

MINUTES

of the

BOARD OF DIRECTORS VIRTUAL MEETING

May 8, 2020

7 p.m.

The New Jersey School Boards Association Headquarters  
Trenton, NJ

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
NEW JERSEY SCHOOL BOARDS  
ASSOCIATION TRENTON, NJ

May 8, 2020

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held virtually on Friday, May 8, 2020 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; Daniel Sinclair, immediate past president, and Dr. Lawrence S. Feinsod, executive director.

**Association staff present were** Frank Belluscio, deputy executive director/director of communications; Cynthia Jahn, Esq., general counsel; Joseph Hsieh, director of information technology; Carl Tanksley, director of legal & labor relations services; Jane Kershner, director of field services; John Faford, director of budget & finance; Vincent DeLucia, director of training and professional development; Patty Maillet, director of business development; Ray Pinney, director of member engagement; Kim Blum, director of human resources; Christopher Jones, legislative advocate, governmental relations department; Brian Green, System Administrator, IT department, 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	Passaic	Jeff Fischer
Bergen	Diane Holzberg		Nancy Schwartz
	Sheli Dansky (Alt.)	Salem	Dominick Miletta
Burlington	Harry Litwack	Somerset	Robert Morrison
	Erica Campbell		Barry Walker (Alt.)
Camden	Gail David	Sussex	Marie Bilik
	Naomi Davidson (Alt.)	Union	Brendan Galligan
Cape May	Not Represented	Warren	Paul Williams
Cumberland	Michelle Kennedy		Scott Nodes
Essex	Erica Jacho		
	Shane Berger (Alt.)	County	Not Represented
Gloucester	Peter Calvo	Association	
Hudson	Not Represented	Leadership	
Hunterdon	Laurie Markowski		
Mercer	Dana Krug	Urban Board	Diane Johnson
Middlesex	Deven Patel (Alt.)		Rita Martin (Alt.)
Monmouth	Mark Bonjavanni		Sheila Etienne (Alt.)
Morris	Irene LeFebvre		
Ocean	Melanie Biscardi	Vocational	Elizabeth Martin
	Richard Casey (Alt.)		

**ROLL CALL**

President McClure called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A roll call indicated five officers, 18 counties, county association leadership, urban boards and vocational boards were represented.

## **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

President McClure asked for a moment of silence in recognition of current and former board members lost recently due to the COVID-19 virus and other causes – in particular, Martha Wilson of Camden City, Richard Barsa of Weehawken, Anna Kolb of the Morris School District, Kenneth Conte of Garfield, Margaret Angeli of Teaneck, and Ted Hunter of West Long Branch.

## **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 retiring members: Diane Holzberg, member representing Bergen County; Michael Baruch, M.D., member, representing Hudson County; and Jeff Fischer, member representing Passaic County. In addition, Shane Berger, Bloomfield Board of Education, the new alternate member representing Essex County, took the oath of office.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Dr. Lawrence S. Feinsod provided a report on NJSBA’s rising to the challenge presented by the public health crisis and ensuring that the members continue to benefit from essential training, advocacy, and direct service.

- **NJSBA’s Virtual Programs** – NJSBA is staying connected with its members—and helping them to stay in touch with each other—through virtual county meetings, an increased number of podcasts, webinars and new Facebook Live events. NJSBA is providing districts with guidance on resources to manage the crisis, to continue effective governance, and to secure the technology necessary for online learning. NJSBA’s online efforts also include providing professional development and training on a virtual basis.

Since March 16, NJSBA has had over 1,000 registrations for 15 webinars. Visits to the various sections of the website totaled approximately 190,000, an increase of 41,000 over the same period last year. The Facebook content reached over 85,000 people. There were 14,880 views of online videos and the activity associated with the NJSBA Twitter account received 132,000 impressions. Since the beginning of the health crisis,

Dr. Feinsod has increased communication with the membership and state officials through his Twitter account. The response has been impressive.

