

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

May 3, 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, May 3, 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 Barry Fitzgerald, 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; Barry Fitzgerald, vice president for county activities; 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, educator-in-residence/special assignments; Charlie Muller, business administrator-in-residence; John Faford, director of finance and operations; Ray Pinney, lead director of member training and engagement; Jonathan Pushman, director of governmental relations; Gwen Thornton, director of field services; Kathleen Asher, director of legal and labor relations; Kim Gatti, director of policy; Lauren Cuervo, lead director of strategic development; Stacy Moorhead, associate director of graphics and web development; Brian Green, network administrator; and Samantha Matias, executive assistant.

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

Atlantic	Louis Della Barca	Camden	Not Represented
Bergen	Michael Sprague	Cape May	Not Represented
	Behrooz Pasdar (Alt.)	Cumberland	Not Represented
Burlington	Erica Campbell	Essex	Benjamin Morse
	Michael McClure (Alt.)	Gloucester	Natalie Baker

Hudson	Not Represented	Union	Not Represented
Hunterdon	Laurie Markowski	Warren	Paul Williams
Mercer	Dana Krug		Scott Nodes (Alt.)
Middlesex	Liwu Hong	County	Michael Jacobs
Monmouth	Mark Patterson (Alt.)	Association	Tammeisha Smith (Alt.)
Morris	Paul Breda	Leadership	
	Diane Morris (Alt.)	Urban Boards	Rita Martin
Ocean	Jennifer Bacchione		Marsha Hershman (Alt.)
Passaic	Alan Paris		Cynthia Atkins (Alt.)
	Valdo Panzera, Jr. (Alt.)		Diane Johnson
Salem	Eileen Miller	Vocational	Jon-Henry Barr (Alt.)
Somerset	Robert Morrison		
	Barry Walker (Alt.)		
Sussex	Marie Bilik		
	Ronald Hoffman (Alt.)		

ROLL CALL - President Cortellino called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. A roll call indicated 5 officers, county association leadership, urban boards, vocational boards and 16 counties were represented. Those present constituted a quorum.

NON-BOARD MEMBERS: The following non-board members were also present at the meeting: Markee Robinson and Diana Solis.

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

MOMENT OF SILENCE – “Quoting Abraham Lincoln, ‘The philosophy of the school room in one generation will be the philosophy of government in the next.’”. President Cortellino asked for a moment of silence to ponder the importance of the work board of education members do and its impact on future generations as only education will ensure a safe, peaceful world in the future. Board of education members contribute to that happening.

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

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT – No public comments.

OATH OF OFFICE – Select members and alternates who were unable to attend a previous meeting of the Board of Directors were asked to take the oath of office. None of the select members were present at this meeting.

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.

NJSBA Financial Update - With only a few months left in the fiscal year, NJSBA is in an excellent financial position. There are several factors which have contributed to this:

- Workshop 2023 exceeded its registration, exhibitors’, and sponsorship revenue targets.
- Fee-based superintendent searches and district strategic planning revenues exceeded budgeted amounts.

- Memberships to Personnel Administrators Association were higher than expected.
- Earnings from the NJSBA Cooperative Purchasing Program exceeded expectations.
- Revenues from BoardDocs commissions exceeded the year-to-date budget.
- Investment income has been higher than expected, the result of higher interest rates.

One area where revenues outpaced expectations this year has been in superintendent searches. NJSBA has been spreading the good news about their superintendent search services more widely and have begun posting successful superintendent searches on Linked In.

Invoices for fiscal year 2025 member dues will go out at the end of June. NJSBA was pleased to be able to provide B.A.s with district-specific dues information at the end of January so business administrators could plan accordingly as they developed their own fiscal 2025 budgets.

Workshop 2024 - Keynote speakers for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Workshop were announced. The Monday keynote speaker will be Adam Seldow, senior director of education partnership for Roblox, an online game platform that allows users to program and play games created by themselves. John Quiñones will be the keynote speaker on Tuesday. John is a broadcast journalist, author, and motivational speaker, and has spent 40 years with ABC News. He is currently the host of the show “What Would You Do?” On Wednesday, the stage will feature keynote speaker Sonia Manzano. The actress, screenwriter and author is best known for playing “Maria” on Sesame Street for more than 40 years.

This year programs like *Unsung Superheroes*, the Thursday School Law Forum and STEAM Tank will be continued at Workshop and some new features will be debuted like a special area on the Exhibit Floor for career and technical education for non-college bound learners.

Spring Training Programs - The inaugural NJSBA Women’s Leadership Conference was held in April and attracted nearly 200 attendees and was a tremendous success. Sessions included “Bringing Your Whole Self to Work,” “The Importance of Girls Mentoring Programs” and “Developing Equity Mindsets.”

