

MINUTES

of the

BOARD OF DIRECTORS VIRTUAL MEETING

May 7, 2021

7 p.m.

The New Jersey School Boards Association Headquarters
Trenton, NJ

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
NEW JERSEY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION
TRENTON, NJ

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A regular meeting of the New Jersey School Boards Association Board of Directors was held virtually on Friday, May 7, 2021. 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; Dr. Karen Cortellino, vice president for legislation/resolutions; Tammeisha Smith, vice president for finance, Dan Sinclair, immediate past president, and Dr. Lawrence S. Feinsod, executive director.

Association staff present were Cynthia Jahn, Esq., general counsel; Janet Bamford, chief public affairs officer; Kim Blum, director of human resources; Vincent DeLucia, director of training and professional development; John Faford, director of budget & finance; Brian Green, IT systems administrator; Jane Kershner, director of field services; Patty Maillet, director of business development; Ray Pinney, director of member engagement; Jonathan Pushman, director of governmental relations; and, Ann Marie Smith, executive administrative assistant.

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

Atlantic	Amy Hassa	Passaic	Nancy Schwartz
Bergen	Sheli Dansky	Salem	Emily Cannon
	Joseph Steele (Alt.)	Somerset	Robert Morrison
Burlington	Harry Litwack		Barry Walker (Alt.)
	Erica Campbell (Alt.)	Sussex	Marie Bilik
Camden	Not Represented	Union	Brendan Galligan
Cape May	Jacqueline McAlister (Alt.)	Warren	Paul Williams
Cumberland	Michelle Kennedy		Scott Nodes
Essex	Shane Berger		
	Shannon Cuttle (Alt.)	County	Mattia Scharfstein
Gloucester	Peter Calvo	Association	
Hudson	Not Represented	Leadership	
Hunterdon	Not Represented		
Mercer	Dana Krug	Urban Board	Diane Johnson
Middlesex	Patrick Walsh		Rita Martin (Alt.)
	Joyce Mehta (Alt.)		Sheila Etienne (Alt.)
Monmouth	Mark Bonjavanni		
Morris	Irene LeFebvre		
Ocean	Richard Casey (Alt.)	Vocational	Elizabeth Martin

ROLL CALL

President McClure called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A roll call indicated 4 officers, urban boards committee, vocational boards were represented and 15 counties were represented.

GUEST SPEAKERS: Katrina Adkins, SHI; Michael Esolda, SHI; and, Bryan Rosenthal, SHI

MOMENT OF SILENCE

President McClure asked for a moment of silence to give thanks and show gratitude for the service of all those who have helped our citizens and our schools during this pandemic, including our first responders, our healthcare workers, and the administrators and staff in our schools who have gone above and beyond for more than a year now, making sure instruction and services to our students continues.

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 RETIRING AND NEW MEMBERS - The following retiring members were recognized for their service to the New Jersey School Boards Association and the students of New Jersey: Dan Sinclair, immediate past president; Pete Calvo, member representing Gloucester County; and Mark Bonjavanni, member representing Monmouth County.

STAFF RETIREMENTS - The following retiring employees of NJSBA were also recognized for their long years of service: Cynthia Jahn, Esq., general counsel, served for 29 years; Jane Kershner, director of field services, served for 25 years; and Kim Blum, director of human resources, served for 23 years

OATH OF OFFICE - There were no members needing to take the oath of office.

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

Special Education Week - Every year, the second week of May is when we recognize the achievements of the state's special education students, the work of their teachers and the support of their parents and school officials. Since 1985, NJSBA has been a sponsor of Special Education Week, which is May 9- May 15 this year, and yesterday we received a copy of the Governor's formal proclamation. Special Education Week is also marked with our Innovations in Special Education Awards. These awards focus on inventive and effective programs for special education students. This year the winners will be recognized virtually in an NJSBA Facebook Live event on Tuesday, May 11 at 10 a.m.

This week is also national Teacher Appreciation Week. We thank our teachers and honor them for all that they do for our students.

Advocacy Update – Last summer NJSBA developed a “Pandemic Advocacy Agenda,” and this week another significant goal from that agenda was achieved. The governor signed A-4461/S-2698, which requires the state to enter into contracts and coordinate with certain cooperative purchasing systems to help school purchase COVID-19 related goods and

services. Members were reminded that NJSBA's own Cooperative Pricing System carries a full range of COVID-related goods and services.

NJSBA has testified on the state's budget proposal and has reached out directly to members of the budget committee and other legislators. In its testimony, NJSBA supports the proposed increases in formula aid, extraordinary special education aid, preschool expansion aid, and the critical need for the proposed \$50 million Stabilization Aid fund, which will provide transitional aid to districts experiencing a decline in state aid.

Workshop 2021 – The website is now live online, and registration will open on May 17. Group registration will be the same price as last year, and registration allows boards to bring up to 25 people from the district to the conference.

Spring Education Symposium – scheduled for next week will provide more than 40 training sessions on topics such as learning loss mitigation, cybersecurity, special education, school law and social-emotional learning. Participants can view sessions for up to 30 days after the conference.

