



# New Jersey School Boards Association

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## **AGENDA ITEM NO. XI.A(2)**

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**For Meeting of January 17, 2020**

**FOR:**         **Action**

**Discussion**

**FROM:**     **Dr. Lawrence S. Feinsod, Executive Director**

**SUBJECT:** **November 15, 2019 Open Session Meeting Minutes**

Background: Attached are the November 15, 2019 open session meeting minutes.

Recommendation: I recommend that the Board of Directors approve the attached minutes as written.

Attachments

MINUTES  
of the  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

November 15, 2019  
7 p.m.

The New Jersey School Boards Association Headquarters  
Trenton, NJ

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MINUTES OF November 15, 2019  
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
NEW JERSEY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION  
TRENTON, NJ

November 15, 2019

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held on Friday, November 15, 2019 at the NJSBA headquarters, Trenton, NJ.

**Executive Committee members present were** Michael McClure, president; Bruce Young, vice president for county activities, Tammeisha Smith, vice president for finance; 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; Theresa Lewis, field services representative; Patty Maillet, director of business development; Kim Blum, director of human resources; Billie Barnett, member services representative, Michael Kvidahl, digital marketing specialist, 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	Salem	Dominick Miletta
Bergen	Diane Holzberg	Somerset	Robert Morrison
Burlington	Harry Litwack		Barry Walker (Alt.)
	Erica Campbell	Sussex	Marie Bilik
Camden	Naomi Davidson (Alt.)		William Kehoe
Cape May	Not Represented	Union	Brendan Galligan
Cumberland	Not Represented	Warren	Scott Nodes (Alt.)
Essex	Not Represented		
Gloucester	Peter Calvo	County	Ginny Murphy*
Hudson	Not Represented	Association	Judith Dias* (Alt.)
Hunterdon	Not Represented	Leadership	
Mercer	Gregory Stankiewicz		
Middlesex	Deven Patel (Alt.)	Urban Board	William Monk
Monmouth	Mark Bonjavanni		Rita Martin (Alt.)
Morris	Irene LeFebvre		Diane Johnson (Alt.)
Ocean	Melanie Biscardi		
	Richard Casey (Alt.)	Vocational	Not Represented
Passaic	Jeff Fischer		
	Nancy Schwartz		

*\* At the November 15, 2019 meeting, two members, Ginny Murphy and Judith Dias, attended the meeting remotely.*

**ROLL CALL**

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

## **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

President McClure asked for a moment of silence in recognition of the recent school shooting in Santa Clarita, CA.

## **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 introduced the following new alternate members: William Kehoe, alternate representing Sussex County, and Rita Martin, alternate representing the Urban Boards Committee.

The Board recognized the following retiring members and alternates: Sandra Mordecai, member representing Essex County; Gregory Stankiewicz, member representing Mercer County; Lucy Bloom, member representing Middlesex County; Sudhan Thomas, member representing the Urban Boards Committee; Karen Vick, alternate member representing Gloucester County; and Judith Dias, alternate representing the County Association Leadership.

New members and alternates and the members who were not present at the September 27 reorganization meeting took the oath of office.

## **AUDIT REPORT**

Robert Butvilla, partner, Suplee, Clooney & Company, NJSBA's auditor, reported that the Association has a clean audit with no recommendations.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

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

- **President McClure asked for a motion to approve the 2018-2019 NJSBA Annual Audit.**

*Mr. Fischer moved to APPROVE the 2018-2019 NJSBA Annual Audit.  
The motion was duly seconded and carried, with 24 members voting in the affirmative.*

### **Consent Agenda Items**

- Approval of the open session minutes of the September 27, 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 consent agenda items. The motion was duly seconded and carried, with four abstentions: Mr. Calvo, Mr. Fischer, Mr. Patel and Mr. Morrison.*

