teaches children to be empathetic, courageous and inclusive. Workshop 2019 is scheduled for Monday, Oct. 21 through Thursday, Oct. 24 and will feature more than 304 training and information sessions, including expanded Monday programming.
- *Advocacy* – Governor Murphy announced that New Jersey became the first state in the nation with universal access to arts education. The current legislative session ends on January 13. The NJSBA Legislative Committee will be presenting its Advocacy Agenda for the new Legislative Session at the January 2020 Board of Directors meeting.

## **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT AND OFFICERS**

### ***President***

President McClure thanked the Board of Directors and staff for their support of the Association and pledged to continue moving the Association from good to great.

### ***Vice President for County Activities***

Vice President Young thanked President McClure, Immediate Past President Sinclair, and the county school boards association presidents for their support and guidance. Mr. Young also committed to attending all counties this year.

### ***Vice President for Finance***

Vice President Smith reported that the Association finished the 2018-2019 fiscal year with strong financial results due to Workshop 2018 revenues surpassing the budget, the Technology for Education and Careers (TEC) program revenues, a lower-than-expected need for temporary help or ad hoc initiatives, and lower than budgeted health care costs. The audit committee reviewed the NJSBA 2018-19 audit report in preparation for submitting it to the Board of Directors for approval at the November 15, 2019 meeting.

***Vice President for Legislation and Resolutions***

Vice President Cortellino reported on the Association’s Legislative Committee meeting held on September 14. Discussion during the meeting focused on premium changes to the School Employees Health Benefits Plan, legislation related to the Path to Progress Report, Senate Bill 4114 and Assembly Bill 5814 impacting the School Employees Health Benefits program, the status of the availability of the \$500 million bond issue approved last year for school security and vocational schools, extraordinary special education aid, and access to state funds for pre-k expansion.

Diana Pasculli, deputy assistant commissioner for performance, NJDOE, provided an overview to the committee on next steps for the DOE regarding assessments.

***Immediate Past President***

Immediate Past President Sinclair reported on the newly created Career-Focused Student Ambassador Program. The program promotes opportunities to assist the non-college bound learner to achieve post-graduation goals. Mr. Sinclair distributed a brochure recently created to encourage participation in the program.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – No unfinished business.

**NEW BUSINESS** – No new business.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, *Dr. Erickson moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was duly seconded and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,



Lawrence S. Feinsod, Ed.D.  
Executive Director