

MINUTES  
of the  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS VIRTUAL MEETING

November 13, 2020  
7 p.m.

The New Jersey School Boards Association Headquarters  
Trenton, NJ

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
NEW JERSEY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION  
TRENTON, NJ

November 13, 2020  
7 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held virtually on Friday, November 13, 2020. President Michael R. McClure presided over the meeting from the Association’s headquarters in Trenton. Executive Director Lawrence S. Feinsod provided his report to the board from headquarters.

**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; Jonathan Pushman, director of governmental relations; Janet Bamford, manager of communications and publications; Brian Green, IT system administrator; and Ann Marie Smith, executive administrative assistant.

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

Atlantic	Not Represented	Salem	Not Represented
Bergen	Sheli Dansky Clara Williams (Alt.)	Somerset	Barry Walker (Alt.)
Burlington	Harry Litwack	Sussex	Marie Bilik
Camden	Gail David Naomi Davidson (Alt.)	Union	Brendan Galligan
Cape May	Not Represented	Warren	Paul Williams
Cumberland	Not Represented	County	Ginny Murphy
Essex	Shannon Cuttle (Alt.)	Association	
Gloucester	Peter Calvo Jennifer Cavallaro-Fromm (Alt.)	Leadership	
Hudson	Not Represented	Urban Board	Diane Johnson Rita Martin (Alt.) Rosa Moreno-Ortego (Alt.) Sheila Etienne (Alt.)
Hunterdon	Laurie Markowski		
Mercer	Dana Krug		
Middlesex	Not Represented	Vocational	Elizabeth Martin
Monmouth	Mark Bonjavanni		Jon-Henry Barr (Alt.)
Morris	Irene LeFebvre		
Ocean	Melanie Biscardi Richard Casey (Alt.)		
Passaic	Joseph Canova (Alt.)		

Guest Presenter: Mr. Robert Butvilla, partner, Suplee, Clooney & Company (Auditor)

**ROLL CALL**

President McClure called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A roll call indicated five officers, 15 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 the bravery and sacrifices of our military service personnel, first responders, and all those who have been lost to COVID-19. Specific mention was made of the passing of Mark Biedron, former president of the New Jersey State Board of Education and Peggi Haynes, former president of the Burlington County School Boards Association and member of the Mount Laurel Board of Education.

**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

**OATH OF OFFICE**

The following members took their oath of office:

*Camden County:* Naomi Davidson  
*Hunterdon County:* Laurie Markowski  
*Somerset County:* Barry Walker  
*County Association Leadership:* Ginny Murphy

*Urban Boards Committee:* Rosa Moreno-Ortego  
*Vocational Boards:* Jon-Henry Barr

**NJSBA 2019-2020 AUDIT REPORT**

Mr. Robert Butvilla, partner, Suplee, Clooney & Company provided a report on the NJSBA 2019-2020 annual audit report. The independent audit for fiscal year 2019-2020 reflects positively on the Association’s business and finance operations. There are no recommendations.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**Roll Call Agenda Items:**

**President McClure asked for a motion to approve the 2019-2020 NJSBA Annual Audit.**

*Mr. Calvo moved to APPROVE the 2019-2020 NJSBA Annual Audit.  
The motion was duly seconded and carried, with 24 members voting in the affirmative.*

**President McClure asked for a motion to approve the transfer of \$65,000 to building/capital needs allocation fund.**

**Background:** In 2010, NJSBA completed renovations of the headquarters building at 413 West State Street in Trenton. The renovation resulted in the reconstruction/redesign of the building's interior and major improvements to its exterior.

In the ten years since the renovation was completed, NJSBA has invested over \$300,000 in various upgrades or replacements to properly maintain the facilities.

As of June 30, 2020 the Building Needs Allocation Fund had a remaining balance of \$32,149. NJSBA management is not aware of any significant facility upgrades in which the Association needs to invest in the immediate future, but the NJSBA Facilities Manager has noted that investments may need to be made in: the ventilation, HVAC and lighting systems and Association vehicles in the not-too-distant future. This transfer will ensure that sufficient funds are quickly and readily available if and when the need arises for future facility investments.

Current financial projections show that NJSBA can appropriate the necessary funds from its free balance and still maintain a sufficient fund balance (four to six months of operating expenses) recommended by our independent auditor.

