



TIMOTHY J. PURNELL ED.D
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

 @drpurnell
 @drpurnell

MEMORANDUM

TO: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

FROM: DR. TIMOTHY J. PURNELL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: NOVEMBER 17, 2023

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

Each department director provided an update on activities that have taken place since the September 22, 2023, Executive Committee meeting. Time will be provided at the November 17, 2023, meeting for any questions or clarification.

TJP: pb
Attachment

Human Resources - New Hires

Paige Beierschmitt

Kelly Mitchell

We are excited to announce that Kelly Mitchell has joined us as one of our new Feld Service Representatives! Kelly will report to Gwen Thorton and her office will be on the second floor. Kelly comes with a wealth of knowledge of school boards, serving on the Vernon Township Board of Education since 2018 and has served as president ('22-'24) and vice president ('20-'22). She also served on the Sussex County Board of Education as the vice president from 2021-2023. She is a Certified Board Member, Master Board Member, and received the NJAR Circle of Excellence Award from 2002-2022. Kelly is also a New Jersey Licensed Realtor.

Timothy Teehan

We are excited to announce that Dr. Timothy Teehan has joined us as one of our new Feld Service Representatives! Tim will report to Gwen Thorton and his office will be on the second floor. Tim comes with a wealth of knowledge of school boards, serving as the Somerville School District Superintendent since 2017, and was an Academic Achievement Officer at Somerville from 2012 to 2017. He is also an Adjunct Professor at Fairleigh Dickinson and Georgian Court and served as a NJ Leaders to Leaders Mentor since 2015. Tim graduated with a bachelor's degree from Rutgers University, a master's degree from Kean University, and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Rowan University.

Charlie Muller

Charlie comes to NJSBA as our new Business Administrator in Residence. His office is on the third floor (former copy room) and he will report to Dr. Purnell. Charlie has experience in finance, transportation, food service, planning, and budgeting, including 22 years as an adjunct Instructor of Budgeting and Planning, and 20 years as a school Business Administrator. Before NJSBA, Charlie worked as the Acting Executive County Superintendent and Executive County Business Official for the New Jersey Department of Education Ocean County office. Over his career, Charlie was the School Business Administrator at Greater Egg Harbor Regional, Upper Township, Mainland, and Absecon. He also was an adjunct professor at Stockton. Charlie has an undergrad degree in finance from Husson College in Maine, master's in business administration from Monmouth, and his School Business Cert is from Glassboro State College.

Vincent R. De Lucia

Educator- in-Residence/Special Assignments

Executive Committee Report- November 17, 2023

Delegate Assembly

Collaborated with Policy, GR, and General Counsel to address two proposed resolutions for the December DA: addressing book bans and relaxing English requirements for CTE teachers to fill those difficult positions.

Firearms Safety Task Force

Presentations at WORKSHOP and prior professional learning events were very well received. The next opportunity to learn about the report will be at the Fall Leadership Conference on 11/17. We continue to identify opportunities to share this work.

LERA – Labor & Employment Relationship Association

On December 4, I will be joining Professor Saul Rubenstein to discuss the impact of formal collaboration on student learning, teacher retention, and school climate & culture at a meeting of LERA-NJ. It is important to note that Kurt Rebovich is an active leader in this organization. NJSBA will also be participating in the NE regional LERA meeting in NYC.

Unconscious Bias

There continues to be interest by districts for this discussion to be presented to boards and staff. Since the Spring, there has been an increase in participant resistance to some of the content. It is important to note that a distinction is made between PREJUDICE and UNCONSCIOUS BIAS. In Franklin Lakes, one board member announced he had to leave or he'd "become violent" in response to the information. A second board member, wearing a militia t-shirt, stopped interrupting the discussion when I offered him the microphone to teach me what he felt was missing. In Montgomery, three members of the public recorded and broadcasted my presentation on FB-Live. However, their body language evolved during the talk from confrontation to student. It was presented to the entire Rahway HS staff with the support of that staff and leadership of the building.

