



## MEMORANDUM

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**TO: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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**FROM: DR. LAWRENCE S. FEINSOD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

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**DATE: FEBRUARY 25, 2020**

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**SUBJECT: DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES**

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Each department director provided an update on activities that have taken place since the January 7, 2020 Executive Committee meeting posting. Time will be provided at our February 25, 2020 meeting for any questions or clarification.

LSF:dm  
Attachment

# Departmental Reports To NJSBA Executive Committee

February 25, 2020

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## Business Development

**Workshop 2020 Update:** *I will be providing an update at the meeting.*

- The Workshop Prospectus will be going out to potential exhibitors and sponsors on March 2
- Program Proposals went out on February 12.
- Website will be going live on March 1
- Registration and Housing will open on April 1
- Student Performances call for submissions is out
- Will be expanding the amount of performances by rotating the selected performers throughout Workshop - giving the student groups more opportunities to perform and giving attendees more opportunities to see the talent.
- Introducing an Art Exhibition on the Exhibit Floor
- Introducing a Music Competition on the exhibit floor

**Social Media Member engagement for the past 30 days: Total twitter and Facebook profiles have reached over 55,709 people.**

- **Twitter**
  - Our tweets have reached over 24,800 profiles
  - 171 mentions of @NJSBA from other profiles
  - And 41 more followers bringing our total Twitter count to 4,708
- **Facebook:**
  - Our posts have reached over 30,909 people
  - 2,788 post engagement,
  - 460 video views
  - And 21 more Facebook likes bring our total count to 3,407
  - Social Media: Follow us on twitter and Facebook using @NJSBA

### **Marketing:**

- Rollout of Cobalt, including the new census for school business administrators
- Content development for the Workshop websites, as well as attendee and sponsor promotional materials
- Promotion of upcoming statewide, regional, and webinar training program.

### **Policy:**

- Policy continues to respond to between 65 and 85 inquiries a month:
- 33 Wellness Checks completed in 2019
- Steve and Jean have produced 3 policy manuals for school districts this month.
- Steve is working with Cyndy on 3 DA resolutions.
- Steve and Jean are working on updating the Critical Policy and Reference Manual in the following areas:
  - Epilepsy update (5141 Health, Paul's Law)
  - Heat Acclimation update (new policy development at 5141.9, and update to 6145.1)
  - Transgender curriculum requirements (updates to 6161.1, 6140)
  - Domestic Violence (4111.2/4211.2)

## Department Reports/February 25, 2020

- Steve is working with Cyndy Jahn and Kim Blum with researching, drafting, formatting and uploading on-line placement of policy revisions.
- Steve and Jean continue to prepare policy presentations at NBMO, Charter School Conference and the Leadership weekend

### Charter Schools:

- Finance conference will be held on February 28 at Mercer County College
- Technology Conference will be held on March 13 at Mercer County College
- School Security and Cyber Security Conference will be held on June 5 at Mercer County College

### NJSBA Webinars:

- Lou conducted webinars in January and February on cybersecurity, ransomware, cloud services and telecommunications audits
- Conducting a webinar with the DOL on February 26 on NJ's Earned Sick Leave Law.

### NJSBA TEC:

- Board Docs continues to group and we have 94 districts participating in the program
- Fortune Consulting Telecom Services, our new product, will begin being marketed to our members this month
- All other NJSBA TEC products are on target to hit our budget goal this year.

