



MINUTES
OPEN SESSION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Via Webex

NJSBA Headquarters

413 West State Street

Trenton, New Jersey

March 7, 2023

President Irene LeFebvre called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m., read the Open Public Meetings Act statement, and asked for a roll call. Executive Committee members in attendance were, Ms. Irene LeFebvre, president; Mr. Michael McClure, immediate past president; Mr. Bruce Young, vice president for county activities; Dr. Karen Cortellino, vice president for legislation/resolutions; and Dr. Timothy Purnell, Executive Director.

Staff present for the entire meeting included, Carl Tanksley Esq., General Counsel; Jonathan Pushman, director of governmental relations; Lauren Cuervo, director of information technology, marketing and events; Ray Pinney, director of county activities & member engagement; Vince DeLucia, educator-in-residence; Janet Bamford, chief public affairs officer; John Faford, director of finance & operations; and Samantha Matias, executive assistant.

President LeFebvre asked Dr. Purnell to provide an update.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Welcome: Dr. Purnell thanked President LeFebvre and greeted everyone.

Next Steps: Dr. Purnell outlined some of the next steps that will be taking place internally at the Association. He discussed organizational structure, department functionality, and job descriptions ensuring that they are defined properly and aligned with the work of the Association. In June, Dr. Purnell is orchestrating and facilitating retreats for each of the department leaders to discuss vision, mission, values and goal setting. Dr. Purnell will work with the Officers for his goals that will be presented at a future board meeting, which will set the framework for the directors to develop their goals. In turn, each of the directors will hold a goal-setting retreat with their staff to develop goals for the next year. There would be a shift in the evaluation process from the self-evaluation used in the past to a standard evaluation model. All of this will lay the foundation for creating policy and systems that operate stronger as we move forward.

Public School Staff Shortages Task Force: Dr. Purnell served as a member on the governor's Task Force on Public School Staff Shortages. The group came up with recommendations to alleviate staffing shortages and had the opportunity to provide comments on the report. There were some concerns with the initial report,

but our suggestions were taken, and the report was modified. Two recommendations that were strongly advocated for were the elimination of the New Jersey First Act and re-evaluating the 2% local tax levy cap.

Board Member of the Year Luncheon: The Board Member of the Year Luncheon will take place on Wednesday, May 3 at headquarters to honor this year's board member of the year, Adam Parkinson of West New York. Invitations will be sent out soon.

New Board Member Orientation Weekend: The first New Board Member Orientation Weekend was a success, and the feedback was very positive. There is another one scheduled for this weekend, March 10-12. There are currently 96 registrants. Dr. Purnell gave a special thanks to the group leaders.

School Finance Conference: The School Finance Conference was last week. It was a hybrid event with in-person and virtual attendance.

NJSBA Dues Committee: Dr. Purnell commended Tammy Smith, vice president for finance, for an outstanding job as chair of the Dues Committee.

The Firearms Safety Task Force Report: President LeFebvre briefly discussed the Firearms Safety Task Force Report. The task force was headed by former NJSBA president Ray Wiss. She mentioned that the success of the task force was that it remained true to the topic at hand which was about firearm safety. The topic was well documented and well researched. The report runs more than 50 pages and offers boards of education 24 recommendations to consider. The task force recognizes that there is not one singular path to keeping children safe. It recommends that every board of education review the report and determine the strategies that will best enhance safety in their community. The group in Dover, who brought this topic to our attention, was thrilled with the report. President LeFebvre thanked everyone at the Association for their time and effort. Hard copies of the task force report have been generated for the task force members as a thank you and sent to the LEE group and the PTA. It was sent to members via email and going out in School Board Notes.

New Website: A website redesign is in the works. This effort will be led by Stacy Moorhead.

Podcast Series: The next podcast will feature Lorenzo Richardson of the Jersey City Board of Education. The podcast series will be quarterly instead of monthly.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Dr. Purnell noted that all the division/department directors/managers provided written updates. The reports have been posted on the Executive Committee website at www.njsba.org/ec. The directors/managers presented brief comments from their reports.

