



# MEMORANDUM

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**TO: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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**FROM: DR. TIMOTHY J. PURNELL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

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**DATE: JANUARY 10, 2023**

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**SUBJECT: DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES**

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Each department director provided an update on activities that have taken place since the October 18, 2022 Executive Committee meeting. Time will be provided at the January 10, 2023 meeting for any questions or clarification.

TJP: sm  
Attachment



**New Jersey School Boards Association  
Executive Committee Meeting  
General Counsel/Legal, Labor & Policy**

**Carl Tanksley**

**January 10, 2023**

**I. Alliance for Competitive Energy Services (ACES)**

- a. ACES vendor, Gabel Associates has advised that the gas market continues to demonstrate elevated natural gas prices and the prices are predicted to remain high for the next 12 to 18 months. Notwithstanding said elevated prices, Gabel recommended, and the ACES principals agreed to lock in additional heating fuel prices for the Winter of 2022-23. With this purchase, ACES has utilized 50% of the available purchase options for 2022-23. Additional price reductions are not anticipated during the winter months, but the availability of additional purchase options provides ACES with the flexibility to make additional purchases if events warrant.

**II. School Ethics Reporting**

- a. At this time of year, NJSBA is preparing to report the attendance results of board members that were elected in November 2021 and were required to complete mandatory training within one year of election. While attendance numbers change daily as members take the required training, NJSBA continues to promote and encourage board members to complete their training requirements even if such completion is not timely. While a penalty cannot be avoided at this point in the training cycle, any penalty to be imposed by the School Ethics commission may be mitigated with satisfactory, albeit late, completion.
- b. The School Ethics commission has proposed to revise existing regulations to require new board members to complete their 1<sup>st</sup> year of mandatory training within ninety-days (90-days) of election. This change in scheduling will require a huge shift in internal processes and will require input from a large number of staff members.

### **III. Delegate Assembly**

- a. Prior to the convening of the November 2022 Delegate Assembly, the Dover Board of Education submitted, then withdrew a resolution on the topic of gun safety. The resolution was withdrawn with the understanding that NJSBA would convene a task force on said topic. Staff is currently in the process of scheduling meetings for this task force, which is required to make recommendations to the May 2023 Delegate assembly.

### **IV. Amicus Curiae**

- a. In Boonton Bd. of Educ. v. Boonton Ed. Assn., the Appellate division determined that the Commissioner possessed jurisdiction to determine whether the health benefits plan the district offered was compliant with the Chapter 44 offerings. NJSBA had taken the position that the Commissioner lacked the expertise to determine whether health care plans are consistent with the statute and that the questions of equivalency should be heard by PERC or possibly the Department of Banking and Insurance.
- b. In School Ethics Commission v. Roman, the School Ethics Commission recommended, and the Commissioner of Education censured a board member that voted to approve an ethics complaint in which the board member was named and in which the board member relied upon the advice of counsel in so voting. The board member has taken the position that the board member should not be subject to any penalty where he relied on the advice of counsel.

### **V. School Employees Health Benefits Commission**

- a. No meeting was convened due to the lack of a quorum.

### **VI. Litigation**

- a. The matter of DiRupo v. Lenape Valley Reg'l Bd. of Educ. continues, but NJSBA is not centrally involved in this matter. In May of last year, a NJSBA staff member was served with a discovery subpoena regarding a superintendent search that had been completed during the prior year. I was successful in quashing that subpoena at the time, and it would appear that NJSBA sources are no longer necessary to the disposition of this matter.

- b. The matter of Garcia v. Union City Bd. of Educ., also continues, but again, NJSBA is not playing a central role in this litigation. In this matter, a former student alleged that in 2004 he was assaulted by a teacher in the district. The student issued a subpoena seeking any training from NJSBA to board members regarding sexual abuse or assault. Because NJSBA provides no such training, NJSBA is not in possession of any responsive records.

## **VII. ELFNJ**

- a. ELFNJ bylaws have been revised and drafts circulated to the members. No additional revisions were recommended. As such, the ELFNJ Bylaws Revision Committee recommended term limits for ELFNJ officers in order to stimulate new leadership in those positions.
- b. Maria Alamo, Chairperson ELFNJ, also met with Executive Director Purnell to discuss ways in which to improve and expand upon EFLNJ services to the NJSBA membership.

