

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
NEW JERSEY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION
TRENTON, NJ**

January 28, 2022
7 p.m.

A regular meeting of the New Jersey School Boards Association Board of Directors was held virtually on Friday, January 28, 2022. Due to the impending winter storm, President LeFebvre presided over the meeting virtually. Vice President’s Young, Smith, Cortellino and Immediate Past President McClure also participated virtually. Executive Director Dr. Lawrence S. Feinsod provided his report to the board virtually as well.

Executive Committee members present were Irene LeFebvre, president; Bruce Young, vice president for county activities; Tammeisha Smith, vice president for finance, Karen Cortellino, vice president for legislation; Michael McClure, immediate past president, and Dr. Lawrence Feinsod, executive director.

Association staff present were Patty Maillet, acting deputy executive director; Carl Tanksley, Esq., acting general counsel; Janet Bamford, chief public affairs officer; Maja Klysinski, director of human resources; Vincent DeLucia, educator-in-residence; John Faford, director of finance and operations; Ray Pinney, director of member engagement; Jonathan Pushman, director of governmental relations; Brian Green, network administrator; Samantha Matias, executive assistant; Kurt Rebovich, Jr., labor relations manager, and, Ann Marie Smith, assistant editor/communications program specialist.

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

Atlantic	Amy Hassa	Cape May	Not Represented
	Jerome Page	Cumberland	Not Represented
Bergen	Sheli Dansky	Essex	Shane Berger
	Michael Jacobs (Alt.)	Gloucester	Michele Giaquinto
Burlington	Harry Litwack	Hudson	Jonathan Castaneda
	Erica Campbell	Hunterdon	Laurie Markowski
Camden	Not Represented	Mercer	Dana Krug

	Addie Lane (Alt.)	Association	
Middlesex	Joyce Mehta	Leadership	
Monmouth	Not Represented		
Morris	Paul Breda	Urban Board	Rita Martin
	Diane Morris (Alt.)		Marsha Hershman (Alt.)
Ocean	Richard Casey		Rosa Moreno-Ortego
	Stephanie Wohlrab (Alt.)		Cynthia Atkins (Alt.)
Passaic	Nancy Schwartz		Diane Johnson
Salem	Emily Cannon		Chanta Jackson (Alt.)
Somerset	Barry Walker (Alt.)		
Sussex	Ronald Hoffman (Alt.)	Vocational	Elizabeth Martin
Union	Brendan Galligan		
Warren	Not Represented		
County	Mattia Scharfstein (Alt.)		

ROLL CALL - President LeFebvre called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A roll call indicated 5 officers, county association leadership, urban boards, vocational boards and 17 counties were represented. Those present constituted a quorum.

NON-BOARD MEMBERS: The following non-board members were also present at the meeting: Daria Hill, Heather Garcia, Lorenzo Richardson, Maria Calabrese, Maria Mattiace, Shannon Cuttle and Yuenge Groce.

MOMENT OF SILENCE - President LeFebvre asked for a moment of silence to remember all we have to be grateful for in spite of these challenging times.

FLAG SALUTE - President LeFebvre led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MISSION STATEMENT - President LeFebvre 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: Joseph Steele, alternate for Bergen County; Shannon Cuttle, alternate for Essex County; Maria Mattiace, member for Hudson County; and Sheila Etienne, alternate for the Urban Boards Committee.

The following new members and alternates were introduced.

New Members and Alternates:

- Bergen County Alternate - Michael Jacobs, Ridgefield Board of Education
- Hudson County Member - Jonathan Castaneda, West New York Board of Education
- Urban Boards Alternate - Cynthia Atkins, Roselle Board of Education
- Urban Boards Alternate - Chanta Jackson, Neptune Township Board of Education

OATH OF OFFICE – New members and members who were not present at the October 2021 reorganization meeting or the November 2021 meeting were asked 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 to them including those of the public health crisis, ensuring that members continue to benefit from essential training, advocacy, and direct service.

School Board Recognition Month - At the end of December, the governor issued a proclamation declaring January to be School Board Recognition Month, and at the monthly meeting of the State Board, that group approved a resolution recognizing the contributions of local board members.

NJSBA is celebrating School Board Recognition Month by periodically spotlighting a local board member from the state in *School Board Notes*. The members featured are those who responded to a survey posted in the newsletter asking board members about their service and board accomplishments and how NJSBA has been a help to them. This feature will be continued throughout the year.

The video program, *Education Matters*, is also releasing three interviews that Ray Pinney did with longtime board members. The series is called “Two Centuries of Service,” which is how long these members have collectively served on their boards.

Both of these initiatives help humanize the work of local board members, and these stories are being promoted through NJSBA’s social media channels.

