

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

May 13, 2022  
7 p.m.

A regular meeting of the New Jersey School Boards Association Board of Directors was held in-person and virtually on Friday, May 13, 2022. President Irene M. LeFebvre presided over the meeting from the Association’s headquarters in Trenton. Immediate Past President Michael R. McClure and Vice President Bruce R. Young were 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	Hudson	Jonathan Castaneda
Bergen	Sheli Dansky	Hunterdon	Laurie Markowski
Burlington	Erica Campbell (Alt.)	Mercer	Dana Krug
Camden	Not Represented		Addie Lane (Alt.)
Cape May	Jacqueline McAlister	Middlesex	Joyce Mehta
Cumberland	Not Represented	Monmouth	Al Miller
Essex	Shane Berger	Morris	Paul Breda
Gloucester	Not Represented		Diane Morris (Alt.)

Ocean	Richard Casey	Urban Board	Rita Martin
Passaic	Nancy Schwartz		Marsha Hershman (Alt.)
Salem	Emily Cannon		Cynthia Atkins (Alt.)
Somerset	Barry Walker (Alt.)		Diane Johnson
Sussex	Marie Bilik		Chanta Jackson (Alt.)
	Ronald Hoffman (Alt.)		
Union	Brendan Galligan	Vocational	Jon-Henry Barr (Alt.)
Warren	Paul Williams		
	Scott Nodes (Alt.)		
County	Not Represented		
Association			
Leadership			

**ROLL CALL** - President LeFebvre called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A roll call indicated 5 officers, urban boards, vocational boards and 18 counties were represented. Those present constituted a quorum.

**NON-BOARD MEMBERS:** The following non-board members were also present at the meeting: Lorenzo Richardson, Tafshier Cosby, Michael Esolda, Lt. George Guzman, Chastity Santana, and Lou Schimenti.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE** - President LeFebvre asked for a moment of silence for the loss of longtime Bergen County board member Jim Gaffney and to commemorate the individuals and their families who lost their lives due to COVID-19.

**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. The following member took their oath of office: Burlington County Alternate, Erica Campbell.

**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.

**Information and Resources for Boards** - One of the objectives of NJSBA's Strategic Plan involves strengthening board and community relationships by providing the public with a better understanding of the role of the local board of education. This month, NJSBA has published some resources to assist boards with the important task of community relations. The Association released a new brochure, "A Guide to Board of Education Meetings in New Jersey," which will be a valuable resource for boards. Boards are encouraged to print and share this resource at board meetings, and to post the link on their district websites. The brochure will educate the

public, and act as a reference guide for the media. It will also serve as a refresher for board members. It talks about the roles and responsibilities of boards and superintendents, details board meeting procedures and provides guidance for members of the public who may want to speak at board meetings. A downloadable link to the brochure was emailed to all board members, superintendents, and business administrators in early May. It was also featured in *School Board Notes* and released to the media. This document is in the process of being translated into Spanish so that districts can provide the information to their Spanish-speaking parents and constituents. Resources have also been made available to boards to provide information on state learning standards that will take effect in the 2022-2023 school year.

**Technology Investment Proposal** - A technology investment was proposed to the Board of Directors to maintain and upgrade NJSBA's technological resources. It was a prior investment in technology that, in part, enabled the Association to pivot so quickly and seamlessly to provide virtual services when the pandemic hit in March 2020. This initiative addresses an Action Item in the Strategic Plan, which calls for the Association to update and add hardware and software as needed, in order to develop and maintain NJSBA's capability to conduct both in-person and virtual programs, meetings and events.

**NJSBA Finances** - NJSBA is ending the fiscal year in excellent financial health. Year-to-date net income exceeds what was budgeted for, thanks in part to higher revenues from Superintendent Searches, Strategic Plans, Policy Manual services, ACES-Plus solar fees, BoardDocs subscriptions, charter school memberships, and the Fall Law Forum. The Association has also benefitted from its practice of keeping a careful eye on spending as well as reduced expenses due to COVID travel restrictions and holding meetings and programs virtually. NJSBA's financial health will enable them to forego a dues increase during the 2022-2023 fiscal year –for the 13th consecutive year.

**NJSBA eLearning Center** - NJSBA's Professional Learning and Communications, Information Technology and Marketing Divisions have been working on an eLearning Center for the NJSBA website, which will provide access and information on the wide range of virtual professional learning opportunities that NJSBA provides – in one easy-to use- website location. This will make it more convenient for members who are trying to locate the training sessions that will be most useful to them and will provide a sort of “one-stop shopping” for professional learning. The eLearning Center is expected to be launched in a few weeks.

**Collective Negotiations** - The Association periodically updates some of its classic reference works. The latest publication to be reissued is *Collective Negotiations*. The book is a guide to the procedures and techniques of collective bargaining. Topics covered in the book include preparation for bargaining, table tactics, mediation, and fact-finding, as well as other components of negotiations. It is an excellent primer for the novice, and a useful review for the more experienced board member or administrator, and will sell for \$45 for members, and \$50 for non-members.

