

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

September 23, 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, September 23, 2022. President Irene M. LeFebvre presided over the meeting from the Association’s headquarters in Trenton. Immediate Past President Michael R. McClure and Vice Presidents Bruce R. Young, Tammeisha D. Smith and Dr. Karen Cortellino were also present at headquarters. Executive Director Timothy J. Purnell 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, Dr. Karen Cortellino, vice president for legislation; Michael McClure, immediate past president, and Dr. Timothy Purnell, executive director.

Association staff present were Carl Tanksley, Esq., acting general counsel; Janet Bamford, chief public affairs officer; Vincent DeLucia, educator-in-residence; John Faford, director of finance and operations; Ray Pinney, director of member engagement; Jonathan Pushman, director of governmental relations; Lauren Cuervo, director of communications, it and marketing; Brian Green, network administrator; Samantha Matias, executive assistant; Kurt Rebovich, Jr., senior manager of member benefits and strategic partnerships; Cynthia Harrison, senior legal assistant; Gwen Thornton, field service representative; Kathleen Helewa, senior manager of field services; and Terri Lewis, field service representative.

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

Atlantic	Amy Hassa	Camden	Joseph Miller
Bergen	Sheli Dansky	Cape May	Jacqueline McAlister
	Michael Jacobs (Alt.)	Cumberland	Not Represented
Burlington	Harry Litwack	Essex	Shane Berger
	Erica Campbell (Alt.)		

	Kathryn Weller-Demming (Alt.)	Union	Brendan Galligan Brittany Kirkland (Alt.)
Gloucester	Not Represented	Warren	Paul Williams Scott Nodes (Alt.)
Hudson	Jonathan Castaneda		
Hunterdon	Laurie Markowski		
Mercer	Dana Krug Addie Lane (Alt.)	County Association	Not Represented
Middlesex	Not Represented	Leadership	
Monmouth	Not Represented	Urban Boards	Marsha Hershman (Alt.) Cynthia Atkins (Alt.) Diane Johnson
Morris	Paul Breda Diane Morris (Alt.)		
Ocean	Stephanie Wohlrab	Vocational	Elizabeth Martin Jon-Henry Barr (Alt.)
Passaic	Nancy Schwartz Joseph Canova (Alt.)		
Salem	Eileen Miller		
Somerset	Barry Walker (Alt.)		
Sussex	Marie Bilik Ronald Hoffman (Alt.)		

**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 17 counties were represented. Those present constituted a quorum.

**NON-BOARD MEMBERS:** The following non-board members were also present at the meeting: Lorenzo Richardson, Marlene Somerville, and Mark Bonjavanni.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE** - President LeFebvre asked for a moment of silence for the safety and security of our schools, students, and staff.

**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** – Mark Bonjavanni, Howell Board of Education, mentioned that a great group of leaders that have served for many years have left their districts over the last couple of years. With in-person programming starting back up again he would like the Board to consider bringing back some of the group leaders who would still have an interest participating in programs, either by themselves or by teaming up with current newer members, as an opportunity to train newer members to be group leaders.

**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: Richard Casey, member for Ocean County and Emily Cannon, member for Salem County.

The following new members and alternates and re-elected members and alternates were introduced.

New Members:

- Essex County Alternate – Kathryn Weller-Demming, Montclair Board of Education
- Salem County Member – Eileen Miller, Woodstown-Piles Grove Regional Board of Education
- Union County Alternate – Brittany Kirkland, Roselle Park Board of Education

Re-elected Members:

- Morris County Member and Alternate – Paul Breda and Diane Morris

- Ocean County Member – Stephanie Wohlrab (appointed to fill member vacancy from alternate position)
- Sussex County Member and Alternate – Marie Bilik and Ronald Hoffman
- Union County Member – J. Brendan Galligan

**OATH OF OFFICE** – As it was the NJSBA Board of Directors re-organization meeting the annual oath of office was administered to all members in attendance.

**CODE OF CONDUCT** – President LeFebvre reviewed the requirement of NJSBA’s Conflict of Interest and Code of Conduct policies, Governance and Operations File Code 8250. The Conflict of Interest and Code of Conduct policies ensure the avoidance of actual or potential conflicts, or the appearance of a conflict of interest in any action involving an Association contractor, consultant, or vendor with which the member has a personal interest, or a direct or indirect financial interest.

Accordingly, NJSBA requires each member to review these policies and fill out the conflict of interest questionnaire (GO/8250E) annually. Members will be emailed a form, GO/8250E, including Board of Directors Code of Conduct and the Board of Directors Conflict of Interest Certification, as well as copies of the relevant policies and regulation (GO/8250, GO/8312 and GO/8318R). Members were asked to complete the form and return it to NJSBA. The statement certifies that the NJSBA Executive Committee and Board of Director members have received, have read and will adhere to the Board of Directors Code of Conduct.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT** - Dr. Purnell 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.

**Financial Report** - About 92% of the annual dues for the 2022-2023 fiscal year have been paid, as of Sept. 23 - a measure of member satisfaction with the services delivered to boards, and a vote of confidence in NJSBA that it will continue meeting the needs of our members. The books on fiscal year 2021-2022 have been closed and the net income came in at \$571,000 above budget. The NJSBA auditors have completed their fieldwork for the 2021-2022 fiscal year and the Audit committee, which met prior to this meeting, received a draft report. The Board of Directors will receive the final audit for approval at the November 4 meeting.