### STEAM and Sustainability Services:

- Jan 6<sup>th</sup> John Henry Presented STEAM Tank at PSA to Expanding Entrepreneurial Education and Training for New Jersey Youth committee. This is the Mary Reese Mott Foundation grant for HS students. Possible collaboration between their grant and STEAM tank.
- Jan 14<sup>th</sup>, John presented at the Full STEAM Ahead conference at William Paterson University.
- Jan 17<sup>th</sup> John presented the award for the human built environment category in STEAM Tank to an all-girls team at Cumberland County HS.
- Jan 24<sup>th</sup> John presented and represented at the Alliance for NJ Environmental Education (ANJEE) fall conference
- Jan 20 SFC Morel conducted a Team Building session for Saddle River Public Schools
- Jan 28<sup>th</sup> Presented at and for the Morris, Union county juncture on STEAM
- Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> John and SFC Morel presented at the Essex County meeting on STEAM and Sustainability. One STEAM Tank student team presented their invention.
- The NOAA Marine Debris Prevention grant was submitted in collaboration with The Conserve Wildlife Foundation. In short, we will provide education to underserved and **underrepresented** school specifically related to the STEAM Tank Challenge with the theme of Marine Debris Prevention. If we get the grant, NJSBA would receive approximately 38K.
- Feb 11<sup>th</sup> John presented to the Army STEAM Team at Joint Base Lakehurst to gain more support from the army at NJSBA and US army collaborative events.
- John participated in the selection committee for Green Ribbon Schools awards
- Currently, John is reviewing new applications for Sustainable Jersey for Schools certifications.
- Held meeting with Rutgers STEM Team to jointly host the next Are you I-STEAM Ready workshop in on May 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Feb 18<sup>th</sup> - STEAM Tank team building day at Neptune Public schools
- Feb 18<sup>th</sup>, an evening presentation to the Ocean Gate Board of Ed on STEAM and Sustainability
- Feb 19 at the Hunterdon County meeting on STEAM and Sustainability
- Feb 20 is the next Sustainability Practice Working Session at the ACUA in Atlantic County. We have 30 people signed up currently

## **Department Reports/February 25, 2020**

### **STEAM Tank 2020 Challenge:**

- 657- Total team applications received
  - 17.3% increase in applications from 2019
- 112 Schools
- 88 Districts
  - increase from 68 districts in 2019
- Participation in 20 of 21 counties
- Division Break Down of total applications received:
  - Elementary School Teams- 333
  - Middle School Teams – 196
  - High School Teams- 128
- Regional Breakdown - Total teams qualified for regionals - 434 (this number could increase to 450 – some schools had video issues)
  - 28- High Schools
  - 41-Middle Schools
  - 43- Elementary Schools
- March 14, 2020- Liberty Science Center – 150 teams
- March 21, 2020- Info Age (Camp Evans) -156 teams
- March 27, 2020- Blackwood Army Reserve Center -128 teams
  - 2020 New Districts: Newark, MCTVS- Biotech (Monmouth), Shore Regional, Lopatcong, Belleville, Woodbridge, Marlboro, Tuckerton

## **Communications**

### **2020 Census**

The Communications Department staff is compiling a special webpage with tools that local school boards can use to promote participation in the 2020 U.S. Census. The webpage will address the importance of an accurate population count for New Jersey’s public school districts. It will offer a sample resolution, key dates in the Census process, and resources from the New Jersey Department of State, the U.S. Census Bureau, Advocates for Children of New Jersey and other organizations.

### **Publications**

The March-April edition of *School Leader* will include a special section on education technology. Articles will address “esports,” the federal e-rate, and artificial intelligence. Other features will address the new law concerning the reporting of salary history on job applications; what school boards need to know about superintendent contracts in the wake of the salary cap repeal; NJSBA’s Advocacy Agenda, and the education of deaf students.

The January-February issue featured an article on diversity in the teaching workforce. The article included one of the few interviews that Commissioner of Education Lamont Repollet has sat for since taking office.

To recognize members who perform volunteer work in addition to their board of education service, *School Board Notes* has been publishing a series of profiles. The board members profiled were suggested by their board presidents or superintendents. *SBN* will feature 15 board members through early March.

