

**New Jersey School Boards Association
Reports of the President and Officers
Board of Directors Meeting
May 13, 2016**

Don Webster, President

Association Activities

- On 3/19, I attended the Legislative Committee meeting. I also participated in the School Finance Committee meeting that same day. The focus of these meetings was on providing an update on legislative initiatives and on the development of a list of unfunded or partially funded education mandates affecting our members.
- On 4/4, I attended the Resolutions Subcommittee meeting in Trenton. The subcommittee discussed and reviewed seven (7) proposed resolutions in advance of the Delegate Assembly. Six (6) of the resolutions will appear on the agenda for the Delegate Assembly on 5/14.
- On 4/14, I attended a meeting related to the recently announced Future Ready Schools Initiative. The purpose of the meeting was to gauge and elicit support for the program being developed by NJIT, NJSBA and the NJ DOE from prospective donors and sponsors.
- I represented NJSBA at the State PTA Student Arts Awards Ceremony and Conference in Princeton on 4/16. Students from around the state were recognized for their accomplishments in the areas of art, music, dance, poetry and the visual arts.
- Over the past month, I have attended and spoken at County School Board Association meetings in Monmouth, Passaic, Ocean, Bergen, Atlantic and Cape May. These meetings, which were extremely well attended, focused on government relations issues, student recognition programs, transgender policies, data security considerations for our school districts, and board member service and training recognition awards.
- On 4/19, I chaired the Executive Committee meeting at Association Headquarters. We heard activity/program updates from Deputy Executive Director Frank Belluscio and each of the Association's department directors. We discussed the 2015-2016 performance evaluation for the Executive Director, approved Officers' travel vouchers, and discussed the agenda for the May 14 Delegate Assembly.
- On 5/6, I made the STEAM trip to the Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, MD. During the day I toured the facility, observed scientific experiments in progress, met with various engineers and scientists to talk about the work they do and the resources they can provide to our students, and I watched the assembly of the next space satellite telescope in progress.

NSBA Activities

I attended and served as a New Jersey Delegate to the NSBA Delegate Assembly and Convention in Boston, MA on 4/8-4/11. At the Delegate Assembly, former NJSBA President, Mr. Kevin Ciak of the Sayreville Board of Education in Middlesex County, was formally elected to the position of President-Elect of NSBA. Kevin will assume the Presidency in Denver in March of 2017. He will be the first school board member from NJ in 50 years to lead the national association. This is a tremendous honor for both Kevin and NJ.

Sustainable Jersey for Schools

I participated in a Sustainable Jersey for Schools Certification Standards Meeting on 3/22 at The College of NJ. A very thorough overview and update on the status of the program was provided by staff. We discussed upcoming meetings and sponsored events that are being planned for the remainder of the current fiscal year. We reviewed and discussed a proposed action item related to School Culture and Climate that is being considered as an addition to the program's list of eligible action items for schools to complete in order to earn points towards their certification. We also talked about upcoming grant opportunities for our members. I also attended the Sustainable Jersey Trustees Governing Body meeting in Woodbridge, NJ on 3/24. Again, a state-wide program overview was provided, a new trustee member was approved along with a new contract agreement with NJSBA, and we discussed potential new grant funding opportunities and upcoming events.

Dan Sinclair, Vice President for County Activities

County Activities

- Our state's county school boards associations serve as valuable training and information forums, and they host events that recognize the success of our schools. In fact, the county associations themselves are success stories. Over the past three years, statewide participation in the county meetings has increased by over 80 percent. I managed to attend a meeting in almost every county. The energy and enthusiasm in the rooms during these meetings has never been higher. The training has improved with high level discussions on PARCC, school security, dealing with student stress, school information systems and legal issues just to name a few. The meetings over the last several months have had incredible attendance. Several meetings have had over 100 members and in the last several months I am sure that I met well over a thousand board members coming together for training and to interact with colleagues. That impressive statistic can be attributed to the state and county association leadership, the work of the NJSBA staff, and the interest and dedication of New Jersey's local school board members. Special thanks to go to Ray Pinney, Patricia Rees and Marcia Lavigne for their tireless work in putting these programs together.
- A concentrated effort was made to attract local legislators to our county advocacy meetings. The response has been overwhelming. Assembly Speaker Prieto, Sheila Oliver, Senator Nellie Pou and many other senators and assemblywomen/men have attended our meetings and interacted with local board members and administrative staff participating in panel discussions as well as answering questions.

- I would like to recognize the record number of board members that have achieved their certifications through NJSBA's Board Member Academy training programs. There are 95 new Certificated Board Members, 30 Master Board Members, 12 Certified Board Members, 17 Board Certifications, and 2 New Board Member Certifications. In addition, 54 Milestone Awards were given out recognizing members with 20 or more years of service. Congratulations to all. Thanks to the NJSBA Training and Professional Development staff for their hard work on developing and implementing the training programs.
- Finally, I invite you to view a brief video put together by the Member Engagement staff.

