

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

May 5, 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, May 5, 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, 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., 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; and Gwen Thornton, acting senior manager of field services.

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

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

Monmouth	Al Miller	County	Not Represented
Morris	Paul Breda	Association	
	Diane Morris (Alt.)	Leadership	
Ocean	Not Represented	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	Ronald Hoffman (Alt.)	Vocational	Elizabeth Martin
Union	Not Represented		Jon-Henry Barr (Alt.)
Warren	Not Represented		

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

**NON-BOARD MEMBERS:** The following non-board members were also present at the meeting: Dylan O’Byrne, Sheli Dansky, Markee Robinson, and Giuseppe Grillo.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE** - President LeFebvre asked for a moment of silence to remember all those who have suffered as a result of school shootings and to keep them in our thoughts and prayers as we work toward creating healthier and safer schools and communities.

**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 MEMBERS** - The Board of Directors recognized retiring Immediate Past President Michael McClure, who has served as an officer of the Association for nearly 10 years in addition to his long-term service as president of the Maple Shade Board of Education. Mr. McClure made significant contributions to the New Jersey School Boards Association’s mission to advance public education through his leadership and unparalleled dedication.

The board also recognized retiring Vice President for County Activities Bruce Young; Vice President for Finance Tammeisha Smith; and Sheli Dansky, member for Bergen County for their service to the New Jersey School Boards Association and the students of New Jersey.

**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. None of the select members were present at this meeting.

**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.

**Workshop 2023 Update** - Carli Lloyd, two-time Olympic gold medalist and two-time Women's World Cup champion, will speak at Workshop 2023 on Wednesday, October 25 at 1 p.m. A graduate of Delran High School and Rutgers University, she was inducted in the NJ Hall of Fame in 2018 and currently resides in New Jersey with her husband. Carli is a great example of this year's Workshop theme "Today's Students... Tomorrow's Superheroes."

Workshop Registration is open and more than 800 people have already registered. Program proposals are being accepted until June 15.

New to Workshop 2023 will be NJSBA's first annual Unsung Superheroes Awards. This year, NJSBA will honor staff members whose contributions often go unrecognized – "Unsung Superheroes" – who have made a positive impact on the lives of children. Staffers in the following categories will be recognized on the awards stage at Workshop 2023:

- Bus driver/aide.
- Crossing guard.
- Secretary/administrative assistant.
- Paraprofessional/aide.
- Custodian/maintenance/building and grounds.
- Cafeteria/food services.
- Librarian/media specialist.
- Coach/club adviser.
- School nurse.

Nominations are open until August 1.

**NJSBA 2023-2024 Budget Update** - At the previous Board of Directors meeting, the proposed NJSBA budget was approved which included a dues increase for many school districts. Letters were sent out to each board president and business administrator explaining the process and provided an advanced notice on their dues amount for fiscal 2024. Some of the officers and members of the Dues Reassessment Committee have been attending county meetings to address any questions members may have.

NJSBA is on track to meet budget targets for the current fiscal year.

**Special Education Week** - The winners of the Innovations in Special Education Awards were notified. This year, five programs were recognized for helping special education students achieve their full potential. The honorees included three programs from school districts and two private schools:

- Evesham, Burlington County.
- Lebanon Township, Hunterdon County.
- Neptune Township, Monmouth County.
- New Road School, Somerset County.
- P.G. Chambers School, Morris County.

The winners will be recognized at a virtual program that will include an appearance from First Lady Tammy Murphy and honored at the NJDOE's Special Education Advisory Council meeting in June.

**Inside NJSBA** – NJSBA will be welcoming Kathy Whalen, Esq. to the NJSBA staff. Kathy currently serves as head of the School Ethics Commission at the New Jersey Department of Education. She will be assisting in legal and human resources at NJSBA. She will begin her new role the week after Memorial Day. NJSBA also welcomed Lani Perruso. Lani is the new human resources secretary.

NJSBA has begun a series of staff professional development programs, including training on various human resources topics. NJSBA has also restarted internal safety and security drills.

**Executive Director's Goals 2023-2024** - Dr. Purnell has selected three areas of concentration for the next year. He will be improving NJSBA's services and products in the areas of:

1. Content – Revamp NJSBA's Governance I training.
2. Connection – Launch a new, engaging, user-friendly website.
3. Advocacy – Develop recommendations concerning NJSBA membership in a national-level organization of state school boards associations.

**Delegate Assembly** - The Delegate Assembly will take place on Saturday, May 13. Members will be voting on new NJSBA officers and considering five resolutions.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

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

**President LeFebvre asked for a motion to approve a new appropriation of \$215,000, from the free balance account, for the new NJSBA website.**

*Eileen Miller moved to APPROVE a new appropriation of \$215,000, from the free balance account, for the new NJSBA website. The motion was duly seconded and carried, with 21 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 24, 2023 meeting
- B. Legislative Committee Appointments

*Liwu Hong 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.

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

**President LeFebvre asked for a motion to go into a closed session to review the Executive Director's evaluation.**

*Nancy Schwartz moved to APPROVE the body entering into closed session. The motion was duly seconded and carried.*

Members went into closed session at 8:51 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.

**President LeFebvre asked for a motion to go back into open session.**

*Eileen Miller moved to APPROVE the motion to go back into open session. The motion was duly seconded and carried.*

Members returned to open session at 9:04 p.m.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – No unfinished business.

**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, *Liwu Hong moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was duly seconded and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,



Timothy J. Purnell, Ed.D.

Executive Director