### **Media Relations**

Topics of media inquiries have included residency requirements for board members, the desegregation lawsuit, the Trump administration’s guidance on school prayer, appointed *versus* elected school boards, sending-receiving relationships, later school starting times, regulations to implement the Securing Our Children’s Future Bond Act, electric school buses, and public comment at board meetings. Inquiries came

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from several news media including *NJ Spotlight*, *Jersey Journal*, *Gannett New Jersey*, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Star-Ledger*, *Home News Tribune*, *Press of Atlantic City*, and NJ 101.5.

### **Website/Graphics/Editorial Support**

Staff assisted the Training & Professional Development Department with the editing of the new online Governance II, III and IV training programs. These courses are the initial offerings of the NJSBA Online University.

We completed the design of the Workshop 2020 website, which will go live next month. Other projects include design and formatting of training program books and materials, including the binders for the weekend New Board Member Orientation. Staff also assisted with troubleshooting of some of the technical issues involving coordination of the website with the new Cobalt system.

## **County Activities/Member Engagement**

### **County School Boards Associations**

- All the county associations have meetings in January and February. Student recognition events will be the focus of most of the meetings in March and early April. This year, 20 counties are hosting student programs.
- Program implementation and attendance has been very good.

### **BlogTalkRadio/Education Matters**

- For the past two months, we have been working on a video featuring the “Beat Bus,” a program sponsored by the Asbury Park Music Foundation to bring the arts to the public school districts. In addition, we are working on videos about equity and bias and a New Jersey student who recently won a national award.
- We completed a podcast, “Communication Tips for School Districts,” which was popular. We are in the process of scheduling podcasts on social media the LGBTQ curriculum.

### **Parent Outreach**

- We presented a program on the *Role of the Board* for parents in the Dover school district. The presentation involved an interpreter available for the large number of Spanish-speaking parents. At the request of one of the attendees, we will present the same program in another district.

## **Field Services**

- Field Services has been busier than usual this month. Since 12/1/19, we have had 14 strategic planning contracts, four superintendent search contracts and two requests for RFP’s.
- Trenton has done something very creative and unusual to foster stakeholder participation in their 3D Strategic Planning meetings—stakeholders being staff, parents and non-parents. For their first of three meetings, Trenton held their program early, served dinner, hired a translator and had the NJSBA power point translated. In all, 180 people participated. The presence of the translator made everyone feel more comfortable and willing to participate. That’s critical to the success of any strategic plan. The district will follow this format for the next two meetings. It is wonderful to have that level of participation in strategic planning and moving the district forward.

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- Field Services presented the “Equity: From the Board room to the Classroom” program simultaneously in the state’s three regions simultaneously on February 8. The program touched approximately 150 board members. The program generated a great deal of excitement and has led to several requests that the FSRs present at the local school board level. It is our goal to provide current and relevant information to our members, and this clearly was the right topic at the right time. The program is part of Field Services’ ongoing Leadership Series, offered in the winter and summer.
- Materials for the GPS for Visionary Leadership Weekend, April 24-26 are being revised to include current and relevant information for board leaders. The FSR’s are also meeting with all small group leaders in March to finalize the weekend program. There has been widespread anticipation among our members for the third annual weekend leadership program. We expect a full-house one again.
- Lastly, two FSR’s will be attending the NSBA conference to present a session, which has been accepted by NSBA. We are also sending one person to Train the Trainer this June.

### Finance

- **Year-To-Date ’19 – ‘20 Financial Results**

We are running favorable to budget through the first half of the fiscal year primarily as a result of:

- Workshop 2019’s profits exceeded its budget and all previous Workshops’ financial performance. Each major revenue source (registrations, commercial exhibitors, and sponsorships) exceeded its budget.
- Revenues from Superintendent Searches and Strategic Plans are \$61K favorable versus the budget through the end of December.
- The Temporary Help expense budget has underrun its budget for the first six months of the fiscal year.
- NJSBA was recently notified by the state of its annual employer payment obligation to the PERS (Public Employees’ Retirement System). The required funding amount of \$673K is \$119K less than budget.