## **VIII. Transition**

- a. The General Counsel's office has begun to transition to include the Legal, Labor Relations, and Policy Departments within the General Counsel's responsibility. Plans currently include moving staff members to a different floor so that the entire department will be located on the same floor. Discussion regarding the details of assigned duties and scheduled delivery dates are ongoing.
- b. The Policy Department will need substantial support as the policy manager retired as of December 31, 2022, and the manager is on an extended medical leave. Plans have been implemented to minimize any disruption in the delivery of services to contracted districts.



## New Jersey School Boards Association Executive Committee Meeting Governmental Relations

**Jonathan Pushman**

**January 10, 2023**

### **Recent Education Enactments**

Since the October 2022 Executive Committee meeting, the following measures that impact NJ schools were signed into law:

***Eliminating edTPA*** S-896/A-677 (P.L.2022, c.129): Prohibits State Board of Education from requiring completion of performance based assessment as condition of eligibility for certificate of eligibility with advanced standing or certificate of eligibility.

**NJSBA Position**: Support. NJSBA and several other education organizations strongly advocated for the passage of this legislation as it would remove an unnecessary impediment to entering the teaching profession and is intended to reduce the shortage of qualified educators.

***School Mapping Data*** A-3835/S-2426 (P.L.2022, c.122): Requires boards of education and chief administrators of nonpublic schools to submit critical incident mapping data to local law enforcement.

**NJSBA Position**: Support

While supportive of this school security initiative, as introduced, the NJSBA advocated for a funding mechanism to offset districts' implementation costs. On Aug. 30, Governor Murphy announced that he would be directing \$6.5 million in federal American Rescue Plan funds to collect and digitize school building blueprints and make them available to first responders, thereby alleviating NJSBA's cost concerns.

***Gun Safety*** A-4769/S-3214 (P.L.2022, c.131): Makes various revisions to requirements for obtaining a firearm purchaser identification card, permit to purchase a handgun, and permit to carry a handgun; codifies sensitive places in which firearms and destructive devices are prohibited.

**NJSBA Position**: Support

### **Bills on Governor's Desk**

The following bill has passed both houses of the Legislature and was awaiting action by the governor as of the filing of this report:

***Information Literacy Standards*** A-4169/S-588: Directs DOE to develop New Jersey Student Learning Standards in information literacy.

**NJSBA Position**: Support

### **Legislative Activity**

The following education-related bills have advanced in the Legislature since the last Executive Committee meeting:

### ***Staffing Shortages***

Several bills, each of which the NJSBA supports, are designed to alleviate staffing shortages at various positions, a top advocacy priority of NJSBA:

- ***Teacher Advertising Campaign*** A-3586: Directs DOE to establish advertising campaign to attract candidates to teaching and education support professions; appropriates \$1 million.
- ***Educator Scholarship Program*** A-3681/S-2661: Establishes New Jersey Educator Scholarship Program.
- ***Non-CDL Drivers for School Buses*** S-3203: Permits certain persons to operate Type S school buses.
- ***Expanding "VETeach"*** S-2764: Establishes "VETeach Pilot Program" in DOE to facilitate teacher certification of veterans.

***Police in School Polling Places*** A-2131/S-2912: Provides police officers may be present at senior residential center or school being used as polling place under certain circumstances; requires school to establish election day security plan.

NJSBA Position: Support

***"Specific Learning Disability" Determinations*** S-2256: Establishes requirements concerning methods for determining whether child has specific learning disability under federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

NJSBA Position: Seek Amendment

***Expanding Medicaid-Funded Health Services*** S-2416/A-3334: Requires Medicaid reimbursement for covered behavioral health services provided by local education agency to student who is eligible Medicaid beneficiary.

NJSBA Position: Support

***Learning Loss Reports*** S-2268: Requires Commissioner of Education to prepare learning loss report and report on public school operations during COVID-19 public health emergency.

NJSBA Position: Support

***Suicide Prevention Training*** S-528: Requires certain additional school district personnel to complete training program on suicide prevention.

NJSBA Position: Support

***Smartphone/Social Media Impact Study*** S-715: Establishes commission to study effects on adolescents of smart phone and social media usage in school.

