

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

March 18, 2022

7 p.m.

A regular meeting of the New Jersey School Boards Association Board of Directors was held virtually on Friday, March 18, 2022. President Irene M. LeFebvre presided over the meeting from the Association’s headquarters in Trenton. Immediate Past President Michael R. McClure was also present at headquarters. Executive Director Lawrence S. Feinsod provided his report to the board from headquarters.

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; 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; and Kurt Rebovich, Jr., labor relations manager.

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

Atlantic	Amy Hassa	Gloucester	Natalie Baker
Bergen	Sheli Dansky	Hudson	Not Represented
	Michael Jacobs (Alt.)	Hunterdon	Laurie Markowski
Burlington	Not Represented	Mercer	Dana Krug
Camden	Not Represented		Addie Lane (Alt.)
Cape May	Jacqueline McAlister	Middlesex	Joyce Mehta
Cumberland	Not Represented	Monmouth	Al Miller
Essex	Not Represented	Morris	Paul Breda

Ocean	Richard Casey	Urban Board	Rita Martin
Passaic	Not Represented		Marsha Hershman (Alt.)
Salem	Not Represented		Rosa Moreno-Ortego
Somerset	Barry Walker (Alt.)		Cynthia Atkins (Alt.)
Sussex	Marie Bilik		Diane Johnson
	Ronald Hoffman (Alt.)		
Union	Not Represented	Vocational	Elizabeth Martin
Warren	Paul Williams		Jon-Henry Barr
County	Mattia Scharfstein (Alt.)		
Association			
Leadership			

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 13 counties were represented. Those present constituted a quorum.

NON-BOARD MEMBERS: The following non-board members were also present at the meeting: Dylan O’Byrne and Eileen DiGiacomo.

MOMENT OF SILENCE - President LeFebvre asked for a moment of silence for the citizens of the Ukraine and an ultimately peaceful solution to the conflict.

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.

OATH OF OFFICE – Select members and alternates who were unable to attend a previous meeting of the Board of Directors were asked to take the oath of office. None of the select members were present at this meeting.

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.

NJSBA 2022-2023 Budget - The proposed NJSBA budget for the next school year includes a 5.8% increase in revenue and expenses versus last year’s budget. The increase in expenses is due primarily to the resumption of an in-person Workshop. For the 13th consecutive year, district dues will be maintained at the current level, without an increase. As always, the proposed budget relies on the utilization of free balance, which is \$450,000 under this proposal. The budget was presented to the Finance Committee on March 4 and received a unanimous approval.

NJSBA’s K-12 Climate Change Education Needs Report Released - Last month, NJSBA held a Facebook Live event to announce the release of its report on K-12 Climate Change Education Needs in New Jersey. In June 2020, New Jersey became the first state in the nation to adopt standards that required schools to include climate change education across subject areas and grade levels. After the adoption of the standards, NJSBA and Sustainable Jersey convened a group that included local board members, as well as representatives from the state and federal government, N.J.’s major education groups, non-profit environmental advocacy groups, higher education and the private sector to study the issue and develop a report. The report includes 34 recommendations for implementing the standards. It can be found on the NJSBA website and was covered in the School Board Notes March 1, 2022 issue. One outgrowth of the report is the formation of the New Jersey Climate Change Education Initiative, which is an effort to provide additional resources to New Jersey teachers—and become a national model for climate change education integration. NJSBA is participating in this effort.

Spring Symposium – Registration is open for our second annual Spring Symposium, which will be held on April 26 and 27. This virtual two-day event will feature more than 40 training sessions covering topics of interest – including school law, public relations, school district technology needs, and advocacy updates. Topics were drawn from suggestions and requests that have come from member surveys. As has been the case with other virtual conferences, for the convenience of the attendees, video of the sessions will be available to registrants for viewing for 30 days after the Symposium.

