

MINUTES
of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
March 15, 2019

The New Jersey School Boards Association Headquarters
Trenton, NJ

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MINUTES OF MARCH 15, 2019
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS
NEW JERSEY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION
TRENTON, NJ

March 15, 2019

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held on Friday, March 15, 2019 at the NJSBA headquarters, Trenton, NJ.

Executive Committee members present were Daniel Sinclair, president; Donald Webster, Jr., immediate past president; Michael R. McClure, vice president for finance; Christy Tighe, vice president for county activities, and Dr. Lawrence S. Feinsod, executive director.

Association staff present were Frank Belluscio, deputy executive director/director of communications; Cynthia Jahn, Esq., general counsel; Ray Pinney, director of county activities & member engagement; Kimberly Blum, director of human resources; Michael Vrancik, director of governmental relations; Joseph Hsieh, director of information technology; Carl Tanksley, director of legal & labor relations services; John Faford, director of finance; Vince DeLucia, director of training; Jane Kershner, director of field services; Billie Barnett, member services representative, and Ann Marie Smith, administrative assistant, executive office/communications.

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

Atlantic	Dr. Anne Erickson		
Bergen	Diane Holzberg	Salem	Eileen Miller
	Sheli Dansky (Alt.)		Dominick Miletta (Alt.)
Burlington	Not Represented	Somerset	Robert Morrison
Camden	Naomi Davidson (Alt.)		Barry Walker (Alt.)
Cape May	Not Represented	Sussex	Ray Morris
Cumberland	Not Represented	Union	Not Represented
Essex	Sandra Mordecai	Warren	Paul Williams
Gloucester	Pete Calvo		Scott Nodes (Alt.)
Hudson	Not Represented		
Hunterdon	Not Represented	County	Ginny Murphy
Mercer	Gregory Stankiewicz	Association	Judith Dias (Alt.)
Middlesex	Lucy Bloom	Leadership	
Monmouth	Mark Bonjavanni		
Morris	Irene LeFebvre	Urban Board	Dr. Jonathan Hodges
	Dr. Karen Cortellino (Alt.)		Diane Johnson (Alt.)
Ocean	Not Represented		
Passaic	Jeff Fischer	Vocational	Elizabeth Martin
	Nancy Schwartz (Alt.)	NSBA Rep.	Kevin E. Ciak

Non-Board members present: Anthony Fasano and Karen Vick.

ROLL CALL

President Sinclair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A roll call indicated four officers, 14 counties, urban boards, county association leadership and vocational boards were represented.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

President Sinclair asked for a moment of silence in recognition of the tragedy in New Zealand.

FLAG SALUTE

President Sinclair led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MISSION STATEMENT

President Sinclair led the members in reciting the Association's Mission Statement.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Richard Snyder expressed his desire to see the NJSBA hang pictures of all the Board Members of Year on the wall in the headquarters first floor conference room, similar to the display of former Association presidents.

RECOGNITION OF NEW AND RETIRING MEMBERS/OATH OF OFFICE

The Board recognized Kevin Ciak, who has served as NSBA representative to the Board of Directors. Under New Jersey School Boards Association bylaws, members of the NSBA leadership from New Jersey serve as non-voting liaison to the NJSBA Board of Directors. Kevin, the immediate past president of the national association, will complete his terms as an officer at the end of the month, and the March 15 Board of Directors meeting was his last as NSBA liaison. Kevin was the first board member from New Jersey to serve as NSBA president in more than 50 years. He is a former NJSBA president and vice president.

The board also recognized retiring alternate members Karen Vick, who represented Gloucester County, and Anthony Fasano, who represented Sussex County. In addition, it welcomed new alternate member Karen Cortellino, M.D., of the Montville Township Board of Education, who will represent Morris County.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Lawrence S. Feinsod provided an update on NJSBA activities and progress toward the goals of the current strategic plan.

- *Developing and Maintaining Relationships* – On March 4, Senate President Steve Sweeney and Senator Steve Oroho of Sussex County visited NJSBA Headquarters for an [interview](#) about the recommendations in the Legislature's "Path to Progress" report and other issues.

Last month, at the request of the Governor's office, NJSBA coordinated a meeting with major statewide education organizations and Math for America, an organization that promotes the career growth of math and science teachers. Math for America is involved in a program that enables elementary school teachers to become STEM fellows.