NJSBA Position: Support. NJSBA would have a representative on the commission.

***School Audit Extension*** S-2657: Extends deadline for completion of school district's annual audit.

NJSBA Position: Express Concerns

***Train the Trainer*** S-2659: Establishes Train the Trainer Program for Student Wellbeing in DOE; appropriates \$1 million.

NJSBA Position: Support

***New Security Task Force*** S-3079: Establishes School Safety and Security Task Force.

NJSBA Position: Support. NJSBA would have a representative on the task force.

***Certifying Montessori Teachers*** S-3172: Establishes teacher certification route for candidates with Montessori teaching credentials.

NJSBA Position: Monitor

***Facility Projects and SDA Reform*** A-4496: Revises various provisions of law governing construction of school facilities projects and operations of New Jersey Schools Development Authority.  
NJSBA Position: Seek Amendment

***Remote Counseling Sessions*** S-2692: Requires public schools that offer student psychological services to offer remote sessions.  
NJSBA Position: Monitor

***Security Drills & Student with Disabilities*** S-2057: Requires certain documentation of needs of students with disabilities during school security drills and emergency situations and in school security plans; requires staff training on needs of students with disabilities in emergency planning.  
NJSBA Position: Support

***Postsecondary Transition Pilot*** S-2076: Establishes "Twelfth Grade Postsecondary Transition Year Pilot Program" in Department of Education.  
NJSBA Position: Support

***Regulating Ticket Prices*** S-2902: Allows ticket prices at postseason athletic events to be increased to offset event-related expenses.  
NJSBA Position: Monitor

***Student Dropout Prevention*** S-3080/A-398: Establishes the Office of Dropout Prevention and Reengagement of Out-of-School Youth in DOE, and the Student Dropout Prevention Task Force.  
NJSBA Position: Support

***Survey on Holocaust Instruction*** S-3145: Requires Commissioner of Education to distribute survey to school districts regarding instruction on Holocaust and genocides.  
NJSBA Position: Support

***Universal School Meals*** SCR-121: Urges Congress to provide for universal school meals program.  
NJSBA Position: Support

***Access to Menstrual Products*** S-1221: Establishes program in DOE to reimburse school districts for providing menstrual products in certain public schools and requires State to pay costs.  
NJSBA Position: Support

***Accelerated Learning & Tutoring Program*** A-4890: Establishes High Efficiency Accelerated Learning Grant Program and Tutoring Advisory Commission.  
NJSBA Position: Support

***Tutor Registry*** A-4458: Requires DOE to establish central registry of individuals and organizations interested in providing supplemental tutoring support to students.  
NJSBA Position: Support

### **NJSBA Legislative Committee**

The committee met, via WebEx, on Saturday, December 10. The following state legislators served as the meeting's guest speakers:

- Assemblywoman Kim Eulner (R-11)
- Assemblywoman Marilyn Piperno (R-11)
- Assemblywoman Michele Matsikoudis (R-21)

Several new members joined the committee for their first meeting, while others moved up from alternate to full-fledged members. The Association also thanked several members who will be leaving their respective boards in January for their service to the committee. The Director of Governmental Relations provided an update on recent Association advocacy activities. Department staff gave a detailed presentation on new enactments, movement on education-related legislation, and recent actions taken by the Governor, Department of Education and State Board of Education.

The next committee meeting will take place on Saturday, March 4.

### **NJSBA Special Education Committee**

The committee most recently met on Nov. 22, 2022. Ellen S. Bass, Esq., served as the meeting's guest speaker. Ms. Bass serves as Of Counsel for the Busch Law Group and is a retired Chief Administrative Law Judge. The committee is next scheduled to meet on Feb. 22, 2023.

### **NSBA Advocacy Institute**

For the first time since early 2020, NJSBA will return to Washington, D.C. for the National School Boards Association's Advocacy Institute in late Jan. 2023. In addition to attending conference sessions, NJSBA staff will coordinate a "day on the Hill" to meet with NJ's congressional delegation and staff. As of the end of December 2022, approximately 15 local board of education members from around the state were registered.