**Workshop 2022** – NJSBA has launched the Workshop website, opened registration, is accepting program proposals, and has been in communication with sponsors and exhibitors. Registration numbers are impressive at this point in time.

**The NJSBA G/O Manual** - The NJSBA staff has completed reviewing and revising the policies of the 6000 series in the G/O – Governance and Operations Manual. The 6000 series deals with NJSBA programs and services. The revised policies were presented to the Board of Directors for approval. There will be more policies coming before the Board of Directors at the September meeting.

**NJSBA’s Springtime Programs** - Programs during May and June:

The Equity Conference 2022 will be held virtually on Friday, May 20 at 10:00 a.m.

The next Wind Down: Empowerment Series will be held on Wednesday, May 25 at 7:00 p.m.

The annual Technology Conference will be held virtually on Friday, June 3 at 9:00 a.m.

The annual School Public Relations Forum will take place virtually on Friday, June 10 at 9:00 a.m. The theme for this year’s event is ‘Proactive PR: Get Ahead of the Controversy.’

**Leadership Training Weekend** - NJSBA will hold its hybrid leadership weekend program on June 3 through 5. The theme is “Vision, Commitment & Unity: Building Your Governance Mindset.” Field Services is busy planning the sessions and will be assisted by veteran board members who will serve as small group leaders. The conference will be held virtually on Friday night, and then the Saturday and Sunday sessions will be held in-person at the Crowne Plaza

Princeton Conference Center. There is no charge for this weekend program, because it has been underwritten by ELFNJ and partners from corporate New Jersey.

**Legislative Update** - Legislature has been focused on the state budget, which must be approved by June 30. NJSBA has submitted written and verbal testimony to the Assembly Budget Committee and the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.

NJSBA has welcomed a new governmental relations advocate, Jesse Young.

**DR. FEINSOD'S EVALUATION FOR 2021-2022** - Each year, the NJSBA Officers formally evaluate the performance of the Executive Director. Normally this evaluation is held in Executive Session, and Larry and any staff members or members of the public present at the Board of Directors meeting would step out so that the BOD can hold a confidential discussion. This year, with the permission of Dr. Feinsod, and the Officers, this portion of the meeting was held in public.

President LeFebvre reported that Dr. Feinsod achieved all the goals the Board of Directors set for him and read an excerpt from the Officers' Evaluation Summary.

A slideshow was presented highlighting a few of the Association's achievements in the past decade under Dr. Feinsod's leadership.

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

**President LeFebvre asked for a motion to go into a closed session to discuss the proposed contract for the candidate for the NJSBA Executive Director position.**

*VP Bruce Young moved to APPROVE the body entering into closed session. The motion was duly seconded and carried. Members went into closed session at 8:17 p.m. Non-essential staff and non-Board of Directors members were locked out of the meeting online and stepped out of the session in-person. Members returned to open session at 8:56 p.m.*

## **ACTION ITEMS**

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

**President LeFebvre asked for a motion to approve the appointment of the new Executive**

**Director.**

*Marie Bilik moved to APPROVE the appointment of the new Executive Director. The motion was duly seconded and carried, with 25 members voting in the affirmative.*

**President LeFebvre asked for a motion to authorize the extension of Dr. Feinsod's current contract to July 29, 2022.**

*Erica Campbell moved to APPROVE the extension of Dr. Feinsod's current contract to July 29, 2022. The motion was duly seconded and carried, with 25 members voting in the affirmative.*

**President LeFebvre asked for a motion to approve a new appropriation of \$350,000, from the free balance account, for future technology upgrades.**

*IPP Michael McClure moved to APPROVE a new appropriation of \$350,000, from the free balance account, for future technology upgrades. The motion was duly seconded and carried, with 25 members voting in the affirmative.*

**President LeFebvre asked for a motion to waive the portions of Governance and Operations File Code 8309 requiring a 2nd reading in order to change the internal policy manual of the Association.**

*VP Bruce Young moved to APPROVE waiving the portions of Governance and Operations File Code 8309 requiring a 2nd reading in order to change the internal policy manual of the Association. The motion was duly seconded and carried, with 25 members voting in the affirmative.*

**President LeFebvre asked for a motion to approve revisions to the 6000 series of the Governance and Operations Manual on the first reading.**

*Joyce Mehta moved to APPROVE the revisions to the 6000 series of the Governance and Operations Manual on the first reading. The motion was duly seconded and carried, with 25 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 March 18, 2022 meeting
- B. Legislative Committee Appointments

*VP Bruce Young 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 –**

Diane Morris inquired about the sale of the Hamilton property. Carl Tanksley, Esq., acting general counsel, provided an update.

**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, *Shane Berger moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was duly seconded and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,



Lawrence S. Feinsod, E.D.  
Executive Director