Adolescent Gender Identity

The panel discussion on gender identity I facilitated for the Mercer SBA was informative, respectful and provided the unique perspective of a mother/BOE member of a transgendered son.

Building Trust & Communicating Effectively with the Community

This program was requested by the Ocean and Burlington County SBAs. The focus was on building trust with all segments of the community including those who speak regularly at the public portion of meetings.

Collaboration Project

The Collaborative of State Partners NJSBA, NJASA, NJPSA, NJEA has been experiencing growing pains which has resulted in four distinct pathways for districts to participate.

- Independent Guidebook: The national labor council that includes NSBA has released a guidebook for districts to use as a resource or to independently adopt collaborative practices.
- The NJEA/ “State Partners” pathway is a pay it forward model where after being trained, participants volunteer to be coaches/facilitators with future groups.
- The Academic Rutgers and Rutgers/Kean pathways are the preferred pathway for most districts. Under the guidance of Rutgers Professor Saul Rubenstein, board members, Superintendents, Principals, and Teachers are facilitators for districts as they experience the collaboration professional learning.
- Efforts have begun to enlist a southern NJ university to be a pathway.

Montclair

NJSBA’s work with Montclair continues. Under the leadership of the BOE, relationships between the staff and District Administration continue to be addressed via discussions facilitated by Dr. Rubenstein (RU), Dr. Brian Zychowski (KEAN), and me. Trust among the stakeholders has been a challenge. The virtual discussions we facilitated between 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 continue.

State Teacher of the Year (STOY), Clinical Intern of the Year, Milken Award Participating in the selection of the State Teacher of the Year, the Clinical Intern of the Year and NJ’s Milken nominees is an honor as well as enlightening. NJ has a talented pool of young and experienced educators. My schedule permitted me to attend the State BOE meeting to honor the 23-23 State Teacher of the Year (STOY) and the Milken Award announcements. Of note is that NJ had three Milken winners – historical! When a state has one winner it is an accomplishment.

Transition/Staff Mentoring

A new organizational structure that is accompanied by a data supported distributive leadership philosophy requires support to fully understand and implement it with efficacy. Having led and/or participated in similar efforts in districts and schools, staff, managers, directors and lead directors continue to seek the clarifications that enable them to adopt our new processes.

WORKSHOP Professional Learning

- Open Discussion with Dr. Walter Greason
- Effective Communications
- Unconscious Bias
- Governance 1
- Governance 3
- Firearms Safety Task Force

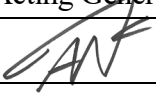
Staff Professional Learning

In collaboration with George Scott, we provided professional learning for all staff that included the impact of our communication preferences on others, the impact of other’s communications styles on us, and the impact of childhood trauma on all adults.

MEMORANDUM

To: Timothy J. Purnell, Executive Director

From: Carl Tanksley, Jr., Esq., Acting General Counsel

Date: November 16, 2023 

Re: Executive Committee – November 2023 Update

I. Alliance for Competitive Energy Services (ACES)

- a. The general counsel's office prepared and published a new RFP for administrative services in that the current contract expires December 31, 2023.

II. School Ethics Reporting

- a. Prepared updated list of out-of-compliance members for the School Ethics Commission. Currently, discussions are on-going as to strategies to increase timely compliance and efficient methods of reporting.

III. Delegate Assembly

- a. Prepared for and completed the November 1 Resolution Subcommittee (RSC) meeting. Twenty-six resolutions were filed. Five resolutions were forwarded to the RSC for consideration. Of those, five were adopted by the RSC in either the original or amended format. One resolution was not supported by the RSC. Resolutions were filed as follows:
 - i. Hanover (Morris) – One resolution seeking to revise CPRM 5020 as to parental notification. The district was advised that policies in the CPRM are not subject to revision through the resolution process.
 - ii. Plainfield (Union) – Twenty-two resolutions were filed on various topics. Twenty of the twenty-two were not presented to the RSC as they were not properly formatted or they dealt with topics that were not within the authority of the RSC. Plainfield was timely advised of the determination not to forward to the RSC for consideration. Two resolutions were forwarded to the RSC for

consideration, Cohort Classification, which the RSC adopted with a substitute resolved clause, and Teacher Certification for non-English proficient vocational teachers, which the RSC did not support.