### **"NJ4S"/School-Based Youth Services**

In mid-November, Governor Murphy announced the roll-out of a Request for Proposals to advance the launch of the NJ Statewide Student Support Services (NJ4S), a student mental health initiative he unveiled in October. While proceeding with the new NJ4S model, in order to minimize disruption to students already receiving services, the governor will also maintain the current School Based Youth Services Program (SBYSP) funding in his FY2024 State Budget proposal. Originally, the administration indicated that funding for SBYSP would be discontinued, and that services would be provided by the new NJ4S program beginning in the 2023-2024 academic year. The NJSBA strongly advocated for preserving funding for the SBYSP while moving forward with NJ4S, sending out an "Action Alert" to members, urging them to provide feedback on the proposal. Following the governor's recent announcement, the NJSBA thanked him for his commitment to expanding mental health services to a greater population of students in the state with the administration's NJ4S network, while maintaining the existing SBYSP for those districts that currently participate in that program. The NJSBA also thanked various members of the State Legislature who strongly advocated for preservation of the SBYSP.

### **LEE Group & Governor Murphy**

In early November, the NJ LEE ("Leadership for Educational Excellence") Group, which consists of NJSBA, NJEA, NJPTA, NJASBO, NJPSA and NJASA, met with Governor Phil Murphy. Dr. Purnell, President LeFebvre, and Jonathan Pushman represented the Association. The members of the LEE Group engaged in a rapid-fire discussion that allowed each organization to speak directly to the Governor on a range of issues, including:

- School funding
- Student safety and school security
- Staff recruitment and retention
- Standardized testing
- Student mental health issues

Dr. Purnell spoke specifically on the fiscal pressures boards of education are facing - and are likely to continue to struggle with for the foreseeable future - due to rising inflation, increased health care premiums, transportation and special education costs (among others). In addition, with the ESSER funds

eventually drying up, NJSBA urged the governor to provide financial support so that vital programs, services and staff can be maintained once those federal dollars have been expended. Dr. Purnell also stressed the need for financial relief from rising health insurance costs, particularly with the exorbitant increases in School Employees Health Benefits Program rates that go into effect in January.

### **NJSBA Workshop 2022**

The Governmental Relations department led the following two sessions at Workshop 2022 which involved several key state-level policymakers:

Legislative Panel Discussion. The following legislators participated:

- Senator Vin Gopal (D-11) - Senate Education Committee, Chair
- Senator Declan O'Scanlon (R-13) – Senate Republican Budget Officer
- Assemblywoman Pamela Lampitt (D-6) - Assembly Education Committee, Chair
- Assemblyman Brandon Umba (R-8) - Assembly Education Committee, Member

State Board of Education. The following State Board members participated:

- Kathy Goldenberg, President
- Andrew Mulvihill, Vice President
- Dr. Ronald Butcher

### **Teacher Shortage Task Force**

Gov. Murphy signed an executive order establishing a “Task Force to Help Address Public School Staff Shortages Across New Jersey.” Composed of 25 members, including a representative of the NJSBA, the task force will develop short-term and long-term recommendations to address teacher and support staff shortages in school districts across NJ. Initial recommendations are due by the end of January 2023.

- EO #309: <https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-309.pdf>
- Press Release: <https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562022/approved/20221110b.shtml>

### **State Board of Education**

Regulatory proposals for the following chapters the NJ Administrative Code are currently pending before the State Board. The NJSBA has either submitted comments on the proposals or is in the process of reviewing them:

- Managing for Equality and Equity in Education (6A:7)
- Professional Standards (6A:9)
- New Jersey Educator Preparation Programs (6A:9A)
- State Board of Examiners and Certification (6A:9B)
- Professional Development (6A:9C)
- Bilingual Education (6A:15)
- School Ethics Commission (6A:28)



## **New Jersey School Boards Association Executive Committee Meeting IT, Marketing, and Events**

**Lauren Cuervo**

**January 10, 2023**

### **Workshop 2023**

- Budget development
- Floor plan development
- Developed and distributed an RFQ for a new exhibit management software provider
- Theme and art development (in progress)
- Sponsorship opportunities: review, development and pricing (in progress)
- Sponsorship level review and development (in progress)
- Website review
- Debriefing with decorator company on areas for improvement
- Debriefing with registration company on needs for 2023
- Development of sales process and structure
- Aligning team member strengths with needs for Workshop 2023
- Workshop 2022 video recap (footage to be used in 2023 promotions)