- Carl Tanksley – This morning there were 6 resolutions that have been filed and as of this afternoon there were 7. The filing deadline is this Friday, March 10. March 31 is the deadline for Officers nomination by petition.
- Jonathan Pushman – The news of last week was FY2024 State Budget. The governor's \$53.1 billion spending plan for Fiscal Year 2024 includes a total of \$20.4 billion in aid to schools. Of that amount, approximately \$10.7 billion will be directed to school districts as formula aid, an increase of \$832 million over the current fiscal year. This investment represents the sixth year of the seven-year plan designed to phase districts into their full funding amounts, per "S-2". The budget also maintains the \$30 million line item for Stabilization Aid, which is provided to districts receiving reductions in state aid to help them

adjust to new funding levels. The proposal also recommends level funding for Extraordinary Special Education Aid in the amount of \$420 million. The budget includes several new items to address school staff shortages, which align with some of the initial recommendations of the Task Force on Public School Staff Shortages in New Jersey. These include funds for student-teacher stipends, certification fee waivers, Culture and Climate Innovation Grants, paraprofessional training, a public media campaign, a teacher apprenticeship program and expansion of the Teacher Leader Network. In late January, Jonathan Pushman and Jesse Young attended the National School Boards Association's Advocacy Institute in Washington, D.C. and plan to go again next year. Legislature is focused on staffing shortages, mental health, and facility projects. Three committees have met since the last Executive meeting: Special Education, School Finance, and Legislative.

- Lauren Cuervo – First right of renewal started yesterday. The 1st \$25,000 sponsorship sold right away. A sales trainer is being brought in in the next couple of weeks. The theme for Workshop 2023 is Today's Students...Tomorrow's Superheroes. The artwork will be shared soon. The prospectus is done, the postcard is going out, and the website is in production. The week of April 3, the website goes up, registration opens, and general sponsorship and booth sales open to public after the first right of renewal. Program proposals and the call for student performances will go out in April as well. New sponsorship opportunities have been created, including a BOARDwalk on the exhibit floor and sponsored hotel key cards. Workshop 2023 will have a better app. The Spring Symposium is on April 25. There are currently 97 registrants and all the sponsorship opportunities for the event have been sold. A services survey was sent out this morning and will be open until March 17 to gather data on how members use our services. A website survey was sent a few weeks ago to inform the website task force. Feedback from the survey indicated information is hard to find on the current website. The task force has started to look at vendors and the RFP for the website redesign. During testing of the higher logic communities, not all members were pulling in which was an issue that is being resolved. CAL will be the first test group of this new feature and then it will be rolled out to other groups. It will also include an app.
- Ray Pinney – Field Services is going to be short handed for a little while so everyone is chipping in. A better on-boarding process has been created to get new field service reps up to speed. Starting to look into facilities that do not have a technology cost for hybrid events. Going to St. Elizabeths. The next CAL meeting will take place March 25. The first Unsung Hero was last night in Hudson county. In the Spring, there will be a celebration and a couple retiring legislators will be invited as a thank you.
- Vince DeLucia – The NBMO weekend was extraordinary, and it felt good to be back in-person. All the presentations have been revised, particularly Inherent Bias. A partnership has been established with Rutgers and Kean. On May 6, Vince will be representing NJSBA at TCNJ at their conference for Learning Disabilities.
- Janet Bamford – *School Leader* is getting ready to go to press. There is too much copy to fit in this issue, so some stories are being held. One area of emphasis in *School Leader* is highlighting promising practices in specific districts. Work is being done to highlight districts mentioned in each issue in a more prominent way and do more with tagging on social media. A series of short videos that will introduce each of NJSBA's field service representatives to the districts in their regions will be released this week. Recent press and public queries have pertained to the governor's budget message. A couple board members reached out regarding the Firearms Safety Task Force Report. The Innovations in Special Education nominations are coming in and the artwork for Special Ed week has been selected. The April board candidates kit is up for board members running.
- John Faford – The Dues Assessment Committee was chaired by Tammy Smith, vice president for finance. The Dues Assessment hasn't been formed since 2009 prior to September 2022, primarily because dues had been flat for that entire period. There have been 5-6 meetings of the committee since September. The committee had two main objectives: make sure dues are being allocated equitably by our members and make sure dues are sufficient to meet the Associations needs. Based on

feedback received from members there are not enough resources for services for members and the need for a redesign of the NJSBA website. The committee took all of this into consideration and concluded that dues would need to be raised. Tammy has drafted a report to be presented at the March 24 Board of Directors meeting.

Dr. Purnell thanked the Directors and Managers for their insightful reports and their dedication and leadership.

PROPOSED AGENDA FOR MARCH 24, 2023, BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

President Irene LeFebvre proposed the agenda for the March 24, 2023, Board of Directors meeting. It was reviewed and unanimously approved.

ACTION ITEMS

President LeFebvre asked for a motion to approve the following Action Item:

A. Approval of Open Session Minutes of the January 10, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting

A motion to approve Action Item A was made by Vice President Bruce Young, was duly seconded, and carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – No unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS – No new business.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President LeFebvre asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Vice President Bruce Young; was duly seconded and carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Timothy J. Purnell

Executive Director