In March and April, NJSBA hosted a series of three board of education leadership programs, located in South, Central and North Jersey. Topics covered included personnel issues, school finances and funding, and communications challenges and strategies.

NJSBA’s Spring Conference will be held on Friday, May 10 and will feature sessions on student achievement, communications and school public relations and school safety and security.

Mandated training sessions have continued. In addition to the Weekend New Board Member Orientation programs, held in January and February and the self-paced online training available at all four levels—Gov 1,2,3, and 4—there have been live virtual training days for all levels of mandated training. These days were held in February, March, and April and more than 600 board members participated.

The County Association student programs, the 8th grade dialogue and the Unsung Hero programs, have recently finished for the year and are a great reminder of the work that we do.

Non-College Bound Learner Report - One of the new features at Workshop will be a designated area on the Exhibit Floor that will be devoted to career and technical education. Dr. Cortellino advised that there will be a refresh of the Non-College Bound Learner Report that was published in 2018 as part of NJSBA’s continued commitment to this issue. In preparation for this work, Dr. Purnell shared that he had the opportunity of visiting the Pennsauken school district, home to BOD member, Diane Johnson. Pennsauken has a strong career and technical education program, and it was inspiring to learn about.

Executive Director’s Goals 2023-2024 - Dr. Purnell provided the Board of Directors with an update on the three goals that he set for himself and the Association last year revolving around content, connection, and advocacy.

1. Governance 1 “Reboot” Report - Carl Tanksley, general counsel and Gwen Thornton, director of field services headed up this effort. They formed a small task force which met several times during the fall and winter and provided guidance and input, met with the small group leaders who assist in the training, and surveyed new board members who had recently taken the training courses. Their report has been submitted to Dr. Purnell and Gwen discussed the recommendations which included:
 - Review of the statutory requirements for Governance 1
 - Suggestions for additional topics to be covered in the training
 - Recommendations for updating small group materials
 - Recommendations for changes to the handbook provided to new board members
 - Program evaluation suggestions
 - Group leader recruitment and training
 - NJSBA staff training suggestions

2. NJSBA Website – Stacy Moorhead, associate director of graphics and web development, provided the board with a preview of the new website and provided an overview of some of the new features.
3. Federal Advocacy Task Force Rubric – A Federal Advocacy Task Force was formed which was charged with developing a rubric that would guide current and future NJSBA leadership during annual consideration regarding membership in national/regional organization of school board associations. The members of the Task Force consisted of past and current leaders, officers, and staff of NJSBA each bringing institutional knowledge and personal experience. The group met virtually multiple times to gather and consider input and develop the rubric. The use of the rubric is predicated upon the annual development of a specific/detailed list of desired services and opportunities that NJSBA currently feels are needed.

NJSBA Mission Statement – Dr. Purnell shared a brief interview clip where he talked about the Association’s mission when NJSBA received the award for transparency from Real Leaders a few months ago.

DR. PURNELL’S EVALUATION FOR 2023-2024 - Each year, the NJSBA Officers formally evaluate the performance of the Executive Director. Normally this evaluation is held in Executive Session, and the Executive Director and any staff members or members of the public present at the Board of Directors meeting would step out so that the BOD can hold a confidential discussion.

This year, with the permission of Dr. Purnell and the Officers, this portion of the meeting was held in public. President Cortellino reported that Dr. Purnell’s evaluation was completed, his performance has been exemplary, and he has achieved all of his goals.

ACTION ITEMS

Roll Call Agenda Items:

President Cortellino asked for a motion to approve the ACES Cooperative Pricing System Membership Renewal.

Robert Morrison moved to APPROVE the ACES Cooperative Pricing System Membership Renewal. The motion was duly seconded and carried, with 25 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 March 15, 2024 meeting

Jon-Henry Barr moved to APPROVE the consent agenda items. The motion was duly seconded and carried.

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.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – No unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS – Barry Walker discussed a new spectator code of conduct policy that has been developed. The policy is a collaborative effort between NJSIAA and NJSBA. It went through its first reading in April and will go through its second reading in two weeks. Barry offered to share a draft of the policy and advised that it should be going to the districts' athletic director or superintendent and would fall into their policy manual.

Eileen Miller commented that the session presented by Lucia Gershman and Najah Haskins at the Women's Leadership Conference was wonderful and it was nice to hear about their organizations and how they help support young girls.

Diane Johnson thanked Dr. Purnell for visiting her school district.

Dr. Cortellino read a thank you note that was sent by BOD member, Kathryn Weller-Demming.

Cynthia Atkins advised that this was her first in-person meeting and expressed how much she enjoyed the Women's Leadership conference.

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, *Erica Campbell moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was duly seconded and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy J. Purnell", written in a cursive style.

Timothy J. Purnell, Ed.D.

Executive Director