- **Fiscal Year 2020 – 2021 Budget**

Our 2020-2021 budget review with the Finance Committee is scheduled for February 27<sup>th</sup>.

- The proposed budget reflects total expense increases of 0.5% compared to the current year’s budget. The inflationary increases in most of our controllable expenses (e.g., wages) are partially offset by decreases in employee medical expenses (due to changes in the state-sponsored plans) and in the Association’s PERS (Public Employees’ Retirement System) obligation.
- The proposed budget projects that members’ dues will not change, representing the 11<sup>th</sup> consecutive year that dues will remain the same.
- Non-Dues revenues in the proposed budget are expected to increase to 36.9% of total revenues. This is the largest level of non-dues revenues in the Association’s history.
- If approved by the Finance Committee, the 2020-2021 budget will be presented to the Board of Directors at its March 20 meeting.

**General Counsel**

**Delegate Assembly**

- Received a resolution from the Waterford BOE in support of a requiring parental/guardian notification of transgender students younger than 12 years.

**Mandated Training**

- Notifying November elected members of need to complete training by December 31. Approximately 200 had not taken training by January 31. They will have until February 29 to complete the requirement.

**AMICUS**

- NJSBA filed a joint motion and brief with the NJ League of Municipalities in *Gannett v. Neptune Twp.*, regarding attorney's fees where an OPRA request denial was found proper, but the common law request denial was found improper. In the case, attorney fees were awarded using the balancing test finding the public's interest in disclosure outweighed the public body's interest in confidentiality of internal investigation records. Motion to participate as *amici curiae* is pending
- In *Schwartz v. Princeton BOE*, our motion to participate as *amici curiae* has been granted. The case concerns whether the OPMA requires verbal votes of members.
- We filed brief in *Simardiris v. Paterson PSD*, concerning a trial court ruling that plaintiff teacher was entitled to a Rice notice and public hearing of certification of tenure charges, although tenure statute prohibits public hearing.

**ACES**

- Assisting Gable Associates before NJBPU in valuation of SRECs under the Clean Energy Act.

**Governmental Relations**

- The Legislature is beginning a new two-year session.
- Budget (i.e., school aid funding, pensions & health benefits) issues predominate.
- The Governor's budget address scheduled for February 25.
- Bills related to school nutrition, student mental health and other student wellness issues have center stage.
- Legislation addressing religious exemption for childhood inoculations has been re-introduced, but not yet scheduled for a formal hearing.
- Also introduced, A-1603, a bill requiring mandatory HPV inoculation.
- Comments on regulations for funds from "Securing our Children's Future" Bond Act were due to the Department of Education by February 21. Hopefully, something shorter than the current 90+ page guidance document for districts will be available shortly.
- DOE has announced public forums for comment on proposed changes to Core Learning Standards. Hearings will take place:
  - February 24, 6-8 p.m., Warren County Technical School, Theater, 1500 Route 57, Washington;
  - March 4, 2-4 p.m., NJ Department of Education, 100 River View Plaza, Trenton;
  - March 10, 4-6 p.m., Camden County College, Connector Building, Room 105, Civic Hall, 200 College Drive, Blackwood



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Bills scheduled for committee hearings on February 13 include the following:

### **ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

- A-1104 - "Hunger-Free Students' Bill of Rights Act"; requires certain school meal information be provided to students' parents; establishes protocols for identifying eligible students for meal programs; prohibits stigmatizing student with bills in arrears.
- A-1630 - Clarifies that a school district is not required to restrict access to school meals if school meal bill is in arrears.
- A-1631 - Requires school districts take certain actions to increase participation in free or reduced-priced meal programs; prohibits shaming students with school meal bills in arrears; prohibits certain district action in collecting unpaid school meal fees.
- A-1632 - Requires school districts to establish a "School Meal Fund" to assist students with school meal bill in arrears.

