



**MINUTES**  
**OPEN SESSION**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**NJSBA Headquarters**  
**413 West State Street**  
**Trenton, New Jersey**  
**January 5, 2024**

President Dr. Karen Cortellino called the meeting to order at 3:06 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 LeFebvre, immediate past president; Barry Fitzgerald, vice president of county activities; Chanta L. Jackson, vice president for legislation/resolutions; 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; John Faford, director of finance & operations; Charlie Muller, business administrator-in-residence; Janet Bamford, chief public affairs officer; and Paige Beierschmitt, executive assistant/hr.

President Cortellino asked Dr. Purnell to provide an update.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Welcome:** Dr. Purnell thanked President Cortellino and greeted everyone.

**DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

Dr. Purnell noted that all the department directors provided written updates. The reports have been posted on the Executive Committee website at [www.njsba.org/ec](http://www.njsba.org/ec). The directors in attendance presented brief comments from their reports.

Carl Tanksley –

- AMIKA Requests – discussed the arguments on both sides and Carl discussed NJSBA's stance on the filing. He discussed how a member can be protected against legal action if you follow the advice of the board attorney.
- SEC Updates
- Provided an update on the upcoming Delegate Assembly. The work with the handbook is just about finished and will be printed and sent out next week. As mentioned in the last meeting, there were twenty-two resolutions filed from Plainfield and twenty-six resolutions filed overall. After review, five resolutions were forwarded to the RSC for consideration, four of which are being supported and one of which is not being supported.

Vince DeLucia –

- Highlight the firearms task force report. Presenting that with Najah in February at the Burlington meeting.
- Program – how can we promote county engagement, highlight at collaboration between Rutgers and Kean.

Charlie Muller

- Gave his updates on being new to the association and what he has accomplished so far.

Lauren Cuervo –

- Full speed ahead with workshop, graphics, workshop floor tweaks, maximizing engagement, adding 64 sponsorship booths, and workshop websites.
- Focusing on Women in Leadership, women-focused events, and dealing with the challenges women face. One-day security program, possibly an IT/technology conference in June.
- Cooperative pricing has reached its goal.
- Webinars with districts to use our cooperative pricing agreement.
- Provided a few Strategic Development updates. Planning for Workshop 2024 started right away. Meetings were scheduled with vendors, sponsors, and staff for debriefs. All surveys were sent out and the data is being reviewed. The department's focus has shifted to the new website. Currently in the discovery phase, doing content audits and testing. 8,500 pages of content are being reviewed to determine what needs to be kept, archived, or deleted. The cooperative pricing program is doing well this year and is close to hitting the budget goal for the year. The program is being reviewed to align products and services to upcoming initiatives.

Ray Pinney –

- November and December is crunch time. DA and Out of Compliance
- Leadership one-day conferences: March 2, March 16, and April 12 - hosted by a county college.

Janet Bamford –

- Chronic Absenteeism – The reporter interviews districts, focus on negotiations in this issue, bargaining basics, great for new board members.
- Looking ahead at the spring issue of School Leader – how to explain ratings, student wellness and health, and school security

John Faford –

- Workshop and fee-based surfaces – sup searches and strategic plans are a reason that the association is in a positive spot financially.
- We are doing better regarding budgets so we are accelerating the budget cycle, proposed budget will be to the finance committee on January 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Update on Logistics Support Services: Close to issuing the new boiler.

Carl Tanksley spoke about the DA and how we can improve on the DA experience when approving or rejecting resolutions. We also are looking at ways to make the DA run smoother with the floor process. The officers, Dr.

Purnell, and Carl discussed training videos for board members to watch to gain more clarity and knowledge on how to present resolutions for the most successful and efficient outcome. He also discussed rebuilding institutional knowledge throughout the organization and membership for resolution season.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

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

### **A. Approval of Open Session Minutes of the November 17, 2024, Executive Committee Meeting**

*A motion to approve Action Item A was made by immediate past president LeFebvre, was duly seconded, and Barry Fitzgerald abstained.*

Directors in attendance were dismissed from the meeting at 3:48 p.m.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – The Executive Committee discussed the NSBA Advocacy Institute taking place in January 2024 which was also discussed at the November meeting. Dr. Purnell wanted the Officers' input on their expectations and what they would like to do for that day so that Jonathan could plan accordingly. The officers also discussed meals and food options.

## **NEW BUSINESS –**

Dr. Purnell shared with the Officers some items that were being announced at tonight's Board of Directors meeting.

- NJSBA Officers discussed attending the NSBA Conference in New Orleans in April and if they will attend the conference. Irene and Dr. Cortellino were still deciding whether they were able to attend.
- NJSBA is looking to recommend a new group for the Municipal Group Affiliate program to help with improvements and enhancements with new technology for items like electric school buses. This will help promote shared services.
- Dr. Karen Cortellino discussed the Women in Leadership Conference at NJASA that will be on 3/18/2024 and 3/19/2025. She will be attending on 3/18/2024.
- Dr. Purnell spoke about the genesis behind the NJSBA Women in Leadership conference on April 19, 2024, headed by Lauren Cuervo and Marcia Lavigne.
- Barry Fitzgerald offered to assist Carl Tanksley regarding EV support.
- Deputy Executive Director Position Posting – Position starting July 1, 2024

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, president Cortellino asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by immediate past president LeFebvre, was duly seconded, and carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Timothy J. Purnell', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. Timothy J. Purnell

Executive Director