- iii. Essex County SBA (Essex) – Submitted one resolution in opposition to book bans. The resolution was adopted by the RSC with a substitute resolved clause.
- iv. Franklin Twp. (Warren) – Submitted a revision to the “Pass-the-Trash” statute. The RSC adopted the resolution with a substitute resolved clause.
- v. Union County Vocational Technical (Union) – Proposed a revision to the bylaws regarding the vocational school appointee to the Nominating Committee. The RSC adopted the resolution with a substitute resolved clause.

IV. Amicus Curiae

- a. *I.M.O. Roman*. In this matter, two board members were disciplined by the School Ethics Commission for inappropriately voting on the settlement of litigation involving the superintendent. The School Ethics Commission found a violation and imposed discipline despite the fact that the board members consulted with the board attorney prior to voting on the matter. The board attorney reasonably advised that the members were not conflicted. As *amicus*, NJSBA is seeking to reverse the imposition of a penalty as it conflicts with the “advice of counsel” doctrine. NJSBA has submitted a brief and oral argument is scheduled for December 5, 2023.

V. Personnel

- a. The Association received a complaint from a former employee alleging that NJSBA failed to provide appropriate benefits in the employee’s severance package. The matter is currently scheduled for a hearing before the Department of Labor.

VI. Facilities

- a. The general counsel's office is currently drafting an RFP for the purchase of a new boiler. One of the two boilers at 413 West State has failed. The purchase of a new boiler was included in the 2023-24 facilities budget and approved by the BOD.

VII. TEACHNJ

- a. Pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 18A:6-7.1, NJSBA, along with other educational entities, is directed to appoint nine (9) arbitrators to the TEACHNJ panel. The arbitrators are charged with making issuing arbitration decisions in tenure dismissal matters of tenured teachers and administrators. NJSBA is currently in the process of identifying four arbitrators to fill vacancies on the panel.

VIII. Workshop

- a. The general counsel's office participated in Workshop by conducting a seminar with Joseph L. Roselle, Esq. on the topic of parliamentary procedure. The session was well attended.

STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

November 2023

Workshop 2023 Recap

- **Surveys** – Currently reviewing survey data from attendees, vendors, and staff. The results are overall positive, with no real surprises in the constructive feedback.
- **Debriefings** – Key members of the team are debriefing with our production partners, AEX (decorator company), MapYourShow (App & exhibit management platform), and Conexys (registration and scan data). We are also debriefing with staff and have invited sponsors to a virtual debriefing session.
- **Reconciliation** – Lou and I are reviewing final invoices against estimates and the budget.
- **Feedback** – The team is reviewing feedback for adjustments for Workshop 2024.
- **Sponsors** – Sharing session data and feedback with sponsors, and preparing for the sponsor debriefing.

Answers to (some of) the officer-collected feedback:

- **Mall-Type Map/“You are Here”** – This will be added to our 2024 sponsorships.
- **Lanyard Length** – We are looking into alternative lengths and adjustable lanyards.
- **Color bar on badges** – This is coming back. We tried something different with the color placement this year, but it did not work as well as we hoped.
- **Vendor who wanted to hang a banner.** The vendor in question had an inline booth, and banners are strictly prohibited with inline booths because they block other signs and vendors. If he claimed to have one last year, he was either not being truthful or snuck something by us.
- **At-a-Glance Near Exhibit Floor Entrance** – Consider it done.
- **Fees** – We will provide our decorator company, AEX, the feedback on fees for trash cans, etc.
- **Exhibit Floor Sounds** – We are reexamining our selection process and placement of student performances, and other loud exhibit floor activities.
- **Exhibit Floor Tours** – John Faford will be offering tours to prospective vendors next year. We will develop a process for booking in advance.
- **Location(s)** – Locations are selected by the vendors directly. If they were not in their preferred area, they either booked late or selected the wrong booth.
- **Vendor Sessions** – These are part of the Gold and Platinum sponsorship packages.