*NJSBA supported all the above bills, but expressed concerns pertaining to the School Meal Fund. The Association requested that this bill not be mandatory. The sponsor explained that the reason for the mandate was that no district should ever refuse a donation for this purpose.*

- A-1040 - Requires that if a school district under state intervention satisfies 80% or more of the required NJ Quality Single Accountability Continuum quality performance indicators in an area of district effectiveness, it must be returned to local control. Further, the legislation provides that the Commissioner of Education and the State Board of Education may not use any other factor in making the determination to withdraw from an area of school district effectiveness if the district meets or exceeds the 80 percent threshold. NJSBA supports the bill.

### **SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE (All bills were released except for S-1032):**

- S-108 - Concerns speech rights of student journalists at public schools and public institutions of higher education. NJSBA did not comment on this bill because the issue falls on the administration of the district. The NJ Principals and Supervisors Association and the NJ Association of School Administrators both opposed the bill.
- S237 - Requires new civics instruction in middle and high schools; requires school districts to use DOE's curriculum guidelines for civics; and requires DOE to provide funding to enhance civics instruction. NJSBA did not comment on this two bill because it has been determined that middle schools are already implementing civics as part of the social studies curriculum.
- S-854, "Laura Wooten's Law" - Requires civics instruction in middle school; authorizes New Jersey Center for Civic Education to provide curricula, professional development and technical assistance for middle and high school civics and provides annual center funding. NJSBA did not comment on this two bill because it has been determined that middle schools are already implementing civics as part of the social studies curriculum.
- S-311 - Prohibits school district from denying admittance to a student due to tardiness or violation of dress code or school uniform policy. NJSBA supports the intent of the bill, but requested clarifying language to address the issue of discipline if a student fails to follow the dress code. NJSBA will support with the amendment.
- S-316 - Establishes the Office of Dropout Prevention and Reengagement of Out-of-School Youth in DOE, and the Student Dropout Prevention Task Force. NJSBA supports the bill.



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- S692 - Requires school districts to provide feminine hygiene products in certain public schools and requires the state to pay costs. NJSBA supports the bill.
- S-1028 – Moves the Amistad Commission from the Department of State to a placement in but not of the Department of Education; requires commission to elect a chairperson and appoint an executive director; requires public schools to include instruction on accomplishments and contributions of African Americans to American society. NJSBA supports the bill.
- S1032 - Requires young children entering public schools or Head Start Programs for the first time to have comprehensive eye exams was held pending further technical review.

### **SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

The committee convened on February 13 and advanced the following NJSBA-supported legislation:

- S-228, Incentivizing Electric School Buses - Requires the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (EDA) to develop and administer a loan program to facilitate the acquisition of electric-powered school buses by school districts and school bus contractors. Under the bill, the EDA would enter into a loan agreement with a district or contractor that has received program approval. The EDA would then provide a loan in the amount of the cost differential of purchasing an electric-powered school bus instead of a traditional diesel or gasoline-powered school bus.
- S-969, Teacher Loan Redemption Program – Establishes a Loan Redemption Program in the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) to allow teachers to redeem a portion of their NJCLASS loan amounts for service as a teacher in a high-need field in a “low-performing school.” NJSBA supports the legislation and believes that incentives, such as grants and loans, should be made available to attract outstanding students to the teaching profession, particularly in areas of critical shortage. The Association also believes that loans should be forgiven for students who agree to teach a certain number of years in areas of critical shortage. If the bill receives final approval in its current form, up to \$1 million could be appropriated to the program.

### **SENATE COMMUNITY AND URBAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE:**

- S-750, Joint Health Insurance Purchasing - Permits municipalities and boards of education to jointly contract for group health insurance benefits and other types of group insurance benefits for their employees. According to the sponsor, this bill would provide these local governments with additional flexibility to work together to lower costs.
- S-984 - Requires municipalities to share certain payments received in lieu of property taxes with school districts; informs counties and school districts of application for property tax exemption. This bill, a long-time NJSBA advocacy goal, was released unanimously.

