

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

January 5, 2024
7 p.m.

A regular meeting of the New Jersey School Boards Association Board of Directors was held in-person and virtually on Friday, January 5, 2024. President Dr. Karen Cortellino presided over the meeting from the Association’s headquarters in Trenton. Immediate Past President Irene M. LeFebvre and Vice Presidents Barry Fitzgerald 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; Barry Fitzgerald, vice president for county activities; 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; Janet Bamford, chief public affairs officer; 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; Lauren Cuervo, lead director of strategic development; Stacy Moorhead, associate director of graphics and web development; 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		Michael McClure (Alt.)
	Doris Rowell (Alt.)	Camden	Not Represented
Bergen	Michael Sprague	Cape May	Jacqueline McAlister
	Behrooz Pasdar (Alt.)	Cumberland	Brent Daly
Burlington	Erica Campbell	Essex	Not Represented

Gloucester	Not Represented		Ronald Hoffman (Alt.)
Hudson	Enrico Bolognino (Alt.)	Union	Brendan Galligan
Hunterdon	Laurie Markowski	Warren	Paul Williams
Mercer	Dana Krug	County	Michael Jacobs
	Addie Lane (Alt.)	Association	Tammeisha Smith (Alt.)
Middlesex	Liwu Hong	Leadership	
Monmouth	Mark Patterson (Alt.)	Urban Boards	Marsha Hershman (Alt.)
Morris	Paul Breda		Diane Johnson
	Diane Morris (Alt.)	Vocational	Elizabeth Martin
Ocean	Jennifer Bacchione		Jon-Henry Barr (Alt.)
Passaic	Valdo Panzera, Jr. (Alt.)		
Salem	Eileen Miller		
Somerset	Robert Morrison		
	Barry Walker (Alt.)		
Sussex	Marie Bilik		

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 18 counties were represented. Those present constituted a quorum.

NON-BOARD MEMBERS: The following non-board members were also present at the meeting: Markee Robinson, Mark Bonjavanni, JoAnn Schlindwein, and April Miller.

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

MOMENT OF SILENCE – Since January is School Board Recognition Month, President Cortellino asked for a moment of silence for Peggy Saslow, who died Dec. 26, at age 100 and who dedicated her life to education and made a lasting impact on countless students who attended the New Milford School District and all of the dedicated board of education members who have gone before us.

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: Joseph Miller, member for Camden County, Kimberly Lane, alternate for Middlesex County, and Al Miller, member for Monmouth County.

The following new members and alternates were introduced.

New Members:

- Monmouth County Alternate – Mark Patterson, Oceanport Board of Education

OATH OF OFFICE – New members and select members and alternates who were not present at a previous Board of Directors meeting were asked to take the oath of office. The following members took their oath of office: Mark Patterson, Brent Daly, and Brendan Galligan.

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.

NJSBA Resources on School Security – Dr. Purnell commented on the school shooting that took place in Perry, Iowa the day prior to the meeting acknowledging that safety and security of students and staff is a priority to all local boards of education and that districts are constantly looking for additional resources that will keep students safe. Dr. Purnell reminded members that NJSBA has several resources available on this topic to assist districts including the Firearms Safety Task Force Report and the School Safety Resources webpage. These resources can help prevent tragedies and can help boards cope if they do occur.

School Board Recognition Month - NJSBA has received the proclamation from Governor Murphy declaring January to be School Board Recognition Month. For more than 20 years, NJSBA has been organizing this effort to honor the service of the state’s volunteer board of education members. A page has been posted on the NJSBA website complete with resources including sample resolutions and certificates of appreciation. Dr. Purnell and Immediate Past President Irene LeFebvre will attend the monthly meeting of the State Board of Education, and the State Board will present NJSBA with the annual resolution they pass to honor boards of education. NJSBA will also debut a short video thanking board members for their service via social media and through School Board Notes.

NJSBA Connection: A Note from a Retiring Board Member – Dr. Purnell highlighted a very nice note posted on NJSBA Connection from a retiring board member, Joan Speroni, who served on the Point Pleasant Boro board for 21 years. The post emphasized how valuable NJSBA’s training was to her growth as a board member.

NJSBA Financial Update - NJSBA is very close to reaching the goal of 100% of member’s dues collection. There is less than \$1,400 remaining to collect and the payments are in the mail. The Association has been pleased with this year’s dues collection efforts.

Workshop 2023 was a financial success. The event exceeded its registration, exhibitor, and sponsorship revenue targets.

NJSBA Personnel Update - NJSBA is continuing to interview candidates for the following open positions:

- senior policy manager
- legal counsel
- administrative assistant, legal labor & policy
- field service representatives

In addition, the search for a deputy executive director will also kick off. There will be two town hall forums to solicit input from members on what qualities NJSBA should look for in a successful candidate for this position. The forums will be held virtually on Wednesday, January 24 and Thursday, January 25 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Details on how to log on to the town hall forums will be sent in an email blast to members and participation is strongly encouraged. The forums will be conducted by Dr. Chris Tienken, the consultant for this search.

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. on various social media platforms. It will be recorded and archived for later listening. The podcast will premiere next Wednesday, January 10 with Marcia Lavigne, director of professional learning, and will cover mandated training.

New NJSBA Website – Janet Bamford, chief public affairs officer, Lauren Cuervo, lead director of strategic development, and Stacy Moorhead, associate director of graphics and web development provided an update on the process, progress and next steps of developing the new member focused NJSBA website.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent Agenda Items:

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

- A. Open session minutes of the November 17, 2023 meeting

- B. 2023-2024 Advocacy Agenda
- C. Legislative Committee Appointments

Eileen Miller 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.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – No unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS – Paul Breda expressed concern regarding the mission of the Association.

Michael Sprague thanked Dr. Purnell for coming to his county meeting in December and gave kudos to county activities coordinator, Rob Acerra.

Barry Walker provided an NJSIAA update.

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, *Erica Campbell moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was duly seconded and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,



Timothy J. Purnell, Ed.D.
Executive Director