

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

November 17, 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, November 17, 2023. President Dr. Karen Cortellino presided over the meeting from the Association’s headquarters in Trenton. Immediate Past President Irene M. LeFebvre and Vice Presidents Dr. Tom Connors and Chanta L. Jackson were also present at headquarters. Executive Director Timothy J. Purnell provided his report to the board from headquarters.

Executive Committee members present were Dr. Karen Cortellino, president; Dr. Tom Connors, vice president for finance; Chanta L. Jackson, vice president for legislation/resolutions; Irene LeFebvre, immediate past president, and Dr. Timothy Purnell, executive director.

Association staff present were Carl Tanksley, Esq., general counsel; Vincent DeLucia, educator-in-residence/special assignments; John Faford, director of finance and operations; Ray Pinney, lead director of member training and engagement; Jonathan Pushman, director of governmental relations; Gwen Thornton, director of field services; Marcia Lavigne, director of professional learning; Kathleen Asher, director of legal and labor relations; Kimberly Gatti, director of policy; Brian Green, network administrator; and Samantha Matias, executive assistant.

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

Atlantic	Louis Della Barca	Essex	Benjamin Morse
Bergen	Michael Sprague		Kathryn Weller-Demming
	Behrooz Pasdar (Alt.)		(Alt.)
Burlington	Erica Campbell	Gloucester	Not Represented
	Michael McClure (Alt.)	Hudson	Hector Gonzalez, Jr.
Camden	Not Represented	Hunterdon	Laurie Markowski
Cape May	Not Represented	Mercer	Dana Krug
Cumberland	Not Represented		Addie Lane (Alt.)

Middlesex	Kimberly Lane (Alt.)	County	Michael Jacobs
Monmouth	Al Miller	Association	Tammeisha Smith (Alt.)
Morris	Paul Breda	Leadership	
	Diane Morris (Alt.)	Urban Boards	Rita Martin
Ocean	Jennifer Bacchione		Marsha Hershman (Alt.)
Passaic	Alan Paris		Cynthia Atkins (Alt.)
Salem	Not Represented	Vocational	Elizabeth Martin
Somerset	Barry Walker (Alt.)		
Sussex	Marie Bilik		
	Ronald Hoffman (Alt.)		
Union	Brendan Galligan		
Warren	Not Represented		

Guest Presenter: Mr. Robert Butvilla, partner, Suplee, Clooney & Company (Auditor)

ROLL CALL - President Cortellino called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A roll call indicated 4 officers, county association leadership, urban boards, vocational boards and 15 counties were represented. Those present constituted a quorum.

NON-BOARD MEMBERS: The following non-board members were also present at the meeting: Lorenzo Richardson, Mark Halupka, and Timothy Antisz.

FLAG SALUTE - President Cortellino led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOMENT OF SILENCE - President Cortellino asked for a moment of silence for the tragedy in Ohio and the deaths of three high school students and two staff members.

With the Thanksgiving holiday coming up, President Cortellino also asked for a moment to be thankful for all that we have. To forget the negative in our lives and be grateful for all the positive in our lives such as family, friends, and colleagues.

MISSION STATEMENT - President Cortellino 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: Stephanie Wohlrab, member for Ocean County and Mattia Scharfstein, alternate for County Association Leadership.

The following new members and alternates and re-elected members and alternates were introduced.

New Members:

- Bergen County Alternate – Behrooz (Bruce) Pasdar, Emerson Board of Education
- Ocean County Member - Jennifer Bacchione, Berkeley Township Board of Education
- County Association Leadership Alternate – Tammeisha Smith, Knowlton Township Board of Education
- Urban Boards Alternate - Sheri Lowery, Pemberton Township Board of Education

Re-elected Members:

- Urban Boards Member - Diane Johnson

Elected to Member from Alternate Position:

- County Association Leadership Member - Michael Jacobs (from Bergen County Alternate)

OATH OF OFFICE – New members and select members and alternates who were not present at the September 2023 reorganization meeting were asked to take the oath of office.

