



MINUTES  
OPEN SESSION  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
NJSBA Headquarters  
413 West State Street  
Trenton, New Jersey  
September 22, 2023

President Karen Cortellino called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m., read the Open Public Meetings Act statement, and asked for a roll call. Executive Committee members in attendance were, Dr. Karen Cortellino, president; Ms. Irene LeFebve, immediate past president; Mr. Barry Fitzgerald, vice president for county activities; Chanta L. Jackson, vice president for legislation/resolutions; Dr. Tom Connors, vice president for finance, and Dr. Timothy Purnell, Executive Director.

The following staff members attended part of the meeting to observe or provide department reports, Carl Tanksley Esq., General Counsel; Jonathan Pushman, director of governmental relations; Lauren Cuervo, director of strategic development; Ray Pinney, director of activities & and member engagement; Janet Bamford, chief public affairs officer; John Faford, director of finance, operations + logistic support Services; and Paige Beierschmitt, executive assistant.

## **Executive Directors Report**

### **Welcome:**

Welcome remarks – This is a new process of having EC meetings before BOD meetings.

### **Departmental Updates 3:05 p.m.**

HR/Executive Office - Paige Beierschmitt discussed three since the last meeting. We have hired Paige Beierschmitt, Kim Gatti, and Karen Callahan since our last meeting. We also have three new stipend positions - Emergency Management Coordinator, Archivist, and Senior Field Service Representatives (3).

General Counsel/Legal, Labor & Policy – Carl Tanksley had a few updates on the report. Things are moving quickly with 22 New Resolutions coming through the pipeline. We will be reviewing the resolutions as they come in. Additional staff and training new staff for this new development. We are working on creating our belief statements for those Resolutions along with Governmental Relations. Also discussed were two matters pending – Jersey City superintendent and Sparta v. MM.



Strategic Development – Lauren Cuervo had two main focus areas over the summer. New Website – over the summer we reviewed perspective companies and went with Allegiance because they were best equipped to meet our needs. We are now in the discovery phase. They came up with 16 pages of questions for Janet and me to answer. We will keep you updated with goals and discussions. Touching all departments in the organization.

Workshop was Lauren’s second point of emphasis. We have met all of our budget goals, hit over 500 districts, and had a few hundred registrations over this time last year. Record high numbers. Things are going well, things are ahead of schedule, and now we are finishing up last-minute details and looking for as smooth as possible.

Member Training & Engagement – Ray Pinney’s updates included updates on interviewing and hiring new FSR and County Coordinator candidates. Karen Callahan her first county meeting – she had a lot to deal with at her first meeting and she did a great job. Ray is in the process of hiring 2 FSRs and posted for 2 additional FSRs. NJSBA connection is an additional point of emphasis where board members can speak to each other through a community portal. Each county is going to have one.

Public Affairs and Communications – Janet Bamford debuted a redesign of School Leader with a new video. Every 5 years we try to update and Janet is sending off the fall issue to the printer next week. Chronic absenteeism, transportation, and best practices in educational technology are some focuses of this issue. Unsung Superhero awards are underway seeing how many different types of people help run a school. Inspirational to all types of school professionals. Janet also discussed different Press Inquiries with news releases & working with Telemundo.

Finance and Operations – John Faford had a few updates that included the audit report will go to the audit committee tonight for review. The Association had a good financial year. We generated a generous surplus. Dues collection has gone well so far with 91% of dues collected. If a school district does not pay its dues, they will be deemed as not in good standing and if a district has not paid by Workshop, they would not be able to attend workshop.

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

## **Action Items**

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

- A. Approval of open session minutes for the April 19, 2023 EC Meeting
  - a. A motion to approve Action Item A was made by Dr. Irene Lefebvre, was duly seconded, and carried by Dr. Tom Connors, and abstained by Barry Fitzgerald and Chanta Jackson.
- B. Approval of Vouchers Past 30 Days
  - a. A motion to approve Action Item B was made by Irene Lefebvre, was duly seconded, and carried unanimously.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – No unfinished business



## **NEW BUSINESS –**

- Dr. Purnell and Officers are attending NSBA/Advocacy Institute from January 27-30, 2024. Discussions of transportation and dates were discussed, and it was noted how valuable it is for NJSBA to attend. Jonathan Pushman and Jesse Young will also be attending.
- Workshop updates included schedules for officers, speeches and remarks, introductions, and Keynote Speakers. Leadership Reception and Welcome Reception details and also lunches. There was also a discussion of the Governance I Reboot.

All staff in attendance were dismissed from the meeting at 4:52 p.m.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION –** No executive Session