Member Engagement – Recently NJSBA sent out a survey to board members, superintendents and business administrators. Nearly a quarter of respondents reported increased engagement with NJSBA since March 2020. Among the resources with a higher level of usage reported: the NJSBA website, School Board Notes and School Leader, training and webinars.

Mandated Training Compliance - As you all know, board members are required to take mandated training. They have one year after taking their board seat to fulfill this requirement. NJSBA is the state-designated provider of this training and is required to report to the School Ethics Commission (SEC) members who do not comply. Each year some board members, who have not completed their training within the required 12-month period, are contacted by NJSBA after which they typically all do so. This year we have seen an increase in the number of board members in noncompliance. The number stood at close to 200 just two months ago. That number is now down to 47 members who haven't completed training. The SEC extended the deadline for completing the requirements and NJSBA has taken steps to notify board members of their status by emailing all non-compliant members, calling the business administrator/board secretary, and calling to the board members themselves—for members who have provided us with personal telephone numbers. NJSBA also reached out to the SEC to discuss the actions they might take. NJSBA believes that the SEC needs to take firmer action, and not permit additional time extensions. NJSBA will continue to press the SEC to keep the bar high for board member training, and not lower it.

Sale of the Hamilton Township Property – and Employment of Special Counsel - In November 2006, NJSBA purchased about 10 acres for \$1.6 million to build a new headquarters. Due to state regulatory changes in board member training allowances and expenses, and the Great Recession of 2008, the Association decided not to go forward with the construction. Recently we received a serious offer from a company wishing to buy the property. In April, a non-binding agreement was signed to sell the property for \$2 million. Dr. Feinsod recommended that the Board of Directors approve a resolution presented during the meeting, which endorses the sale of this property and that NJSBA would benefit in this transaction from having attorneys with special expertise in real estate and land use issues.

The NJSBA Strategic Plan - NJSBA is developing a Strategic Plan that will guide the Association from January 2022 through the end of 2024. To develop the plan we are undertaking a series of activities to gain input from members and staff. A survey will be distributed to all members in June. During June and July, NJSBA members will be invited to participate in two strategic planning forums to take place in October. The group will consist of 40 to 50 members of local boards of education and NJSBA staff. The Executive Committee

will receive the proposed Strategic Plan at its regular meeting on November 3. The Plan will then go to the Board of Directors for its approval at the November 19 meeting.

NJSBA Online University - Part I of the development of the NJSBA Online University is well underway. The mandated training courses of Governance I, II, III and IV are online and running, as is Introduction to Salary Guides and the Comprehensive New Board Member Orientation. More courses are in development for delivery in the coming months. This service will expand beyond its primary goal of serving board members—the Phase II and Phase III of NJSBA Online University. In these phases, comprehensive professional development will be offered to classroom teachers, district leadership and support staff. Some of these courses will provide the continuing education credits that professionals need, including Qualified Purchasing Agent credit, and Certified Educational Facilities Manager credit. We are partnering in this venture with SHI, a Somerset company that services districts with integrated IT services, and with Eduscapes of Montvale, a national leader in K-12 professional development.

Board members also received more detailed reports from NJSBA staff on the following items: sale of NJSBA's Hamilton property; NJSBA's On-Line University and NJSBA advocacy initiatives.

ACTION ITEMS

Roll Call Agenda Items:

President McClure asked for a motion to approve the resolution on the sale of the Hamilton Property.

Mark Bonjavanni moved to APPROVE the resolution on the sale of the Hamilton property. The motion was duly seconded and carried, with 25 members voting in the affirmative.

President McClure asked for a motion to approve the employment of Special Counsel to handle the sale of the Hamilton property.

Brendan Galligan moved to APPROVE the employment of Special Counsel to handle the sale of the Hamilton property. The motion was duly seconded and carried, with 25 members voting in the affirmative.

President McClure asked for a motion to approve a \$100,000 appropriation from free balance for future technology upgrades.

Amy Hassa moved to APPROVE a \$100,000 appropriation from free balance for future technology upgrades. The motion was duly seconded and carried, with 25 members voting in the affirmative.

President McClure asked for a motion to approve the grant request from ELFNJ to ACES in the amount of \$50,000 for fiscal year 202-21 to support the Sustainable Jersey Digital Schools program.

Brendan Galligan moved to APPROVE the grant request from ELFNJ to ACES in the amount of \$50,000 for fiscal year 202-21 to support the Sustainable Jersey Digital Schools program. The motion was duly seconded and carried, with 25 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 March 19, 2021
NJSBA Legislative Committee Appointments 2021

Robert Morrison moved to APPROVE the consent agenda items. The motion was duly seconded and carried. The following members abstained from voting on the previous meeting minutes as they were not in attendance: Marie Bilik, Shane Berger, Emily Cannon and Amy Hassa.

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.

RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION

President McClure asked for a motion to go into a closed session to review the Executive Director’s evaluation.

Mark Bonjavanni moved to APPROVE the body entering into closed session. The motion was duly seconded and carried.

Members went into closed session at 8:45 p.m. Guest speakers and non-essential staff signed out of the meeting online and stepped out of the session in-person.

Members returned to open session at 9 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – No unfinished business

NEW BUSINESS – No new business

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, *Emily Cannon moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was duly seconded and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,



Lawrence S. Feinsod, E.D.
Executive Director