NJSBA met with Lt. Col. Anthony Sampson, commander of the U.S. Air force 314th Recruiting Squadron to explore the possibility of establishing a relationship related to education opportunities and scholarships. The Air Force will have a presence on the Workshop 2019 Exhibit Floor. NJSBA's unique relationship with another branch of service, the U.S. Army, focuses on STEAM education and continues to benefit school districts and students. On March 19, NJSBA will meet with Major General Frank M. Muth, commanding general of U.S. Army Worldwide Recruiting, at his request, to discuss our partnership.

- *STEAM Tank Challenge* – Sponsored by NJSBA and the U.S. Army, the STEAM Tank Challenge is entering its fourth year. The program gives students the opportunity to think like entrepreneurs, and design and invent. In its first year, 32 student teams entered the program.

This year, the STEAM Tank Challenge attracted 560 entries. More than 2,000 children will participate. Ninety teams will compete in the final competition at Workshop 2019.

- *National School Boards Association* NJSBA leaders attended the NSBA Equity Symposium and Advocacy Institute in late January. The program addressed the following issues: IDEA funding; school infrastructure; school safety; DACA; and the 2020 U.S. Census. The New Jersey delegation met with New Jersey's new Congressional Representatives, including Mikie Sherrill, Tom Malinowski and Andy Kim, as well as with key staff of Senators Menendez and Booker. Dr. Feinsod and President Dan Sinclair had a special meeting with Congressman Donald Norcross to discuss the final report of the NJSBA Task Force on Educational Opportunities for the Non-College-Bound Learner
- *Workshop 2019* – Ian Hocking, who founded the non-profit group “Dylan’s Wings of Change,” will be a keynote speaker at this year’s Workshop. Mr. Hocking named the organization in honor of his son, who was one of the children killed in the Sandy Hook school shooting. The organization works to develop youth leadership in schools through a program called “Wingman,” which teaches children to be empathetic, courageous and inclusive.

Dr. Feinsod also announced Dr. Lamont Repollet, commissioner of education, has granted NJSBA’s request for waivers for Workshop 2021, 2022 and 2023. State law requires commissioner waivers in order for local school districts to provide reimbursement for in-state overnight travel. To obtain a waiver, the sponsoring organization must “demonstrate that the conference is broad and multidisciplinary in scope, comprised of content-rich educational programming with important professional development opportunities and/or required training.” Waivers for Workshop 2018, 2019 and 2020 were granted previously.

The [Workshop 2019 website](#) went live on March 1. Registration will begin on April 1.

Advocacy On March 5th, Governor Murphy proposed a state budget that increases formula aid by \$206.2 million. NJSBA will testify at the upcoming hearings of the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee and the Assembly Budget Committee. NJSBA will advocate for fair funding for all school districts, but not at the expense of any student’s education.

The Governmental Relations team continues to be successful in encouraging lawmakers to block costly legislative proposals that impact districts’ ability to make critical financial decisions. One bill is a decades-old proposal that would restrict school boards from subcontracting non-instructional services. Another would extend tenure-like protection to non-certified staff. NJSBA has developed [sample resolutions](#), which school boards can adopt to express their opposition to these proposals.

2019-2020 NJSBA Budget For the 10th consecutive year, there will be no increase in member dues. The budget represents the highest level of non-dues revenue and the lowest level of dues-reliance in NJSBA history. It will reduce reliance on dues from 80 percent in fiscal 2010-2011 to 63.4 percent in 2019-2020. Revenue and expenditures will increase by 1.7 percent under the finance plan, which totals \$11.2 million. All current services will be maintained.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent Agenda Items

President Sinclair asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2019 Board of Directors meeting minutes.

Ms. Mordecai moved to APPROVE the minutes of the January 18, 2019 Board of Directors meeting minutes. The motion was duly seconded and carried with abstentions from Ms. Holzberg and Mr. Morrison.

Roll Call Agenda Items:

President Sinclair asked for a motion to approve the 2019-2020 NJSBA budget.

Mr. Morrison moved to APPROVE the 2019-2020 NJSBA budget. The motion was duly seconded and carried, with 17 members voting in the affirmative and one abstention.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT AND OFFICERS

President – Dan Sinclair reported on the following items:

In January, the National School Boards Association held its annual Advocacy Institute in Washington, DC. New Jersey was well represented by a large contingent of board members, administrators and Association staff. While in Washington, the New Jersey representatives met with the Undersecretary of Education and her staff to discuss funding for New Jersey under the Perkins Grant. Information received will enable NJSBA to secure additional funding for New Jersey. Dr. Feinsod and Mr. Sinclair met with Representative Donald Norcross in his office. Congressman Norcross is a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. The meeting represented an opportunity to discuss mutual concern for the non-college bound student.