New Website

The development of the new NJSBA website is the next major project for the Strategic Development project. Here is the status.

Discovery – Over the last two months our core team (Stacy M., Janet, Joseph, Michael K., and Lauren) has been doing “homework” to help the site vendor, Allegiance, understand our content and site components better. We have brought in additional staff to help identify priorities, and member feedback for crowdsourcing.

Technical Discovery – IT is working with Allegiance on integrations with Cobalt, the Grants Office, and BoardDocs (the CPRM), to make the entire site searchable.

Content Audit – The NJSBA website has over 8k pages, but more than 1k have not been viewed in over a year. The team is reviewing content to purge and setting rules for content purging moving forward.

Information Architecture – We are currently crowdsourcing (thank you for your help!) to help determine how site users categorize content. From here, we will work with Allegiance on creating the new navigation.

Other Strategic Development Initiatives

Cooperative Pricing System – We are approximately \$65k away from hitting our revenue target for the year. In the coming months, we will review our opportunities to align products and services to better serve our members and potentially add products or services to meet their needs.

NJSBA Connection – There are currently nearly 2k members. In the coming months, new interest-based groups will be added to the platform.

Social Media – Both Instagram (6%) and LinkedIn (3.7%) saw a significant increase in followers during the week of Workshop due to an increase in onsite social media postings by NJSBA's marketing team.

Out-of-Compliance Reports – IT is working on out-of-compliance reports for the November elections.

STEAM Tank – Applications are out for the 2024 competition. The deadline is next month.

Partners in Education Program – Our PIE team is working with Ray and the CACs to find new partners by matching needed content to potential participants. This program replaced the Corporate Membership Program in June.

New Board Members – New board member kits are being assembled for mailing (once all data is in Cobalt), and new board member communication is being prepared.

Member Engagement and Training

Ray Pinney

The month of October had been almost exclusively focused on Workshop for our department. The Field Service Department did numerous training presentations. They were all very well received and popular.

The Professional Learning Department obviously coordinated and scheduled the training sessions. I believe that it was much smoother this year with the extra day. Call Center helped with registration and badges.

The County Coordinators organized all the cookies for the county café as well as handed out lunch tickets.

I myself had several presentations.

The department also had three new staff members two FSRs and one County Coordinator who attended Workshop for the first time as a staff member. They had attended previously as a board member or superintendent.

Outside of Workshop one of the focuses for the department has been trying to get Connection off the ground. We have over 1,500 members registered already. This will down the road be a great vehicle for the county associations. It will be a place they can go to network and share information plus register for county meetings. We are still working on other features that we can use.

The county meetings are starting up again after Workshop and one of the focuses for the December meetings is bringing the 3R's to the county level. We think this will get more newly elected board members involved with NJSBA and also their county associations. It will also help them to meet their FSR and be better prepared for their first board meeting.

Field Service is also playing a key role in revamping Gov 1 which is needed.

At the time of this submission it is a couple of days after Election Day. Unfortunately as usually occurs a few board members who were very active with NJSBA either as a member of the BOD, county leadership, legislative committee or group leader lost their reelection. It always is sad to see very committed board members leave. It also means finding many replacements.

**NJSBA Executive Committee Meeting
Communications/ Public Affairs Department Update
Janet Bamford**

November 17, 2023

School Leader

Since the last Executive Committee meeting, NJSBA published the Fall 2023 issue of *School Leader* magazine.

The cover story is a review of recent School Ethics Commission decisions, which provides guidance to board members on avoiding ethical pitfalls.

The issue also contains feature articles on: Preparing to Start or Enhance a Preschool Parent Academy; 10 Reasons to Attend Workshop 2023; the winners of the Innovations in Special Education Awards; a Piscataway program for high school freshmen; a look at Hamilton Twp.'s summer camp program; and a conversation with the student representative to the State Board.

The magazine also features an article on the U.S. Supreme Court's decision on affirmative action and the impact on K-12 education, a review of the NJSBA Firearm Safety Task Force Report, and award winning programs in Mendham Twp., Passaic Public School and South Berger Jointure Commission.