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

- *Meeting with New Jersey Education Commissioner* – Dr. Feinsod met with Commissioner Repollet, at the Commissioner's invitation, to discuss NJSBA's perspective on superintendent compensation and the impact of the elimination of the superintendent salary cap.
- *LEE Group* – NJSBA has been hosting meetings of the state's major educational organizations. The Leadership for Educational Excellence, or LEE Group, is taking a proactive role in addressing the tax levy cap. The group has sent a letter to Governor Murphy, Senate President Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, and other legislative leaders calling for an adjustment of the 2-percent tax levy cap to enable school districts to attain the adequate level of spending designated by the state's school funding law.
- *Corporate Support* – NJSBA has secured funding, totaling \$150,000 from corporate New Jersey for two New Board Member Orientation weekends (February 21 - 23 and March 13 - 15) and next spring's GPS for Visionary Leadership program (April 24 - 26).
- *Workshop 2019* – Workshop was a tremendous success, with more than 9,000 registrants and a record number of training sessions. Thanks to the very successful STEAM Tank Challenge, the outstanding student performances and the Garden State Film Festival, New Jersey's public school students had a strong presence at the conference. At the January 17 Board of Directors meeting, a more exact report on finances will be provided. Workshop 2019 met all of its financial goals.
- *NJSBA Delegate Assembly* – The Delegate Assembly will be held on November 23, where members will consider a proposed addition to NJSBA Policy that expressly calls for a cap adjustment to allow districts to increase their levies to attain adequacy. Senate President Sweeney has accepted our invitation to speak.
- *Advocacy* – The current legislative session ends on January 13. Some of the legislation that may be considered during the lame duck session addresses health benefits changes (Chapter 78), school lunch programs, the 2-percent tax levy cap, mental health issues and school safety. The NJSBA Legislative Committee will act on the NJSBA Advocacy Agenda for the upcoming Legislative session at its December 7 meeting. The Advocacy Agenda will be submitted to the Board of Directors for approval at the January 17 meeting.
- *2019-2020 Goals* –
  - **Videoconferencing equipment upgrade** – NJSBA's videoconferencing equipment has been upgraded since the last Board of Directors meeting. The upgraded technology is critical to achieving the creation of the NJSBA Online University, the partnership between the Association and Rutgers Division of Continuing Studies.

- **Mental Health Services in the Public Schools** – Last month, NJSBA conducted the preliminary roll-out of the task force report, “Building a Foundation for Hope,” and its official release at Workshop. The project has received coverage by National Public Radio, *Politico* and *NJ Spotlight*, as well as the *Star-Ledger*, NJ 101.5, and the *Press of Atlantic City*. To continue progress on this critical issue, President Mike McClure and Dr. Feinsod agreed to establish an *ad hoc* committee on health and wellness.
- **Basic School Law** – The new edition of *Basic School Law* was officially released at the Workshop School Law Forum on October 24.

## REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT AND OFFICERS

### *President*

President McClure reported that the staff is working diligently on upgrading the Association website and computer system. He also addressed the creation of an *ad hoc* Health and Wellness Committee to continue the work of the Mental Health Task Force.

### *Vice President for County Activities*

Vice President Young reported that with the November elections, there have been some changes in the county officers. Several new county presidents and vice presidents will be named in January. Vice President Young also encouraged current board members to bring the newly elected board members to the November/December county meetings and to encourage new members to attend the 3Rs training program.

### *Vice President for Finance*

Vice President Smith reported that the Association Management System, Cobalt, is nearing the final stages of development. The new system will replace Personify and is scheduled to be launched in mid-January 2020. Vice President Smith also reported that she plans to visit all counties this year.

### *Vice President for Legislation and Resolutions*

Vice President Cortellino reported that the Resolutions Subcommittee met on November 5 and reviewed one resolution from Hillsborough, which will be presented at the November 23, 2019 Delegate Assembly. Vice President Cortellino also reported on two very important county programs she attended, one on vaping and the other on later start times for high school students.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – No unfinished business.

## NEW BUSINESS

- Request for NJSBA to make county program materials available on the web site
- Request for NJSBA to work with county clerks on the positioning of the school board candidates on election ballots
- Suggestion for bringing vocational programs back into the comprehensive high schools
- Suggestion that there be an electronic version of *Basic School Law* that can be updated as necessary

**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 9:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lawrence S. Feinsod, Ed.D.  
Executive Director

DRAFT