

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

September 20, 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, September 20, 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 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; Janet Bamford, chief public affairs officer; Vincent DeLucia, director of special projects; Charlie Muller, business administrator-in-residence; John Faford, director of finance and operations; Ray Pinney, chief membership engagement officer; Jonathan Pushman, lead director, advocacy; Gwen Thornton, lead director, content; Kathleen Asher, director of legal and labor relations; Kim Gatti, director of policy; Lauren Cuervo, lead director, connection; Brian Green, network administrator; and Samantha Matias, special projects assistant.

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

Atlantic	Louis Della Barca	Essex	Benjamin Morse
	Theresa Hudson (Alt.)		Kathryn Weller-Demming
Bergen	Behrooz Pasdar (Alt.)		(Alt.)
Burlington	Michael McClure (Alt.)	Gloucester	Natalie Baker
Camden	Not Represented	Hudson	Hector Gonzalez, Jr.
Cape May	Not Represented		Enrico Bolognino (Alt.)
Cumberland	Not Represented	Hunterdon	Robert Imhoff

	Nickolas Moustakas (Alt.)	Warren	Scott Nodes
Mercer	Dana Krug		Jaclyn Rowbotham (Alt.)
	Addie Daniels-Lane (Alt.)	County	Michael Jacobs
Middlesex	Liwu Hong	Association	Tammeisha Smith (Alt.)
Monmouth	Kathy Winecoff	Leadership	
	Mark Patterson (Alt.)	Urban Boards	Rita Martin
Morris	Paul Breda		Marsha Hershman (Alt.)
	Diane Morris (Alt.)		Cynthia Atkins (Alt.)
Ocean	Jennifer Bacchione		Diane Johnson
	Victoria Pakala (Alt.)	Vocational	Jon-Henry Barr
Passaic	Alan Paris		Ruth Hands (Alt.)
Salem	Eileen Miller		
Somerset	Barry Walker		
	Jean Trujillo (Alt.)		
Sussex	Ronald Hoffman (Alt.)		
Union	Brendan Galligan		

ROLL CALL - President Cortellino called the meeting to order at 7:07 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 member was also present at the meeting: JoAnn Schlindwein.

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

MOMENT OF SILENCE –With the new school year underway, President Cortellino asked for a moment of silence to remember the victims of the Winder, Georgia school shootings on Sept. 4, and to remind ourselves of our shared responsibility to protect and nurture our students during this school year and always.

MISSION STATEMENT - President Cortellino led the members in reciting the Association’s Mission Statement.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT – No public comments.

OATH OF OFFICE – As it was the NJSBA Board of Directors re-organization meeting the annual oath of office was administered to all members in attendance.

CODE OF CONDUCT – Carl Tanksley reviewed the requirement of NJSBA’s Conflict of Interest and Code of Conduct policies. The Conflict of Interest and Code of Conduct policies ensure the avoidance of actual or potential conflicts, or the appearance of a conflict of interest in any action involving an Association contractor, consultant, or vendor with which the member has a personal interest, or a direct or indirect financial interest.

Accordingly, NJSBA requires each member to review these policies and fill out the conflict of interest questionnaire (GO/8250E) annually. Members will be emailed a form, GO/8250E, including Board of Directors Code of Conduct and the Board of Directors Conflict of Interest Certification, as well as copies of the relevant policies and regulation (GO/8250, GO/8312 and GO/8318R). Members were asked to complete the form and return it to NJSBA. The statement certifies that the NJSBA Executive Committee and Board of Director members have received, have read and will adhere to the Board of Directors Code of Conduct.

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.

Mandated Training Changes - Last year NJSBA made changes to their Governance I program, this year NJSBA has updated their Governance II program. It was debuted at the live online course on Monday, September 16. One of the areas focused on in that refresh is policy. Setting district policy is a primary responsibility of any board of education and oftentimes new board members get assigned to their district's policy committee, adding more comprehensive information on policy in Gov. 2 will help new board members have a better understanding of policymaking. NJSBA has already received positive feedback on the training.

NJSBA Financial Update - Each summer NJSBA's auditors conduct a thorough review of the Association's finances for the fiscal year that ends June 30. The auditors have completed their work, and the draft audit report was presented to the NJSBA Audit Committee. The auditors issued an unmodified or "clean" opinion of NJSBA's financial statements. The Board of Directors will receive the final audit report and will vote on it at the November meeting.

NJSBA's financial performance for the new year has started strong. Dues collection is on target; 90% of dues have been collected for the fiscal year and payments continue to arrive regularly. In addition, sponsorship and exhibitor revenues for Workshop have been strong, as have registration orders.

Workshop 2024 - Workshop will feature over 200 training sessions, as well as an expansive exhibit floor, student performances and special events. The full agenda can be found on the NJSBA Workshop website as well as on the mobile app. The mobile app is available for download in the Apple and Google Play store by searching NJSBA Workshop 2024. Navigating Workshop will be easier than ever with the addition of digital informational maps and kiosks, as well as an information booth. Some new features will be debuted on the Exhibit floor like the Arcade, EDTalks, and the Daniel Sinclair Career Readiness Expo which will showcase products and services geared towards career and technical education.

There are two counties that have 100% of the districts in their county registered for Workshop: Somerset and Union counties.

