

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

January 27, 2023  
7 p.m.

A regular meeting of the New Jersey School Boards Association Board of Directors was held in-person and virtually on Friday, January 27, 2023. 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 and Dr. Karen Cortellino were also present at headquarters. Vice President Tammeisha D. Smith participated in the meeting virtually. 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., 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 it, marketing and events; Brian Green, network administrator; Samantha Matias, executive assistant; Kurt Rebovich, Jr., senior manager strategic operations.

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

Atlantic	Not Represented	Gloucester	Natalie Baker
Bergen	Michael Jacobs (Alt.)	Hudson	Not Represented
Burlington	Erica Campbell (Alt.)	Hunterdon	Laurie Markowski
Camden	Joseph Miller (Alt.)	Mercer	Dana Krug
Cape May	Jacqueline McAlister		Addie Lane (Alt.)
Cumberland	Not Represented	Middlesex	Liwu Hong
Essex	Kathryn Weller-Demming		Kimberly Lane (Alt.)

Monmouth	Al Miller	County	Not Represented
Morris	Paul Breda	Association	
	Diane Morris (Alt.)	Leadership	
Ocean	Stephanie Wohlrab	Urban Boards	Rita Martin
Passaic	Nancy Schwartz		Marsha Hershman (Alt.)
	Alan Paris (Alt.)		Cynthia Atkins (Alt.)
Salem	Eileen Miller		Diane Johnson
Somerset	Barry Walker (Alt.)		Chanta Jackson (Alt.)
Sussex	Marie Bilik	Vocational	Elizabeth Martin
	Ronald Hoffman (Alt.)		Jon-Henry Barr (Alt.)
Union	Brendan Galligan		
Warren	Scott Nodes (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 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, Emily Cannon, Dylan O’Byrne, Lynda Wright, Amy Hassa, Jerome Page, Harry Litwack, Joyce Mehta, and Joseph Canova.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE** - President LeFebvre asked for a moment of silence for all those suffering from the Ukraine-Russian war, particularly the children, and for all the victims and families of the California shootings.

**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: Amy Hassa, member for Atlantic County; Jerome Page, alternate for Atlantic County; Harry Litwack, member for Burlington County; Joyce Mehta, member for Middlesex County; Patrick Walsh, alternate for Middlesex County; and Joseph Canova, alternate for Passaic County.

The following new members and alternates were introduced.

New Members and Alternates:

- Middlesex County Member – Liwu Hong, East Brunswick Board of Education
- Middlesex County Alternate – Kimberly Lane, Piscataway Board of Education
- Passaic County Alternate – Alan Paris, Clifton Park Board of Education

**OATH OF OFFICE** – New members and select members and alternates who were not present at the September 2022 reorganization meeting, or the November 2022 Board of Directors meeting were asked to take the oath of office. The following members took their oath of office: J. Brendan Galligan, Rita Martin, and Chanta Jackson.

**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.

**School Board Recognition Month** - Earlier this month, Governor Murphy issued a proclamation announcing January 2023 as School Board Recognition Month. At the January 11 meeting of the State Board a resolution was passed honoring New Jersey’s local boards of education. This year, a special webpage was established for local school districts to visit for resources they can use locally to celebrate the event, including sample resolutions and news releases. NJSBA’s publications have also featured School Board Recognition month articles. A short video was released in honor of School Board Recognition Month, which featured NJSBA Officers personally thanking all board members for their service. The video was sent to all local board members and featured on NJSBA’s social media feeds.

**Financial Update** - Workshop 2022 was a financial success. Revenues from Workshop were \$2.5 million and generated a profit of \$1.6 million. Workshop had a budgeted income of \$700,000 due to the uncertainty of attendance and vendor response, but far exceeded that budget by \$989,000.

It is budget season at NJSBA, and budget planning meetings are in progress. Next year’s proposed budget will be presented to the Board of Directors at the March 17 meeting for approval.

**NJSBA’s Focus Areas for 2023** - NJSBA is working to serve its members by focusing on three areas of concentration: content, connection, and advocacy.

**Content**

- Resources for Board Presidents – NJSBA has debuted a new page on its website with information specifically for board of education presidents, “Resources for Board Presidents.” NJSBA will also introduce a new monthly question and answer feature in *School Board Notes*, “Board President’s Corner.” Board Presidents are invited to submit questions to be answered by NJSBA’s subject matter experts.

- The Executive Director’s Podcast – Dr. Purnell will be doing a regular podcast, called The Boardroom, which will focus on effective board governance and leadership. The podcast will feature interviews with leaders in education, business, and non-profit organizations. The first podcast will be available next week and feature NJSBA’s president, Irene LeFebvre.
- Spring Training Programs – Planning for NJSBA’s spring one-day conferences has begun. All programs will be held in-person, with the exception of the Spring Symposium, which will be virtual.
  - Finance Conference – March 1
  - Spring Symposium – April 25
  - Leadership Conference – May 17
  - School Public Relations Conference – June 2
  - School Safety and Security – June 9
- In-District Training to Boards – NJSBA, at the request of boards, does specific in-district programs. These programs can cover topics such as Ethics, to the Board Role in Budget Development, Dealing with Difficult People, or Inherent Bias. FSR’s will also develop a program at the request of a district.

### **Connection**

- New Board Member Orientation Weekend – New Board Member Orientation Weekend will kick off Friday, February 3. Friday night will be virtual sessions and then Saturday and Sunday will be in-person at the Crown Plaza Princeton Conference Center. There will be a second weekend, March 10-12 at the same location.
- County Meetings – County meetings are being held virtually during the winter and will return to hybrid meetings beginning in March to kick off the popular student programs, Unsung Heroes and the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Dialogue.
- NJSBA Partnerships – Partnerships is another area for connection. NJSBA is fostering its organizational connections with other education stakeholders and groups. One example is NJSBA’s partnership with the New Jersey PTA.

### **Advocacy**

- Governor’s Task Force on Public School Staff Shortages – In November, Governor Murphy issued an executive order establishing a 25-member task force on public school staff shortages. Dr. Purnell serves on this task force. Topics of discussion have included improving educator recruitment and training, supporting

educators to improve retention, and state-funded programs to address educator shortages. The report should be finalized in the coming weeks.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **Consent Agenda Items:**

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

- A. Open session minutes of the November 4, 2022 meeting
- B. Closed session minutes of the November 4, 2022 meeting
- C. Legislative Committee Appointments
- D. Resolution Subcommittee Appointments

*Michael Jacobs moved to APPROVE the consent agenda items. The motion was duly seconded and carried. The following member abstained: Liwu Hong.*

## **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** – President Irene advised that a letter was received from Union County regarding vocational board representatives and their exclusion from participating in the nominating committee process. This was taken very seriously after it was brought up at the September 2022 meeting and a change to the bylaws has been proposed which will allow vocational board representatives to join their perspective regions and participate in the selection process for the nominating committee.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Diane Johnson inquired where suggestions for Workshop 2023 should be sent. Dr. Purnell advised that suggestions should be sent to Lauren Cuervo or himself.

Kimberly Lane asked Jonathan Pushman if there were any new developments regarding electronic school bus funding. Jonathan advised that there was legislation signed and funds appropriated last year to develop an electric school bus pilot program, but Jonathan hasn't seen anything regarding the implementation of that program.

Paul Breda commented that the January issue of *School Leader* was excellent.

## **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, *Liwu Hong* moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was duly seconded and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy J. Purnell", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Timothy J. Purnell, Ed.D.

Executive Director