We are in the planning stages for the 2024 Winter issue of School Leader, which will feature articles on strategies school districts are successfully using to cut chronic absenteeism, a primer on negotiations basics, a roundtable discussion on school transportation, an article on educational technology, and profiles of the Board Member of the Year and the inaugural class of Unsung Superheroes in Education!

School Board Notes

Each week *School Board Notes* provides board members with the most comprehensive coverage of public education available in the state. Since the last Executive Committee meeting, SBN has covered

the November general election (with its 20 ballot questions) and the September referendum election, Workshop 2023, State Board and SEC actions, the announcement of the Board Member of the Year, upcoming NJSBA programs, several local boards which have earned Board Certification from NJSBA's Board Member Academy, and more.

Videos

When Tim Purnell and Karen Cortellino surprised the Board Member of the Year at her board meeting in mid October, we were there to photograph and video the event, and it resulted in this video, which has been shared with members via School Board Notes and social media: <https://youtu.be/rL2fPvKfgog>. Robin has also been involved with taping video footage to promote next year's Workshop, and working on videos for staff and training purposes.

Workshop Activities

The Communications Department staffers—like all at NJSBA—were extra busy in October preparing for and executing Workshop 2023. It involved drafting speeches and remarks, editing promotional copy and emails, helping to write the questions for the Quiz show, preparing for referendum communications program, being involved in the videography and photography for Workshop, assisting with the operations of the Workshop stages, and tasks such as scanning badges for programs, assisting with registration, etc.

Press and Public Queries

Recent press inquiries have come from the Star Ledger/NJ.com, the Bergen Record/northjersey.com, the Philadelphia Inquirer, Asbury Park Press, NJ Spotlight News, Chalkbeat, Patch, NJToday, New Jersey Globe and more.

Topics addressed include the elections, the politicization of school board races, the legalities of write-in candidates filing campaign disclosure forms with ELEC, public comment period at board meetings, book bans, superintendent searches, ethics violations and administrator certifications.

We continue to answer queries from non-members (mostly the public) as well as some member queries on a wide range of topics.

Additional Projects and Research

We send out Daily Clips (and post it on our website), a compendium of news items dealing with public education. It is very popular with recipients.

In the past month, some of our annual NJSBA awards program were completed for the year, including Board Member of the Year and the School Leader awards. We also completed our annual statistical analysis of all the school board candidates running in the November election, as well as a the most recent referendum and "second question" ballot measures.

News releases went out concerning the elections, Workshop promotional news release, a release on the Board Member of the Year, and one on the Unsung Superheroes awards at Workshop.

We have been edited and updating the documents that go out to new board members in the New Board Member Kit in January.

An ongoing project is the communications department's involvement in the design and planning of the new website, due later next spring. The process is justifiably painstaking, as the group working on the website is doing a very deep dive on how the site is used, what information should be included on the site, and how it should be organized. We will also be evaluating documents on the existing site that need updating and rewriting or may need to be "pruned."

The communications staff joins me in thanking the officers for their continued support of NJSBA's communications efforts.

**FINANCE, OPERATIONS + LOGISTICS' SUPPORT SERVICES
DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE
November 17, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting**

- **2023 – 2024 Financial Performance**

- September 2023's year-to-date net income of \$102K is \$497K favorable to budget.
- The financial impact of Workshop 2023 will not be reflected until October's books are closed.

Revenues:

- Fee-based services such as Superintendent Searches and Strategic Plans have outpaced their budget targets.
- Cooperative purchasing administrative fees of \$93K from our TEC (Technology for Education and Careers) program exceed the budget of \$44K, primarily due to a large fee received from SHI International as members purchased their technology needs to plan for the upcoming school year.
- Investment income has surpassed its budget by \$38K as a result of higher return rates and a larger cash position due to the success of Workshop (2022 + 2023) and the strong performance of the other revenue streams previously noted.