NJSBA Welcomes New Staff - NJSBA has added the following new staff members:

- Annette Goddard – Business Data Manager
- Dr. Laurie Bandlow – Field Service Representative for Burlington and Ocean counties
- Harrison Silver – Legislative Advocate

NJSBA also welcomes Dr. Nicholas Diaz, the new deputy director, who officially joins the team on October 1.

Content, Connection and Advocacy – Dr. Purnell has changed the structure of the organization to focus on the three pillars of NJSBA’s services: Content, Connection and Advocacy. The Association now has three lead directors for each pillar: Gwen Thornton, lead director of content; Lauren Cuervo, lead director of connection; and Jonathan Pushman, lead director of advocacy.

NJSBA Connection Expands - NJSBA Connection is the Association’s member-only platform designed to connect, engage, and empower school leaders across the state. It is an amazing tool and a great place to find out what other districts are doing and share best practices. There are currently about 4,800 people signed up. There are groups for each county school boards association, as well as one for the Personnel Administrators Association (PAA). Currently, the platform links to NJSBA’s Negotiations Data Report Generator, education jobs listing, and to recent postings of PERC decisions. This year, NJSBA Connection will be expanding with the addition of affinity groups for board presidents and new board members, a monthly blog, and more resources.

NJSBA Awards – On June 20, Dr. Tom Connors and Dr. Purnell attended a Sustainable Jersey event where NJSBA’s contributions to the organization were recognized. The Association received a Sponsor Recognition award. A donation was also presented to Sustainable Jersey from the Educational Leadership Foundation of New Jersey (ELFNJ). Sustainable Jersey recently announced that an additional 165 schools achieved certification this year, bringing the total of certified schools in the state to 375.

School Leader Awards – The Winter 2024 issue of *School Leader*, which featured a cover story on strategies to combat chronic absenteeism, was recognized this summer with awards from the National School Public Relations Association and the APEX Awards for Publication Excellence.

NJSBA’s Growing Number of Certified Boards - This year, there was a bumper crop of certified boards – 9 boards were awarded certification in the spring and 11 boards will be recognized this fall for a total of 20 since January. Six of those boards are receiving the Carole E. Larsen Master Board Certification, the Association’s highest level of board certification. Board certification reflects the full board’s commitment to effective governance and continuous improvement through extensive training.

ACTION ITEMS

Roll Call Agenda Items:

President Cortellino asked for a motion to approve the extension of payment of dues for BOD Members’ boards until the November 15, 2024 Board of Directors meeting.

Background: As of September 20, there are three (3) Board of Directors members who are members of a board of education from which NJSBA has not yet received the 2024-2025 dues. NJSBA has received purchase orders or verbal commitments from these districts that the dues payments have been or will shortly be processed. However, the NJSBA Bylaws require that the Board of Directors vote to extend the timeline since the payment has not yet been received.

Brendan Galligan moved to APPROVE the extension of payment of dues for a BOD Members’ board until the Nov. 15, 2024 Board of Directors meeting. The motion was duly seconded and carried, with 27 members voting in the affirmative.

President Cortellino asked for a motion to approve the annual ACES grant request from ELFNJ.

Background: The Education Leadership Foundation of New Jersey (ELFNJ) is making application to the Board of Directors of the New Jersey School Boards Association for funding through the Alliance for Competitive Energy Services (ACES) for a grant for \$175,000 for fiscal

year 2024-25. These funds will be used to cover the costs for the 2024-25 county school boards associations' meetings.

Barry Walker moved to APPROVE the grant request from ELFNJ to ACES as stated above. The motion was duly seconded and carried, with 27 members voting in the affirmative.

President Cortellino asked for a motion to approve the award of contract to Unitemp Mechanical Degrees, LLC, Somerset, New Jersey to install a replacement boiler at NJSBA headquarters.

Michael McClure moved to APPROVE the award of contract to Unitemp Mechanical Degrees, LLC, Somerset, New Jersey to install a replacement boiler at NJSBA headquarters. The motion was duly seconded and carried, with 26 members voting in the affirmative. The following member abstained from voting: Kathy Winecoff.

President Cortellino asked for a motion to approve a new appropriation of \$120,000, from the free balance account, for the cloud migration project.

Paul Breda moved to APPROVE a new appropriation of \$120,000, from the free balance account, for the cloud migration project. The motion was duly seconded and carried, with 27 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 May 3, 2024 meeting
- B. Open session minutes of the June 21, 2024 meeting
- C. Legislative Committee Appointments

Brendan Galligan moved to APPROVE the consent agenda items. The motion was duly seconded and carried. The following member abstained from voting on the open session minutes of the May 3, 2024 meeting: Kathy Winecoff.

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.

RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION

President Cortellino asked for a motion to go into a closed session to discuss Dr. Purnell's contract.

Michael McClure moved to APPROVE the body entering into closed session. The motion was duly seconded and carried. Members went into closed session at 9:06 p.m. Non-essential staff and non-Board of Directors members were locked out of the meeting online and stepped out of the session in-person.

President Cortellino asked for a motion to go back into open session.

Barry Walker moved to APPROVE the body entering into open session. The motion was duly seconded and carried. Members returned to open session at 9:37 p.m.

ACTION ITEM

Roll Call Agenda Item:

President Cortellino asked for a motion to approve Dr. Purnell's contract.

Diane Johnson moved to APPROVE Dr. Purnell's contract. The motion was duly seconded and carried, with 25 members voting in the affirmative.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – No unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS – No new business.

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, *Brendan Galligan moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was duly seconded and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

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

Timothy J. Purnell, Ed.D.
Executive Director