### **Non-Dues Revenue**

- Evaluation and restructure of the Corporate Membership Program (in-progress)
- Planning for fee-based one-day conferences, including Finance, Security, and Technology
- Work with School Resource Officers Association on training inclusions for the security conference
- Meetings on associate memberships: AMPSA and PAA
- Assistance with writing policy manuals
- NJSBA CPS/Procurement:
  - Sales have exceeded revenue goals for this year's budget
  - Strategy meetings on marketing, sales and webinars
  - Three new districts have joined the CPS since October 2022

## Marketing

- Development of video content, including “Meet your FSR” video series, STEAM Tank testimonial, Workshop promotions for 2023, other initiatives.
- Finalization of Image Management guidelines, email signatures, and new branding templates
- Development and execution of webinars
- Promotion of programs, including Mandated Training, School Law Forum, School Finance Conference, and winter county SBA meetings
- Social media engagement (LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter) – and the reevaluation of Instagram
- Training new hire – Deryn Younger, who replaces Michael Kvidahl as the Marketing Coordinator (Michael is now the Marketing Manager – replacing Lauren Cuervo)
- Update and distribution of new board member kits

## IT

- Decommission of Stargate (old primary domain controller); reconfiguration of switches and internal network devices to reflect the change.
- Rollout of Comodo security client/firewall on all servers and continued rollout on client machines including access rules and AV configurations.
- Continued removal of old users, groups and machine entries in AD
- Began implementation of new phase of MS Security/Defender changes (Secure Score)
- Developing School Ethics Index Web admin portal
- Developing compliance reports with legal, PL and Call Center

## Special Projects

- **Higher Logic Communities (NJSBA Connect)** – Integration with Cobalt, weekly planning meetings, initial community development, library development, launch planning and testing.
- **SimpliGov** – Initiated some reconfiguration after initial testing. Launch goal late January after next round of testing.
- **STEAM Tank 2023** – Received over 500 applications from all 21 counties statewide. (This is a 25% increase over 2022.)



**New Jersey School Boards Association  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Member Engagement, Learning, Training, and Services**

**Ray Pinney**

**January 10, 2023**

The first half of the year is over and with the restructuring of NJSBA staff that has consumed much of our time. Staff members who did not normally work together all the time are now getting to know more about each other's work. Our focus has been on the work ahead of us in 2023.

The county meetings ended the year on an upswing with many great topics. We also had some newly elected board members attend the county meetings. The upcoming meetings in January and February will be virtual meetings only. The March meetings will be in person student programs.

As for the statewide training programs we are in the midst of planning the one day and weekend programs from February to June. With the recent restructuring of the staff, we are getting a later start to this process than in previous years.

The goal for the new department is to have the training and curriculum tied more closely to the board calendar so that we are meeting the needs of our members at the local level. We also want to offer training on topics in various formats so that we can touch as many members as possible. We look at it as a "bottom up" approach to training.

While 2023 will prove to be a lot of heavy work it will all get done.

On a fun note, on January 3<sup>rd</sup> we went to the district of Moonachie to interview a newly elected board member in Moonachie who is 99 years old and will turn 100 this March.



**New Jersey School Boards Association  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Special Assignment: Committees, Happenings, and Task Force Updates**

**Vincent DeLucia**

**January 10, 2023**

**Firearms Safety Task Force**

With the assistance of Frank Belluscio who will be writing the report, Co-Chairs Ray Wiss and Irene LeFebvre and I have refined the charge of the committee and are finalizing the meeting dates of the Task Force on order to meet the deadline for Spring DA resolutions submissions. The charge is based on the original proposed Dover resolution and will focus on youth firearm safety. It is important to note that interest groups including the NRA and National PTA proffer similar safety educational programs on firearms safety. The report will be finalized by March 1, 2023.

**Equity Council**

The EC is establishing its final three meeting dates for the 22-23 academic year. A subcommittee that includes Mike McClure, Penelope Lattimer and Kean's Erin Lester has been reviewing information regarding the teacher shortages and need to diversify the workforce. Among the tools they are reviewing is an extensive survey Kean conducted with its student body on this challenge. The EC will continue to address this.