- **NJSBA Online University** – To improve the quality of its online programs, NJSBA has partnered with the Rutgers Division of Continuing Studies, a national leader in web-based training. *NJSBA’s Online University* will include completely revamped Governance Programs, using a new Learning Management System that is compatible with Cobalt, is user-friendly, and gives members the ability to track online course completion.

- **Workshop 2020** – After monitoring the public health emergency for several months, NJSBA reached a decision not to conduct an in-person Workshop. Factors included the following: a concern for the health of the community; the use of the Atlantic City Convention Center as a field hospital, which may extend to October 21 (the third day of Workshop), and current data that does not provide a guarantee that restrictions will be lifted by the fall.
- To meet members’ professional development needs, the Association is planning a three-day virtual training conference, October 20-22. It will provide over 100 training sessions, opportunities for professional development credit, special events, keynote presentations, and an interactive exhibit floor. More information will be shared in the coming months. The entire program will be recorded and accessible for a full year after the event.
- **Advocacy Update**
  - At the request of Senate President Sweeney, our Governmental Relations staff met with key members of his staff to discuss his proposals, the Employee Job-Sharing Furlough Protection Act, which would use federal emergency aid to supplement unemployment compensation.
  - NJSBA advocated for a delay the reopening of schools so that local boards would have adequate time for careful planning. We worked with Leadership for Educational Excellence, a coalition of the state’s major education organizations, in this effort. It played a major role in Governor Murphy’s decision to keep schools closed through June.
  - Later this month, NJSBA will release a special report on the challenges facing districts when schools reopen. It will address issues ranging from social distancing, students’ emotional well-being, remote instruction, and school finances, among other topics.
  - Senator Sweeney and Senator Teresa Ruiz, the education committee chair, have created an education recovery task force to address the challenges facing students, teachers, parents and administrators in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. Senator Sweeney invited NJSBA to participate in the task force. Dr. Feinsod appointed Chris Jones, legislative advocate, to represent the Association on the panel.
  - NJSBA is urging members to express opposition to legislation, S-2392/A-3969, which would authorize the Department of Community Affairs to permit municipalities to delay or alter the transmission of property tax revenue to school districts during gubernatorial-declared emergencies, such as the state’s current situation. The Association has posted as a sample resolution and sample letter on its website for members’ use in communicating with the legislators.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

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

President McClure asked for a motion to approve the NJSBA 2020-2021 budget.

*Dr. Erickson moved to APPROVE the NJSBA 2020-2021 budget. The motion was duly seconded and carried, with 27 members voting in the affirmative.*

### **Consent Agenda Items**

President McClure asked for a motion to approve the open session minutes of the January 17, 2020 and March 20, 2020 meetings.

*Dr. Erickson moved to APPROVE the consent agenda items. The motion was duly seconded and carried with five abstentions: Bruce Young, Marie Bilik, Laurie Markowski, Elizabeth Martin and Dian Johnson.*

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

The Board of Directors also received reports from the president, vice president for county activities, vice president for finance, vice president for legislation/resolutions, and immediate past president, all of which focused on the acknowledgement of the NJSBA staff for successfully rising to the challenge of continuing all programs, services and operations of the Association virtually.

### **INTERACTIVE SESSION**

The members discussed suggestions and challenges for re-opening schools in the fall.

### **RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION**

President McClure asked for a motion to enter into closed session to discuss a personnel matter of confidential nature.

*Mr. Morrison moved to APPROVE the motion to enter into closed session. The motion was duly seconded and carried. The Board of Directors entered closed session at 9:28 p.m.*

President McClure asked for a motion to go back into open session.

*Dr. Erickson moved to APPROVE the motion to go back into open session. The motion was duly seconded and carried. The Board of Directors went back into open session at 9:38 p.m.*

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – No unfinished business.

**NEW BUSINESS** – No new business.

### **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

President McClure paused before adjournment to have a moment of silence for all of the students and teachers who have been lost to the COVID-19 virus.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, *Mr. Fischer moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was duly seconded and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,



Lawrence S. Feinsod, Ed.D.  
Executive Director