Expenses:

- Wages and employee health benefit costs are underrunning the budget since it has taken some time to fill the five new positions recently created.
- No consulting services have been required through the first four months of the year.
- Travel expenses continue to ramp up slowly as Covid travel restrictions have eased, enabling us to have a favorable budget impact so far this year. The officers' decision not to attend

certain out-of-state programs has also contributed to this favorable variance.

- **2022 – 2023 Audit**

- Robert Butvilla, our audit partner from Suplee Clooney + Company, will present a draft of the audit report to the board at tonight's meeting.
- The auditors have issued an unmodified ("clean") opinion on the accuracy of the Association's financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2023.
- The draft audit report that will be presented will include the adjustments required relating to NJSBA's participation in the state-sponsored pension plan and post-retirement health benefits plan. (These adjustments were not available when the draft report was presented to the Audit Committee in September.) These adjustments are non-cash in nature and have no impact on NJSBA's financial position.
- Excluding these pension and post-retirement health care adjustments, NJSBA posted a profit of \$1.4 million for the year ended June 30, 2023. (This amount also excludes the non-cash depreciation and amortization expenses.)

- **Other Items:**

- Through November 8th, we have collected \$7.5 million of members' dues for the current fiscal year. These collections represent 98.9% of the total dues assessed (of \$7.6 million).
- We plan to soon issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the replacement of one of the boilers at our Headquarters building. The funding for this was approved by the board at its meeting in September.
- We have been making plans to accelerate the timing for the completion of our 2024 – 2025 budget cycle, so that we can provide

earlier guidance to our members on their annual dues for the upcoming year.

*New Jersey School Boards Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Report of the Vice President for Legislation/Resolutions
Chanta L. Jackson*

Legislative Activity

As expected with all 120 seats in the State Legislature on the ballot this year, both the Senate and General Assembly have remained on break since the end of June. Neither house has convened for any official activity since the most recent Board of Directors meeting in September.

The legislative calendar for the remainder of the 2022-2023 session has been released. The General Assembly will return to the State House on Monday, November 20 for its first committee meetings since the spring. The Senate reconvenes the following Monday, November 27. As is typical, the “lame duck” session will be incredibly busy as members work to get as much unfinished business complete before the end of the two-year session on Monday, January 8th.

The new Legislature will be sworn in on Tuesday, January 9th. Governor Murphy will deliver his penultimate State of the State address on the same day.

Recent Education-Related Enactments

Since the September 2023 Board of Directors meeting, the following measures that affect NJ schools or local boards of education were signed into law:

Ticket Prices at Postseason Athletic Events S-2902/A-5568 (*P.L.2023, c.161*): Allows ticket prices at postseason athletic events to be increased to offset event-related expenses.

NJSBA Position: Monitor

Bills on Governor’s Desk

The following education-related bills have passed both houses of the Legislature and were awaiting action by Governor Murphy as of the filing of this report:

Educator Scholarship Program A-3681/S-2661: Establishes New Jersey Educator Scholarship Program; appropriates \$3 million.

NJSBA Position: Support

Alternative Teaching Pathway S-1553/A-4525: Permits State Board of Education to authorize alternative teaching certificate.

NJSBA Position: Support

Electric School Bus Funding A-4716/S-3044: Makes supplemental appropriation of \$15 million to DEP for implementation of Electric School Bus Program.

NJSBA Position: Support

Compostable Food Waste A-4548/S-3153: Authorizes schools to receive certain food waste from other schools, and provides exemption to such receiving schools from certain DEP permits, under certain conditions.

NJSBA Position: Support

NJSBA Legislative Committee

The committee has met once since the last Board of Directors meeting. The meeting took place on Saturday, October 14 at the NJSBA headquarters. This was the first in-person committee meeting since before the COVID-19 pandemic began, and was also the first one presided over by the new Vice President of Legislation/Resolutions, Chanta L. Jackson.

Ms. Jackson introduced herself to the committee and provided information on her background and professional experience. She also highlighted some of the advocacy items she plans to focus on during her tenure, including:

- Advocating for legislation to streamline the teacher certification process and expanding reciprocity agreements;
- Promoting the career and technical education programs in traditional public schools independent of county vocational schools;
- Teaching local boards how to reduce their reliance on state aid;
- Advocating for a more equitable funding formula; and
- Expanding social-emotional learning supports for our students.