## **Human Resources**

### **Facilities**

- Paint hand rails in stairwells
- Display cabinet for the reception area set-up

### **Human Resources**

- Recruiting for (2) vacancies: field service representative and labor relations negotiator
- Update job description for (3) administrative assistants
- Participate in the server consolidation project (Mercadien and NJSBA Tech Team)
- HR website updates

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### **Mailroom**

- Printed miscellaneous program materials
- Printed Governance training manuals
- Mailed *School Boards Notes*
- Printing Workshop prospectus

### **Miscellaneous**

- Schedule general staff meetings
- Schedule “baseball opening day” luncheon for staff

## Information Technology

### New AMS – Cobalt Dynamics

- Assisted Cobalt to migrate all data from Personify on January 21 evening.
- Verified data in Cobalt to ensure data accuracy.
- Tested new AMS intensely and reported/addressed issues found before releasing to all staff and members on January 24.
- Continue to work with Cobalt to triage all issues reported from staff and members.
- Working with Training & Professional Development Department to ensure Cobalt-Canvas integration is fully functioning for NJSBA online training courses.
- Working with Marketing team to build marketing lists on Cobalt that integrate with new marketing tool – ClickDimensions.
- Working with Workshop team to ensure ExpoCAD integration is in place for Workshop 2020 and beyond.

### Software Applications

- Building STEAM Tank registration portal.
- Built registration websites for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Dialogue and Unsung Heroes/Heroines.
- Configuring and testing both online Board Self Evaluation and CSA Evaluation to ensure that the census data is driven from Cobalt system.
- Working with ExpoCAD to obtain Workshop vendor/exhibitor information, which will appear on the Workshop 2020 website, to be launched on March 1.
- Rewrote Workshop group registration web portal. This site is for business administrators to register board members and district staff for the annual conference.
- Working with Finance Department to ensure all orders and invoices were migrated to Cobalt correctly. All pending orders and invoices are capable to be processed and closed in Cobalt.

### Network & Servers

- Released new secure remote access (SRA) to staff for easy access to NJSBA network externally.
- Expanding and configuring Azure SQL database to accommodate new data storage needs that is currently hosted on premises database server.
- Start to scope and plan the NJSBA server and network infrastructure refresh.

**Legal & Labor Relations Services**

**I. Direct/Onsite Dues-Based Services**

- a. Salary Guides – L/R staff received several additional Salary Guide review requests for the above period. For the 2019-2020 fiscal year; we had in excess of 29 requests; all are completed to date.
- b. Contract Analysis – L/R Staff received several new requests to date for contract analyses. The current total received is in excess of 64 contracts. To date, more than 39 have been completed.
- c. Consultation Services - For the time in question, Legal and L/R have responded to more than 145 telephone and email requests for information. Staff members were able to provide information pertinent to the resolution of legal and labor relations matters.

**II. Fee-Based Services**

- a. Negotiations – L/R staff are currently assisting two districts with direct and ongoing collective negotiations services.
- b. Salary Guides - In addition to the dues-based salary guides noted above, L/R staff provided fee-based billable services to several districts. The current fiscal year, 2019-2020, total billing is in excess of \$5,297.50.

**III. Training and Programming**

- a. During the current fiscal year, Legal and L/R staff have participated in 43 training programs throughout the state. Many involved governance training while the balance included contract analyses, superintendent contract training, pre-negotiation training, Ethics, HIB, and individual board training.