*Mr. Bonjavanni moved to APPROVE the transfer of \$65,000 to building/capital needs allocation fund. . The motion was duly seconded and carried, with 24 members voting in the affirmative*

### **Consent Agenda Items**

President McClure asked for a motion to approve the following consent agenda items:

Board of Directors open session meeting minutes of September 25, 2020

NJSBA Legislative Committee Appointments

At-Large Appointment to the Nominating Committee\*

Revisions to GO/3300, Use of Unappropriated Free Balances and Surplus Funds – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

*Mr. Galligan moved to APPROVE the consent agenda items. The motion was duly seconded and carried with four abstentions to the September 25, 2020 minutes: Ms. Murphy, Ms. Moreno-Ortego, Ms. Markowski, and Mr. Walker.*

**\*2020-2021 NJSBA NOMINATING COMMITTEE** The election of the NJSBA Officers is scheduled to take place at the May 15, 2021 Delegate Assembly. A 13-member Nominating Committee will recommend one candidate for each of the offices of president, vice president for finance, vice president for legislation/resolutions, and vice president for county activities.

Pursuant to the NJSBA *Bylaws*, the Board of Directors appointed four members to serve on the NJSBA Nominating Committee for 2020-2021 during its meeting on September 25, and the County Association Leadership elected four representatives at its October 10 meeting. At the Board of Directors meeting on November 13, the NJSBA President, Michael McClure, proposed four at-large appointees to the Nominating Committee, which the Board of Directors approved. The Immediate Past President will chair the Nominating Committee and the Association's current president will serve as a non-voting member. (The 2020-2021 Nominating Committee list is attached.)

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Lawrence S. Feinsod addressed NJSBA activities and progress in enabling school districts to meet the challenges presented by the public health crisis and ensuring that the members continue to benefit from essential training, advocacy, and direct service.

**Virtual Workshop 2020** - NJSBA's Virtual Workshop 2020 exceeded its programming, attendance and financial goals. There were more than 6,000 participants, who were able to access more than 100 sessions and nearly 140 exhibitors. Workshop featured keynote speakers: Anna Maria Chavez, CEO of the National School Boards Association, outgoing Interim Commissioner of Education Kevin Dehmer, and Sabrina Capoli, the student representative to the New Jersey State Board of Education.

Planning for Workshop 2021 has already begun and will include discussion of all variables from all-virtual to an in-person event or a combination of both.

**Association Finances** - NJSBA has seen increased revenue in several areas, including the TEC program—the cooperative pricing system that enables districts to obtain computer equipment and services at deeply discounted prices. The TEC program is also a source of personal protective equipment. Due to the challenges of the pandemic and remote learning, district purchasing of technology equipment has increased significantly and NJSBA has been able to help districts save money.

In addition, there is an increase in charter school membership, and the number of superintendent searches has also increased.

**Research Projects** - To assist local school boards and to direct public discussion of the challenges facing education during the pandemic, NJSBA has been engaged in a series of research projects.

The most recent special report, “Reopening Schools: Online Learning and the Digital Divide,” was released on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. The report looks at challenges facing school districts in providing remote instruction, including overcoming the digital divide. Shortly after the report was released, the Senate Majority office reached out to NJSBA, seeking more information regarding student learning loss for potential legislation.

Earlier reports included “Searching for a New Normal in New Jersey’s Public Schools,” which addresses potential issues involved in the reopening of schools. It was issued in May. In August, “Choosing the Best Road Back for Our Children” was released, which includes an Advocacy Agenda for Public Education during the Pandemic and emphasizes the need for additional support from the state and federal government.

A fourth report is scheduled for release in January. It will focus on the psychological impact of the pandemic on our students.

**NJSBA Partnerships** - For NJSBA, partnerships, which improve relationships at all levels of government, are critical to advancing its mission.

NJSBA again led a statewide effort to encourage school districts to schedule a Military Opportunities Day. This initiative is designed to inform students and parents about the post-secondary education and career opportunities available through service.

Two years ago, NJSBA began providing a virtual toolkit for the local, county and state Teachers of the Year. It contains programs from Apple, Google, and other corporate donors. These toolkits have been much appreciated by the winners. The New Jersey Department of Education's Teacher of the Year program involves a partnership among NJSBA, the New Jersey Education Association and ETS.

NJSBA is looking forward to working with Dr. Angelica Allen- McMillan, whom Governor Murphy nominated as commissioner of education in late October. Dr. Allen-McMillan is a sincere, dedicated lifelong educator—and a former school board member in Montclair. More recently, she has been a frequent participant in the county school boards association meetings in Morris County, where she served as executive county superintendent. Dr. Allen-McMillan reached out to Dr. Feinsod shortly after her appointment. They had a productive conversation about current educational issues and the impact of the pandemic on the public schools.

**Member Services & Training** - NJSBA will be reaching out to the newly elected school board members with information on the upcoming regional 3Rs programs, as well as the need to complete state-required criminal background checks. The 3Rs programs acquaint newly elected members with their roles, relationships and responsibilities. The programs are also open to current board members.