Michael McClure, Vice President for Finance

Association Activities

- I attended the NSBA Delegate Assembly and Convention in Boston on April 8. Over the course of the next few days I attended a session featuring Dan Rather, a meet and greet with VM Ware, and a general session with keynote speaker Robin Roberts. I also met with VMWare to help create a Statewide K-12 purchasing contract for Cloud and Disaster recovery. And, in addition to attending a variety of instructional classes in finance, I had the opportunity to listen to keynote speaker Tony Wagner.
- On April 19, I attended the NJSBA Executive Committee meeting at NJSBA headquarters. The new web site is up and running. It looks much better and is easier to navigate.
- I attended the Camden/Gloucester School Boards Associations' joint meeting on May 3 and the Burlington County School Boards Association Spring meeting on May 5.

Association Finance

- The Associations finances are all in order. ELFNJ is also doing well with sponsors stepping up to help fund our county association programs.
- I would like to announce that Fran Pullo will be retiring as of June 30. Fran has been with NJSBA for more than 15 years and has done an outstanding job. He has seen the highs of our Association and the troubling lows. But he has always come up with the right solutions for our Association. I wish him the best in his retirement. He will be missed.

Jason Jones, Vice President for Legislation/Resolutions

Legislative Hearings

Both the Assembly and Senate Education Committees met in March before legislative budget recess for departmental budget hearings on the Governor's proposed 2017 Budget.

NJ Assembly Education Committee - focused on School Security bills that:

- Require school buildings to be equipped with an emergency light and panic alarm linked to local law enforcement, excludes certain increases in school security expenditures from the tax levy cap applicable to school districts;
- Require boards of education to enter into agreement with law enforcement authorities regarding access to live video streams of public school buildings;
- Authorize the use of emergency reserve funds or proceeds from bonds issued by EDA to finance school security improvements;
- Establish a New Jersey School Safety Specialist Academy in the Department of Education and require school districts to designate school safety specialist;
- Require certain school security measures to be incorporated in the architectural design of new school construction and certain school security measures for existing buildings;
- Require annual school security training for school employees to be conducted collaboratively with emergency responders; requires law enforcement officer to annually attend at least one school security drill.

NJ Senate Education Committee - focused on bills that:

- Establish a task force on School District Regionalization;
- Require full-day kindergarten in all school districts and establishes uniform age requirement for enrollment in kindergarten;
- Require public school students who suffer a concussion be evaluated by a physician or other licensed health care provider before returning to school and before returning to any physical activity at school;
- Permits newly created regional school districts or enlarging regional school districts to determine apportionment methodology for their boards of education on a basis other than population;
- "Early Childhood Innovation Act" establishes early childhood innovation loan pilot program and study commission within EDA;
- Permits a supplemental appropriation of \$103,000,000 from the Property Tax Relief Fund to DOE to provide preschool expansion aid to certain school districts;
- Require full-day kindergarten in all school districts;
- Permits a supplemental appropriation of \$18,000,000 from the General Fund to DHS to expand eligibility for child care services in certain school districts;
- Joint resolution urging the President and Congress to amend the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to include substance use disorder among the disabilities qualifying children for special education programs and services.

Miscellaneous

- Legislative & School Finance Committees met on March 19 and featured discussion on the Cadillac Tax surcharge and its impact on local district and a pensions' constitutional amendment
- GR staff participated in the Senate President's roundtable on April 11 to discuss lead in schools
- GR staff met with the 11th district legislators, school board presidents, and the Assembly Budget Chair Gary Schaer at the Red Bank Town Hall
- The Legislative Committee met on May 7
- The Delegate Assembly is meeting on May 14
- A joint NJSBA/PTA Legislative Day is scheduled for June 2 at the War Memorial in Trenton
- A School Security Conference is scheduled for June 3 at the Conference Center at Mercer County Community College.

John Bulina, Immediate Past President

- Attended the US Army Mid-Atlantic Recruiting Battalion Tour of Ft. Belvoir, Arlington Cemetery, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Pentagon, and the Aberdeen Proving Grounds
- Attended the National School Boards Association Delegate Assembly and Annual Conference in Boston, Massachusetts
- Attended and gave greetings at the Cumberland, Salem, and Burlington County School Boards Association meetings
- Attended the NJSBA iSTEAM NASA Field Trip to the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center
- Attended the NJSIAA Executive Committee meeting in Robbinsville
- Will be attending the U.S. Army Recruiting Command National Educator Tour at Ft. Hood Texas with John Henry