On March 9, the Legislative Committee met in Trenton. The meeting was well attended. Almost every legislative district was represented. The discussions focused on the new certification proposals for CTE instructors, federal legislation, and school funding. The meeting closed with a sharing session on local and regional issues.

President Sinclair attended the 8th grade dialogue program in Burlington and Gloucester Counties. Mr. McClure and Mr. Calvo served as emcees for the respective counties. During the program, students are asked a series of questions on a wide variety of topics. Their answers are well thought out and a very good reflection of what they think of their schools.

President Sinclair met with the New Jersey Business and Industry Association, the New Jersey Business Action Center, NJSBA's county associations and other organizations to roll out the Report on Educational Opportunities for the Non-College-Bound Learner.

The State Board of Education met on March 6 to consider changes to certification regulations that will provide a more reasonable path for tradespeople that want to become teachers. NJSBA continues to press for money designated for comprehensive high schools to create and maintain CTE Programming. NJSBA is in the process of scheduling meetings with legislators to discuss the Securing Our Children's Future Bond Act.

Immediate Past President – Don Webster reported on the following items:

Mr. Webster attended the NJSBA Technology Conference at Mercer County College. Assistant Commissioner Linda Eno was the keynote speaker. She emphasized the importance of technology being integral to our state’s education programs. There was also a very informative presentation from the Howell Township BOE about their efforts to make their district “Future Ready.” Howell staff worked closely with the Future Ready NJ Program, which our association helped to create, in order to advance the district’s education and learning processes.

Vice President for Finance – Mike McClure reported on the following items:

Mr. McClure thanked the Board of Directors for approving the 2019-2020 budget.

The Association is performing well financially through January 2019 versus the year-to-date budget. Workshop 2018 significantly surpassed its budget, driven by higher levels of registrations, commercial exhibitors and sponsorships. TEC (Technology for Education and Careers) program revenues have picked up momentum recently, as more members are participating in these cooperative purchasing opportunities for discounted technology-focused products and services. Salary expense is less than budget, primarily due to several earlier vacancies that have recently been filled, and we have not had the need to use much of the temporary help expense budget through the first seven months of the fiscal year. Investment income has surpassed its budget as a result of higher interest rates and a larger-than-expected balance of funds to invest.

Vice President for County Activities – Christy Tighe reported on the following items:

Vice President Tighe reported on the need to listen to the student voice on issues such as school culture and climate.

Last month, as a member of the leadership team at SEL4NJ, Ms. Tighe testified before the Joint Committee for Public Schools in Trenton on the subject of school culture and climate. Speakers represented the NJDOE, NJEA, NJPSA and others, but the most powerful and poignant testimony came from students. Ms. Tighe encouraged members to ask their CSA about how their students’ voices are being heard, not just the honor students, but also those who are struggling.

Our Association’s recent focus on educational opportunities for students going directly to the workforce has been groundbreaking. However, we cannot forget the other skills gaps that exist in our state. In the United States alone, there are three million more STEM jobs than the number of available trained professionals to fill them. In New Jersey, there are 1.4 open jobs in STEM for every unemployed person.

INTERACTIVE SESSION

Board members engaged in a dialogue about *School District Use of Social Media*.

RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION

President Sinclair asked for a motion to enter into closed session to discuss the Executive Director’s evaluation and contract renewal.

Ms. Bloom moved to APPROVE the resolution to enter into closed session to discuss the Executive Director’s evaluation and contract. The motion was duly seconded and carried.

The Board entered into closed session at 8:15 p.m.

Ms. LeFebvre moved to APPROVE the motion to go back into open session. The motion was duly seconded and carried.

The Board entered back into open session at 8:48 p.m.

President Sinclair asked for a motion to approve the new, three-year employment contract for the Executive Director for the period of July 2019 through June 2021.

Mr. Calvo moved to APPROVE the three-year employment contract for the Executive Director. The motion was duly seconded and carried. Vote was unanimous.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – There was no unfinished business

NEW BUSINESS

- Technology Conference was excellent, especially the Howell School District presentation
- Request for assistance/guidance on pilot programs
- Path to Progress report presents process for health benefits and pension reform
- Importance of getting student perspectives on later school start times. There are now regulations for monitoring idling school buses and testing for carbon monoxide.
- Recently developed issue regarding mercury

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, *Ms. LeFebvre moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was duly seconded and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,



Lawrence S. Feinsod, Ed.D.
Executive Director