Due to the pandemic, the valuable in-person new board member weekend training conference will not be held. However, plans are underway to provide an exciting virtual multi-day program that will include small group sessions led by group leaders. This is an example of how NJSBA is working to accommodate the needs of its members while working within the constraints of the public health emergency.

A staff task force, called the “NJSBA 2021: Moving Forward Committee,” has been established to review the organizational structure of the Association and recommend to the Executive Director changes in operations and organizational structure, which it believes are necessary to ensure that NJSBA maintains and improves the delivery of services past pandemic.

**Advocacy Update** - Throughout the public health emergency, the Legislature has been very active in addressing pandemic-related issues, along with other matters.

S-2843, “Coaches Bill” - Most recently, NJSBA stalled action on a bill that would infringe on local school boards' ability to make critical personnel decisions. Senate Bill 2843, also known as the “Coaches' Bill,” would grant automatic multi-year contracts to certain coaches, and provide unreasonable protections for these positions. Along with our colleagues at NJASA, NJASBO and the Garden State Coalition of Schools, our action resulted in the Senate pulling the bill.

A-4461/S-2698, *Cooperative Purchasing* - There has been progress on legislation that would require the state to coordinate cooperative purchasing systems to assist public schools in acquiring COVID-related goods and services. The bill is cited in NJSBA's “Pandemic Advocacy Agenda,” which was included in the NJSBA report, “Choosing the Best Road Back.”

A-4006/S-2402, *QSAC Flexibility* – The governor veto A-4006, which would postpone NJQSAC review because of disruptions caused by the pandemic. The bill, which is also reflected in the NJSBA Pandemic Advocacy Agenda, had passed unanimously in both the Assembly and the state Senate. Our Governmental Relations Department has reached out to the bill's sponsor, Assemblyman Nicholas Chiaravalloti, to discuss next steps. NJSBA is also in contact with other

education groups, the governor's office and the State Department of Education to find common ground on legislation or regulatory action.

A-4310/S-2691, Budget Flexibility – This legislation authorizes school districts to maintain surplus at four percent for 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years. Both bills have received committee approval and are awaiting floor votes.

### **INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION**

The Board members engaged in a discussion about the pros and cons of Virtual Workshop 2020.

### **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. The reports focused on the acknowledging the NJSBA Board of Directors members and their dedication to providing quality education to all students of New Jersey and their support of the state Association during this challenging time; NJSBA staff for successfully rising to the challenge of continuing all programs, services and operations of the Association virtually, particularly the county school boards association meetings and Virtual Workshop 2020; preparations for the upcoming Delegate Assembly; and encouraging members to run for NJSBA officer positions for the elections at the May 2021 Delegate Assembly.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – No unfinished business.

### **NEW BUSINESS** –

- NSBA Equity Symposium opened on November 13, 2020
- Essex County School Boards Association's last county meeting focused on LGBT, bullying and persons with disabilities issues and curriculum. The county association created a resolution to support the ongoing effort to provide an inclusive and safe learning environment for all persons with disabilities and LGBTQ persons, and to protect students from bullying. Other county associations are encouraged to adopt a similar resolution.

### **SUMMARY**

President McClure reminded members they will receive “take-away” points from this meeting, which can be used in making reports to the county associations; the NJSBA Board of Directors Handbook is now posted on the Board of Directors web page for reference and downloading, and a reminder to email completed Conflict of Interest/Code of Conduct forms to Ann Marie at [amsmith@njsba.org](mailto:amsmith@njsba.org).

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, *Ms. Biscardi moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was duly seconded and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,



Lawrence S. Feinsod, E.D.  
Executive Director

**New Jersey School Boards Association  
2021-2022 Nominating Committee**

<b>Area</b>	<b>Board of Directors</b>	<b>Co. Assn. Leadership</b>	<b>At-Large</b>
<i><b>Northwest</b></i> Hunterdon Morris Somerset Sussex Warren	Robert Morrison Watchung Hills Somerset County	Mattia Scharfstein Stanhope Sussex County	Paul Williams Harmony Warren County  Charles Miller* East Amwell Hunterdon County
<i><b>Northeast</b></i> Bergen Essex Hudson Passaic Union	J. Brendan Galligan Westfield Union County	James Gaffney Oakland Bergen County	
<i><b>Central</b></i> Burlington Mercer Middlesex Monmouth Ocean	Dana Krug West Windsor- Plainsboro Mercer County	Sharon Miller South Plainfield Middlesex County	Jeffrey Hicks Southampton Burlington County  Tara Rivera* Jackson Ocean County
<i><b>Southern</b></i> Atlantic Camden Cape May Cumberland Gloucester Salem	Naomi Davidson Runnemede Camden County	Yuenge Groce Salem City Salem County	

\* NJSBA Bylaws, Article X, Section 3. At-large not required to be regionally selected.