The agenda included a detailed presentation from the NJSBA governmental relations staff. Topics addressed included:

- Education highlights of the FY2024 state budget;
- Recently signed education-related enactments, including the sick leave expansion law signed in July;
- Bills pending on the governor’s desk, including one that creates an alternative pathway to teacher certification;
- News from the Executive Branch, including recognition of the passing of Lieutenant Governor Sheila Oliver and an update on the progress of the NJ Anti-Bullying Task Force;
- Recent State Board of Education activity;
- Recent developments on the school desegregation lawsuit;
- A preview of the November election and potential issues the Legislature may address in the “lame duck” session post-Election Day; and
- Promotion of various Workshop 2023 programs led by the governmental relations department, such as the Legislative Panel Discussion, the State Board of Education session, and an opportunity for a committee “meet-up” at the conference (additional information below).

The agenda also included a discussion of the Association’s legislative agenda and advocacy action plan for the 2024-2025 legislative session. Committee members reviewed the current 2022-2023 agenda, broke into small groups to discuss potential advocacy items and priorities for the next agenda, and offered feedback to NJSBA leadership and staff. The committee will finalize the advocacy agenda at its December meeting, and it will then be submitted to the NJSBA Executive Committee and the Board of Directors for final approval on January 2024.

An updated roster for the Legislative Committee will also be presented to the Board of Directors for approval at its January 2024 meeting. The roster will be adjusted and updated to reflect the newly drawn legislative district map that becomes effective with the 221st Legislature (i.e., 2024-2025).

Anti-Bullying Task Force

The New Jersey Anti-Bullying Task Force, authorized through an act of the Legislature in 2019, has officially organized and began soliciting public feedback in early October. The charge of the task force is to examine and evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation of the “Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights

Act”; to examine any unintended consequences resulting from implementation; and present any recommendations deemed necessary and appropriate to modify or update the law.

The task force held two public hearings in the first week of October. The NJSBA submitted verbal and written testimony at the task force’s Oct. 5th virtual public hearing, a copy of which can be found here: <https://www.njsba.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/ABTF-testimony-10-5-23.pdf>

The NJSBA also organized a focus group, at task force Chair’s request, with a subcommittee of the Task Force and local board of education members. Dr. Purnell, several NJSBA officers, and over a dozen board members from across the state participated in the discussion. This presented a rare and valuable opportunity to advocate for changes and improvements to the state’s policy concerning harassment, intimidation and bullying. The task force is expected to issue a final report by the end of 2023 or early 2024.

NJSBA Workshop 2023

The following programs involving key state-level policymakers were held at NJSBA Workshop 2023.

1. **Legislative Panel Discussion.** The following legislators participated:
 - Senator Teresa Ruiz (D-29) – Senate Majority Leader
 - Senator Declan O’Scanlon (R-13) – Senate Republican Budget Officer
 - Assemblyman Erik Simonsen (R-1) – Member of the Assembly Education Committee and the Joint Committee on the Public Schools

2. **State Board of Education.** The following four members of the Board participated in a panel discussion:
 - President Kathy Goldenberg (Burlington County)
 - Vice President Andrew J. Mulvihill (Sussex County)
 - Ronald K. Butcher (Gloucester County)
 - Nedd James Johnson, Ed. D. (Salem County)

Activities of the VP of Legislation/Resolutions

- September 26, 2023 Passaic County Association meeting
- October 5, 2023 Monmouth County Association meeting
- October 11, 2023 Cape May County Association meeting
- Chaired October 14, 2023 Legislative Committee meeting (first in-person gathering of the committee since the pandemic)
- Attended Workshop 2024 October 23-26, 2023 and presented one workshop on School Public Relations
- October 24, 2023 Introduced legislators attending the Legislative Update Panel during NJSBA Workshop
- Chaired November 1, 2023 Resolutions sub-committee meeting, where five resolutions were considered