Wind Down Empowerment Series - On Jan. 25, NJSBA debuted the Wind Down Empowerment Series. Initially featured at Workshop 2021, these sessions provide a forum where board members can gather virtually to informally discuss issues of concern with NJSBA staff experts and other board members. This initiative aligns with the objectives of the NJSBA Strategic Plan, which calls for the Association to encourage the sharing of ideas and best practices between members through small group and interactive participation. The meeting was well-attended, and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. The Wind Down Sessions will be held throughout the year. The next one is scheduled for Feb. 24, 2022.

NJSBA Virtual “Day on the Hill” Planned – NJSBA’s Governmental Relations department is in the process of planning its own virtual “Day on the Hill,” which will feature meetings between board members and New Jersey’s representatives in Washington, DC. The program will offer

board members information, strategies, and access to lawmakers. Details of this program will be shared in the next few weeks.

The Climate Change Education Thought Leaders Committee Report - In June 2020, New Jersey became the first state in the nation to incorporate K-12 climate change education across content areas when the State Board of Education adopted the 2020 New Jersey Student Learning Standards. In response, NJSBA and Sustainable Jersey joined forces to determine an appropriate plan for implementing these standards statewide. The result is a 35-page report which details the key needs of districts implementing these standards, makes recommendations, and provides resources. NJSBA expects to release the report on Monday, Feb. 7, at a Facebook Live Event and will make the full report available by posting it on the NJSBA website and circulating it to members.

2022-2024 Legislation Session Begins - New Jersey has begun a new two-year Legislative Session at the State House. NJSBA's Advocacy Agenda for the new session has been developed with the help of the Association's Legislative Committee, which voted to approve it at their last meeting. NJSBA Bylaws state that the Association shall adopt positions consistent with its policy; encourage, promote and assist in the development of local, county and statewide legislative networks; testify at meetings or hearings of the state Legislature and state Board of Education, and initiate policy recommendations for consideration by the Board of Directors. Topic areas include: accountability, advocacy, funding, local governance, school district staffing/collective bargaining, special education, student achievement, and vocational education. With the new session, we have new chair of the Senate Education Committee. Sen. Vin Gopal was chosen by incoming Senate President Nick Scutari to head the committee. Sen. Gopal has been a friend to NJSBA, a participant in many Association programs, and will speak at the Legislative Committee meeting on February 26.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEARCH UPDATE - NJSBA Executive Director Larry Feinsod has announced his plans to retire, effective July 1. In the coming weeks, NJSBA President Irene LeFebvre along with Immediate Past President Mike McClure will form an Executive Director Search Committee, which will conduct a search and recommend a new executive director to the NJSBA Board of Directors, which must vote to approve the choice.

President LeFebvre and Immediate Past President McClure are committed to casting a wide net to find the right person who brings the right set of skills to the position – skills that will ensure we continue the progress that has been made under Dr. Feinsod’s leadership.

ACTION ITEMS

Roll Call Agenda Items:

President LeFebvre asked for a motion to approve the appropriation of \$100,000 for future facility upgrades.

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.

Recently, we have become aware of two facility problems that need to be addressed. First, the building’s HVAC automation controls are not operating properly, resulting in poor energy efficiency due to the mechanical system being stuck in constant “Occupied” mode even during hours when the building is not open. The Facilities Manager has evaluated several possible solutions with vendors, but none of the vendors are willing to assure a successful outcome without replacing the entire control panel. The estimated cost for the replacement is \$80,000. The second project relates to several leaks that have been noted in the exhaust piping of our boiler. This has resulted in corrosion of the existing pipes and increased the possibility that the leaking fluid can cause further damage or become an increasing safety hazard. Replacing the pipes with new PVC pipes would be cost prohibitive, so the remaining option of installing new stainless steel pipes and additional drainage to remove the acidic water faster is estimated to cost \$45,000.

The Building Needs Allocation Fund has a remaining balance of \$138 thousand, with \$100,000 of this balance targeted for future technology upgrades as approved by the Board at its May 2021 meeting.

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.

Paul Breda moved to APPROVE the appropriation of \$100,000 for future facility upgrades. The motion was duly seconded and carried, with 26 members voting in the affirmative.

Consent Agenda Items:

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

- A. Open session minutes of the November 19, 2021 meeting
- B. 2022-2023 Advocacy Agenda
- C. Legislative Committee Appointments
- D. Resolution Subcommittee Appointments

Brendan Galligan moved to APPROVE the consent agenda items. The motion was duly seconded and carried. The following members abstained from voting on the previous meeting open minutes: Amy Hassa, Jonathan Castaneda, and Karen Cortellino.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT AND OFFICERS

The Board of Directors also received both written and verbal reports from the president, vice president for county activities, vice president for finance, vice president for legislation and immediate past president.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – No unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS – No new business.

SUMMARY

President LeFebvre 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, *Amy Hassa moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was duly seconded and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lawrence S. Feinsod". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L' and 'F'.

Lawrence S. Feinsod, E.D.

Executive Director