

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

October 10, 2025

6:30 p.m.

A special meeting of the New Jersey School Boards Association Board of Directors was held in-person on Friday, October 10, 2025. Vice President Dr. Tom Connors presided over the meeting as President *pro tem* from the Association’s headquarters in Trenton. Immediate Past President Dr. Karen Cortellino and Vice President Barry Walker were also present at headquarters.

**Executive Committee members present were:** Tammeisha D. Smith, president; Barry Walker, vice president for county activities; Dr. Tom Connors, vice president for finance; Dr. Karen Cortellino, immediate past president; and Dr. Timothy Purnell, executive director.

**Association staff present were:** Kathryn Whalen, Esq., director of legal, and Samantha Matias, special projects assistant.

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

Atlantic	Not Represented	Ocean	Victoria Pakala
Bergen	Michael Sprague	Passaic	Alan Paris
Burlington	Michael McClure	Salem	Eileen Miller
Camden	Karen Sorbello	Somerset	Jean Trujillo
Cape May	Jacqueline McAlister	Sussex	Ronald Hoffman
Cumberland	Cedric Holmes	Union	William Hulse
Essex	Not Represented	Warren	Jaclyn Rowbotham (Alt.)
Gloucester	Dr. Rena’ Morrow	County	Michael Jacobs
Hudson	Not Represented	Association	
Hunterdon	Elizabeth Fiore (Alt.)	Leadership	
Mercer	Dana Krug	Urban Boards	Rita Martin
Middlesex	Not Represented		Marsha Hershman (Alt.)
Monmouth	Kathy Winecoff		Rosa Moreno-Ortego
Morris	Diane Morris		Cynthia Atkins (Alt.)

Vocational Jon-Henry Barr

**Conflict counsel present:** David B. Rubin, Esq., of David B. Rubin, P.C.

**ROLL CALL** - President *pro tem* Connors called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. A roll call indicated 4 officers, county association leadership, urban boards, vocational boards and 17 counties were represented. Those present constituted a quorum.

**NON-BOARD MEMBERS:** The following non-board members were also present at the meeting: Leonard Spinelli, Esq.

**FLAG SALUTE** - President *pro tem* Connors led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MISSION STATEMENT** - President *pro tem* Connors led the members in reciting the Association's Mission Statement.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT** – No public comment.

**President *pro tem* Connors asked for a motion to close public comment.**

*Cedric Holmes moved to APPROVE closing public comment. The motion was duly seconded and carried.*

## **RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION**

**President *pro tem* Connors asked for a motion to go into a closed session to discuss a personnel matter of confidential nature.**

*Michael McClure moved to APPROVE the body entering into closed session. The motion was duly seconded and carried. Members went into closed session at 6:45 p.m. Due to the nature of the personnel matter, President Smith did not participate in Executive session as president, as a member of the executive committee, or as a member of the Board.*

**President *pro tem* Connors asked for a motion to go back into open session.**

*Michael McClure moved to APPROVE the body entering into open session. The motion was duly seconded and carried. Members returned to open session at 9:53 p.m.*

## **ACTION ITEMS**

**Roll Call Items:**

Whereas, pursuant to File Code 8206 (Removal from Office (Officers)), the Board of Directors has the authority to remove an officer;

Whereas, the Board of Directors determines that, in her capacity as the President of the New Jersey School Boards Association, Tammeisha D. Smith has violated File Code 8250 (Code of Conduct for NJSBA Officers);

Be It Resolved that, based on its determination that Tammeisha D. Smith has violated File Code 8250 (Code of Conduct for NJSBA Officers), and based on the facts presented, the Board of Directors determines to remove Tammeisha D. Smith from her position as President of the New Jersey School Boards Association effective immediately.

The Board of Directors' determination is limited to Tammeisha D. Smith's role as President of the New Jersey School Boards Association, and has no force or effect on her qualifications to serve as a member of her local board of education.

*Diane Morris moved to APPROVE the removal of Tammeisha D. Smith from her position as President of the New Jersey School Boards Association effective immediately. The motion was duly seconded and carried with 19 members voting in the affirmative and 4 voting in the negative.*

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – No unfinished business.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Dana Krug suggested looking into an anonymous email indicating unethical behavior received during the meeting.

Separately, Jean Trujillo requested pursuing the accusation concerning the individual recommended for the Vice President of Legislation.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, *Michael McClure moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was duly seconded and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 10:02 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,



Timothy J. Purnell, Ed.D.

Executive Director