**Professional Learning-**

- **Leadership in Turbulent Times**

This presentation was provided to the NJ School Public Relations Association in December. It includes strategies to facilitate public hearings that were applauded by the editorial board of the Home New Tribune when implemented for an elementary school redistricting plan in North Brunswick. Strategies to proactively address individuals who are emotional are included as are strategies to maintain safety and decorum at public hearings.

It's easy to be a leader when there are no controversies; when there are, effective leaders use patient strategies to provide respectful opportunities for all to have their voices heard in formal discussions facilitated by or in collaboration with leaders. This program combines good practices based on research, a discussion of transformative and transitional leadership, with my experiences in the numerous leadership positions I've held during turbulent times including principal, assistant-superintendent and Mayor where I was an FBI informant that led to the incarceration of an aide to the then NJ Senate President and then his federal prison term.

I served as Mayor and Township Committeeman during a Central NJ's township's evolution from a rural/suburban community to a suburban township. During my

administration we established a balanced development vision for the 44 square mile township of 17,000 that grew to 40,000 in 20 years and has a buildout projected at 95,000 by 2050. Public meetings and hearings were contentious. of as many as 500 attendees that required additional police and police dogs due to threats, plus vicious personal attacks in the media and from the podium at Township Committee and Planning Board meetings. Developers hired private investigators to weekly “steal my garbage” for over two years to attempt to blackmail me and burglarized my home on three occasions where nothing was stolen and files from my briefcases were placed on the dining room table. In this session we will identify practices to calm emotionally charged audiences and proactive practices to reduce the contention and encourage health discourse.

- **Exploring Inherent Bias, Marginalization & Prejudice I**

This presentation been significantly revised to bring greater understanding about the common history all immigrants have regardless of their nation of origin. By incorporating the story of my family, the goal of creating greater understanding about the common plight of immigrants throughout our history has resulted in a better understanding of the paths of marginalized people and a shared ancestral experience regardless of when one’s ancestors emigrated to the USA. The program also emphasizes the differences between inherent bias and explicit bias/prejudice. Microaggressions are also addressed in part one. Most importantly, the impacts of bias and microaggressions on school climate, student learning, and school safety are among the areas discussed.

- **Why Social Emotional Learning:** A completely revised presentation on the What? Why? and How? Of Social Emotional learning including that which it is and is not has been developed. The emphasis includes the long-term benefits (through adulthood) to those who have experienced a school/work organization that recognizes the strengths of SEL and a healthy culture and climate.

### **Montclair**

At the request of the BOE president, NJSBA continues to have a significant role in support of the building of culture and climate in Montclair. Professor Saul Rubinstein and I met with the superintendent, union leadership and BOE president to facilitate a discussion to begin to rebuild trust between the union and superintendent. Based on participants’ reflection, positive steps were made. In addition to the work that Carl Tanksley has accomplished with the BOE and district, NJSBA has provided and or facilitated the following since the beginning of this school year:

- We facilitated additional virtual discussions with Montclair Superintendent Jonathon Ponds and Macalister Professor Walter Greason on the means that Dr. Greason can help Dr. Ponds address the long- standing racial issues in the city.
- The district has identified three schools to adopt Labor/Management Collaborative project
- The district continues to have PD on collaboration, inherent bias, and related topics

### **SEL4NJ**

SEL4NJ has begun an organizational re-structuring to better serve the needs of this expanding organization. NJSBA continues to have a significant voice on the work and future of this organization.

**Arts Ed NJ**

Under the leadership of new Executive Director, Wendy Liscow (formerly of the Dodge Foundation), Arts Ed seeks even greater collaboration with NJSBA. Marcia Lavigne will be taking the lead as NJSBA rep to Arts Ed and I will continue to support their mission.



## New Jersey School Boards Association Executive Committee Meeting Public Affairs and Communications

**Janet Bamford**

**January 10, 2023**

**School Leader** The winter 2023 issue of *School Leader* is online and will be in members' mailboxes in a matter of days. The cover article, by Tom Parmalee looks at student representatives on boards and how boards can help them succeed. Tom also profiled Adam Parkinson, New Jersey's 2022-2023 Board Member of the Year; conducted a roundtable interview of four New Jersey school business administrators to talk about the impact inflation is having on school budgets, and wrote a feature on best practices in forming district threat assessment teams. Also in the issue: an article from Brandon Pugh on the role of school boards in cybersecurity, one on school districts grappling with the problem of fake social media accounts and disinformation, a piece on the school board-business administrator relationship and a Legally Speaking column on the basics of special education and a board member's role in special ed decisions.