The NJSBA G/O Manual - The NJSBA staff is in the process of reviewing and revising the policies in the G/O – Governance and Operations Manual. This is the manual which governs our internal and personnel policies. It was time for a periodic review and updating of the policies in the manual. We are focusing particularly on the financial, personnel, and operations aspect of the Association. There will be some changes in the manual that have to be approved by the NJSBA Board of Directors. This will probably come before the board at the May meeting as well during at least one of the meetings in the fall.

State Budget - On March 8, Gov. Murphy delivered his budget message, and local districts were notified about their state aid within 2 days, as required by law. The majority of districts—about two-thirds— will have their formula aid increased, about one-third of the districts will see less aid as a result of the S-2 funding adjustments, and a handful of districts will experience flat

funding. NJSBA will be testifying in the coming weeks at budget hearings. Among the budget line items we will be advocating strongly for are the \$20 million for Stabilization Aid to assist districts adjusting to the S-2 funding levels, and \$400 million for extraordinary special education costs for all districts. The budget also allocates \$5 million for districts to implement the new climate change education standards.

Workshop 2022 - Registration begins April 4. The website will also accept program proposals on that date. Patty and her team are developing some new features which will make the conference better than ever.

Online University Hub - The Online University Hub - the collaboration between NJSBA and NJASA to offer subscription-based online training to the K-12 public education community - continues to garner interest from districts and we have been busy spreading the news about this opportunity. This year we will include a free 90-day subscription to the Online University Hub to county teachers of the year, their superintendents and two staff members. We presented a program on this at Techspo, NJASA's technology conference, which was held in January. The Sussex County superintendents' roundtable featured Online University Hub at a meeting this morning.

Wind Down Empowerment Series - We have had two sessions, and they have both drawn enthusiastic participation and response. In the February session, the breakout rooms discussed the topic of the district budget preparation process –although, as always, discussion in the rooms was also guided by members' questions and requests. The next Wind Down is scheduled for next Wednesday at 7 p.m. and will focus on personnel and staffing issues in school districts.

ELFNJ and the Cooperative Purchasing Program - Sponsor support for ELFNJ is strong. Lenora Green, who headed philanthropic giving at ETS, recently passed away. She was a former board of education member who firmly believed in ELFNJ and its mission of training board members and provided substantial funding to the organization. Recently the new director of philanthropic giving at ETS gave us a commitment to continue ETS's previous level of giving-- \$50,000 for ELFNJ. We are grateful to all involved.

NJSBA’s Cooperative Purchasing Program continues to expand. The program added COVID-19-related goods and services like PPE and disinfectant products during the early days of the pandemic. This year the program will be adding “green” products and services.

STEAM Tank 2022 - This year’s engagement numbers for STEAM Tank continue to amaze. There are 403 teams participating in this virtual program—58 more than last year. That represents about 1800 students. More than 300 teams will proceed to regionals – and finals will be held virtually at the end of May, with an awards ceremony in June. The Association looks forward to sharing with NJSBA’s members some of the innovative ideas that will emanate from our STEAM Tank students.

ACTION ITEMS

Roll Call Agenda Items:

President LeFebvre asked for a motion to approve the proposed 2022-2023 NJSBA budget.

Richard Casey moved to APPROVE the 2022-2023 NJSBA budget. The motion was duly seconded and carried, with 22 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 January 28, 2022 meeting
- B. Legislative Committee Appointments

Paul Breda moved to APPROVE the consent agenda items. The motion was duly seconded and carried.

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 –

Paul Breda inquired about the scope of advertising for the Executive Director search and how much time potential candidates had to apply. President LeFebvre and Janet Bamford, chief public affairs officer, provided information as to where the position had been posted and informed the Board that candidates had one more week to apply.

NEW BUSINESS –

- Question was raised regarding a calculation from the state that showed savings as a result of chapter 44, member wanted to know if this issue was on NJSBA’s radar or if the Association had any involvement with it.
- Request that NJSBA have conversations regarding the inequities among student athletes.

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, *Joyce Mehta moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was duly seconded and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,



Lawrence S. Feinsod, E.D.

Executive Director