**Workshop 2022** - The first in-person Workshop in two years is only one month away. As of September 22, there are 409 districts and 4,604 individuals registered. Union and Hudson counties both have 100% of their boards of education registered with Essex County and Morris County close behind. NJSBA will be welcoming more than 275 vendors back to the Exhibit Hall and will have more than 250 training programs. Sessions cover topics including school security, special education, school law, crisis communications, labor relations, policy, student mental health and more. The full agenda can be found on the NJSBA Workshop website. All four courses of mandated training –Gov. 1, 2, 3 and 4 – will be offered so members can fulfill their training requirements. There will be a Leg Update including the chair of both the Assembly and Senate Education Committees. The Acting Commissioner of Education, members of the State Board, and the student representative to the State Board will also be featured at Workshop. The NJSBA Board Member of the Year and the New Jersey Teacher of the Year will be recognized on the stage of the Exhibit Floor Theater. A new Student Innovation Showcase will be introduced on the Exhibit Floor featuring a student art gallery and student films from the 2022 Garden State Film Festival. This year’s keynote speaker will be Jon Staff, co-founder and CEO of Getaway and the author of the book *Getting Away: Everyday Practices for Finding Balance in Our Always-On World*. The book discusses the importance of unplugging and reconnecting with what really matters on a regular basis.

**Strategic Plan Progress 2022** - Dr. Purnell provided an update on the progress of the strategic plan. Titled, “Framework for the Future,” the plan was approved by the Board of Directors last November and it has five goal areas. The goal areas and objectives were developed by the Strategic Plan Committee, which was comprised of board members and NJSBA staff. NJSBA staff and the previous executive director guided the development of the Action Items. Dr. Purnell briefly demonstrated how NJSBA’s initiatives and responses to changing events fulfilled some of these Action Items by holding a series of programs on school security initiatives; tools to educate your public and the SEHBP advocacy initiative.

**Inside NJSBA: Staff Update** – Patti Rees, County Activities Coordinator for the northern part of the state, has joined the Field Service Department as a Field Service Representative for Hudson, Middlesex, and Union counties. NJSBA welcomes a new County Activities Coordinator, Rob Acerra. Rob comes to NJSBA from the New Jersey PTA organization, where he was director of member and board services.

**NJSBA's Summer Intern Program** - Katrina Homel, Legal Counsel, spearheaded the development of an internship program, and last summer NJSBA had two fantastic interns – one mentored by Katrina and the other by Beverly Plein, Professional Learning Consultant. NJSBA looks forward to continuing this initiative next summer.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

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

**President LeFebvre asked for a motion to approve the extension of payment of dues for a BOD Members' board until the November 4, 2022 Board of Directors meeting.**

***Background:*** As of September 21, there are two (2) Board of Directors members who are members of a board of education from which NJSBA has not yet received the 2022-2023 dues. NJSBA received purchase orders or verbal commitment for these districts that the dues payments have been or will shortly be processed. President LeFebvre advised that payment from one of these boards was received today. However, the NJSBA Bylaws require that the Board of Directors vote to extend the timeline since the payment from one board has not yet been received.

*VP Dr. Karen Cortellino moved to APPROVE the extension of payment of dues for a BOD Members' board until the Nov. 4, 2022 Board of Directors meeting. The motion was duly seconded and carried, with 26 members voting in the affirmative.*

**President LeFebvre asked for a motion to approve the annual ACES grant request from ELFNJ.**

***Background:*** The Education Leadership Foundation of New Jersey (ELFNJ) is making application to the Board of Directors of the New Jersey School Boards Association for funding through the Alliance for Competitive Energy Services (ACES) for a grant for \$130,000 for fiscal year 2022-23. These funds will be used to cover the costs for the 2022-23 county school boards associations' meetings.

*VP Bruce Young moved to APPROVE the grant request from ELFNJ to ACES as stated above. 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 May 13, 2022 meeting
- B. Closed session minutes of the May 13, 2022 meeting
- C. Legislative Committee Appointments
- D. Resolution Subcommittee Appointments

*Paul Williams moved to APPROVE the consent agenda items. The motion was duly seconded and carried. The following member abstained: Eileen Miller.*

## **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.

## **ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REPRESENTATIVES TO THE 2022-2024 NJSBA NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

### **Consent Agenda Item:**

**President LeFebvre asked for a motion to approve the following Board of Directors' Representatives to serve on the NJSBA Nominating Committee for 2022-2024: Northwest – Marie Bilik (Sussex County); Northeast – Michael Jacobs (Bergen County); Central - Erica Campbell (Burlington County); South – Diane Johnson (Camden County).**

*Paul Williams moved to APPROVE the Board of Director nominee representatives to the NJSBA 2022-2024 Nominating Committee. The motion was duly seconded and carried with 26 members voting in the affirmative.*

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – No unfinished business.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Jon-Henry Barr learned that the vocational board representatives have no provision to participate in the nominating committee process. The vocational boards would like to see a change in the bylaws, specifically that vocational boards are treated as the urban boards and are able to join their region and participate in the process.

Diane Morris inquired about the School Law Forum at Workshop. Dr. Purnell advised that the School Law Forum will not be held at Workshop this year but will be back at Workshop next year. The School Law Forum will be held in-person in November.

Amy Hassa mentioned that a big push has come through the Department of Human Services on youth mental health and a large amount of funding has gone into teen mental health first aid. There is a very large grant that schools may want to keep an eye on through the Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services specifically focused through the Governor's office on teen mental health. Amy shared information about the free virtual Suicide Prevention Conference taking place on October 12.

## **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, *Marsha Hershman moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was duly seconded and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,



Timothy J. Purnell, Ed.D.

Executive Director