*School Leader* is debuting a new video feature this year: *School Leader Up Close*. Each issue will feature a video "extra" that provides a behind the scenes look at an article, or spotlights an issue or the subject of an article. The first installment will feature a companion video to the profile of Adam Parkinson, in which he answers additional questions on why he became a board member, and his reaction to the surprise announcement at a board meeting when he discovered he'd been named Board Member of the Year.

**School Board Notes** Weekly online publication of *School Board Notes* continues to keep members updated and informed. Recent issues have covered legislation that affects boards of education, NJSBA programs and services, the November annual school election, the December referendum elections, School Board Recognition Month and other education news. This month, *School Board Notes* will debut a new monthly feature, "Board President's Corner," which will feature a question and answer on a topic of interest to board leaders.

**School Board Recognition Month** NJSBA updated its School Board Recognition Month for 2023, including sample news releases, resolutions, social media images, and sample certificates. The department arranged for the governor's proclamation and for the State Board of Education to pass and present to NJSBA a resolution honoring and thanking board members.

**Video Projects** The Association is debuting a series of videos designed to introduce each of the field service representatives to members. These will include brief interviews with the FSRs,

designed to make members feel comfortable approaching their own FSR with questions, and requests for training and guidance. Robin Kampf has also produced a video that will be posted to help business administrators complete NJSBA's online board census, after boards have undergone their reorganization meeting. She also produced an Education Matters video which is an interview with the N.J. Teacher of the Year, re-taped and updated video portions of Gov. 1 and shot film for a video on Charles Pallas, a recently reelected Moonachie board member who will celebrate his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in March. She also finished a video highlights of Workshop that will be used in marketing Workshop 2023 to members, as well as potential sponsors and exhibitors.

**Press and Public Queries** The department responded to queries from NJ Spotlight, NJ.com., Politico, the Bergen Record, Montclair Local, Gannett, and the Star Ledger on topics including superintendent contracts, standardized test results, boards conducting live, virtual and hybrid meetings, and proposed State Board regulatory changes. We also responded to direct queries from members of the public and board members.

**Other Projects** The department updated research that is used by several departments including the number and status of Type I and Type II school districts in the state. Planning has begun for the 2023 Innovations in Special Education Awards. The updating of NJSBA's Advocacy Toolkit continues.



## New Jersey School Boards Association Executive Committee Meeting Finance and Operations

John Faford

January 10, 2023

- **2022 – 2023 Summary**

- November's year-to-date net income of \$1,538K is \$1,242K favorable to budget. \$989K of this variance relates to the highly successful Workshop 2022.
  - Workshop far surpassed its registration and sponsorship revenue targets, while staying within its expense budget despite spending additional amounts (e.g., trolleys, program booklets) to create a more positive experience for attendees.
  - Fee-based services (Superintendent Searches, Strategic Plans, Policy Manual Services) are outpacing their budget targets.
  - Wage expense has been favorable to budget due to several extended vacancies that are gradually being filled.
  - Certain other expense budgets have been underrunning their budgets (travel, consulting services, computer contracts and maintenance).

- **2023 – 2024 Budget**

- The 2023 – 2024 budget cycle is well underway. We have met with several department heads to review their proposed budgets and will continue with these departmental meetings through the end of January 2023.
- When the departmental reviews have been completed, the Executive Director will meet with the finance director to review the combined budget and make any necessary adjustments.

- When the internal reviews have been completed, we will meet with the Finance Committee to review the proposed, combined budget. This meeting will be scheduled for late February.
  - Senior management will then review the budget with the Board and ask for its approval at the March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- 
- **Other Items:**
    - The Dues Committee has held two productive meetings so far and will continue its work over the next few months.
    - Work is expected to begin soon on the replacement of the HVAC automation controls. The contractor has experienced significant difficulties in securing all of the required parts. The Board approved this funding at its January '22 meeting.