**IV. Internal Services**

- a. Personnel Administrators Association (PAA) – Staff members conducted a successful meeting on February 13 with the collaborative participation of the New Jersey Schools Insurance Group. Executive Director Jill Deitch and members of her staff appeared before PAA to advise administrators on mitigating liability and protecting the schools against child sexual abuse claims. Ms. Deitch would like to increase the collaboration between the two groups. In addition, the department completed 21 training sessions for board members.
- b. Publications - Departmental services to the Association during this period include the publication of 14 articles for *School Board Notes*, *School Leader*, and the Charter Schools newsletter. The department continues to collect and assess programmatic data to better anticipate and address the needs of members.
- c. *Basic School Law* - Staff members have completed the print version of the book and are now eagerly pushing forward on the digital version. Substantial progress has been made in importing the text into the BoardDocs software application.

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- d. Members of the staff also met for a second time with Jennifer Killough-Herrera, Acting Director, NJDOE Office of Controversies and Disputes, in regard to the new training program for tenure TEACHNJ arbitrators. The Legislature has determined that additional training is necessary to provide more consistent results with regard to tenure dismissal actions. Staff will continue to provide input into the process.

### **Training & Professional Development/Educator- in-Residence**

#### **Mandated Training Opportunities:**

- The County Foundations for Success programs continue to provide flexible opportunities for members to complete their mandatory training. On February 5, we used WEBEX to provide Gov III- Student Achievement simultaneously to the Middlesex and Burlington County meetings simultaneously. It is a new way to learn and present; participant feedback was positive.
- Work continues in preparation for the two NBMO Weekends: 2/21/20 & 3/13/20. The Group Leaders met on Saturday, February 1 to review the programs. We will continue to have professional learning in the foundational topics of Governance and continue to address Equity and are emphasizing SEL, Mental Health, and the Career Focused Learner.
- Reps from ETS's Institute will facilitate the equity presentations for Student Achievement: <https://www.studentachievement.org/>
- Considering our on-line collaboration with RU, we are incorporating an on-line required module on HIB. Doing so enables us to add a more comprehensive session on Equity and a new session on Social Emotional Learning.

#### **Mental Health**

The January 28 tri-board Ramsey mental health discussion was both well attended and well received. We will be presenting on 2/13 at the Becton Regional Board and another tri-board meeting on March 11 in Oradell will also include Northern Highlands.

#### **Mental Health Report**

On February 10<sup>th</sup>, with Government Relations, we met with Assemblyman Greenwald to discuss five proposed bills he has authored in support of expanding mental health services through schools for students and their families.

#### **Health & Wellness Committee**

The Steering Committee's meeting under Chair Amy Hassa provided an opportunity for the group to coalesce, begin to set priorities and establish a structure for the full committee to contribute to our goals. The full committee will meet on 2/18.

#### **Educational Opportunities for the Career Focused Learner**

- The January 25 initial meeting of the Career Ambassadors was well attended. Presentations included representatives from the Job Corps, a labor union, and the Pennsauken school district. Attendees were asked to begin to develop three-minute elevator speeches. We will also develop talking points for the Ambassadors.
- On May 14, I will participate in a panel discussion for the Eastern Seaboard Apprenticeship Conference in Atlantic City. The event rotates among the 13 states from Maine to Virginia. This

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collaborative represents the 13 Northeast and Central Atlantic states. I will be discussing our report and our work with the DOE/DOL/NJBIA, etc., to expand apprenticeship opportunities for NJ high school students.

### **Human Trafficking**

Sharon Seyler and I are representing NJSBA on the re-established NJDOE/DOJ anti-Human Trafficking Task Force to educate school personnel and districts across NJ on the signs, interventions and responses to trafficking.

### **SEL4NJ**

According to Liz Warner (SEL4NJ chair/professor at the College of St. Elizabeth), NJSBA is the driving association force for SEL4NJ. While the other associations are active participants, it is our work internally, with boards and with the parent organization that is providing guidance and motivation to do the work.

### **NJSBA Equity Council**

The Equity Council continues its work and plans to expand its meeting schedule to a four this academic year. Weather and commitments by Council members has made scheduling difficult. However, the Council was scheduled to meet on 2/10 to establish its long and short-term goals and objectives. The Councils monthly SBN column began and will be published in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of each month in SBN.