NJSBA 2022-2023 AUDIT REPORT - Mr. Robert Butvilla, partner, Suplee, Clooney & Company provided a report on the NJSBA 2022-2023 annual audit report. The independent audit for fiscal year 2022-2023 reflects positively on the Association’s business and finance operations. There are no recommendations.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT - Dr. Purnell addressed NJSBA activities, and the progress made in enabling school districts to meet the challenges presented to them ensuring that members continue to benefit from essential training, advocacy, and direct service.

Workshop 2023 - Workshop 2023 was held about three weeks ago. The registration count, exhibitor count, and district attendance count were all higher than last year with 8,200 confirmed attendees at Workshop. Feedback received from attendee and vendor surveys has been excellent and is an indication of how hard the NJSBA staff worked to make the conference a wonderful experience. There was a 6% spike in Instagram followers and a 3.8% spike in LinkedIn followers during the event.

New to Workshop was the “Unsung Superheroes in Education” awards. These awards shined a light on the individuals who work diligently behind the scenes and are often overlooked. Staff members in the following categories were honored: librarian/media specialists; coaches and club advisers; school nurses; bus drivers and aides; custodial, maintenance, building and grounds staff; cafeteria/food services; crossing guards; security guards; administrative assistants and secretaries; and others who play vital roles in the daily lives of our educational institutions. More than 200 nominations from 112 districts were received. NJSBA looks forward to next year’s awards and is proud to make this program a permanent addition to Workshop.

NJSBA Personnel Update - Three staff members have been added since the September Board of Directors meeting – two additional field service representatives, Kelly Mitchell for Passaic and Sussex counties and Dr. Timothy Teehan for Monmouth county, and the business

administrator-in-residence, Charlie Muller. NJSBA is still actively recruiting for several other positions.

NJSBA Facilities Update – NJSBA will be going out with an RFP for a new boiler to replace one that went down last spring. The Association is also recharging the fire suppression system in the server room in the basement. The process of reconfiguring and adding additional cubicles and offices to accommodate growing staff is ongoing. A panic button has been added to the first floor that summons the Trenton police department automatically and an additional AED has been added so there is now one on each floor. The safety and security of staff members is a top priority.

The Boardroom Podcast - Dr. Purnell will be hosting a new monthly podcast series, “The Boardroom”, that will feature live and transparent conversations with board members. Each month, a senior staff member will join Dr. Purnell to highlight specific topics and answer any questions related to their subject area. Dr. Purnell will also be available to answer questions that board members may have related to NJSBA via call-in and chat room questions. The podcast will run from September to May and be held live the second Wednesday of each month from noon to 1 p.m. It will be recorded and archived for later listening. The first podcast will take place on January 10 and will cover mandated training with Marcia Lavigne.

A Call for Volunteers – SkillsUSA is a national organization that supports the skilled trades and helps students become career ready. The organization is looking for two to three judges who understand business meetings to volunteer to judge a chapter competition in April. The competition will evaluate a chapter’s ability to conduct business meetings according to correct parliamentary procedure. Any interested member should reach out to Lauren Cuervo for more information.

ACTION ITEMS

Roll Call Agenda Items:

President Cortellino asked for a motion to approve the 2022-2023 NJSBA Audit Report.

Elizabeth Martin moved to APPROVE the 2022-2023 NJSBA Audit Report. The motion was duly seconded and carried, with 22 members voting in the affirmative.

Consent Agenda Items:

President Cortellino asked for a motion to approve the following consent agenda items:

- A. Open session minutes of the September 22, 2023 meeting

Paul Breda moved to APPROVE the consent agenda items. The motion was duly seconded and carried. The following members abstained from voting on the open session minutes of the September 22, 2023 meeting: VP Chanta L. Jackson.

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 – No unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS – Michael Jacobs informed the Board that the topic of Bergen County’s December 5 meeting will be branding and communications. The meeting will be held at Hackensack High School.

Barry Walker provided an update on some changes made by NJSIAA.

Kimberly Lane expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to serve the students in her district and the relationships of those she has worked with over the past four years and how thankful she was that her idea of the unsung heroes in education awards was taken into consideration.

SUMMARY

President Cortellino 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, *Barry Walker moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was duly seconded and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy J. Purnell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "T" and "P".

Timothy J. Purnell, Ed.D.

Executive Director