

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

June 21, 2024  
6 p.m.

A special meeting of the New Jersey School Boards Association Board of Directors was held virtually on Friday, June 21, 2024. The meeting was conducted for the exclusive purpose of presenting a candidate for the position of Deputy Director. Board of Directors members participated in the meeting via Webex.

**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; and Dr. Timothy Purnell, executive director.

Association staff present were Carl Tanksley, Esq., general counsel; Janet Bamford, chief public affairs officer; Charlie Muller, business administrator-in-residence; Ray Pinney, lead director of member training and engagement; Gwen Thornton, director of field services; Kim Gatti, director of policy; Lauren Cuervo, lead director of strategic development; Mary Ann Friedman, senior field service representative; and Samantha Matias, executive assistant.

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

Atlantic	Louis Della Barca	Hunterdon	Robert Imhoff
Bergen	Behrooz Pasdar (Alt.)	Mercer	Dana Krug
Burlington	Erica Campbell	Middlesex	Liwu Hong
	Michael McClure (Alt.)	Monmouth	Kathy Winecoff
Camden	Not Represented		Mark Patterson (Alt.)
Cape May	Not Represented	Morris	Diane Morris (Alt.)
Cumberland	Not Represented	Ocean	Not Represented
Essex	Benjamin Morse	Passaic	Alan Paris
Gloucester	Not Represented	Salem	Eileen Miller
Hudson	Not Represented	Somerset	Barry Walker

Sussex Ronald Hoffman (Alt.)  
Union Not Represented  
Warren Jaelyn Rowbotham (Alt.)

Urban Boards Cynthia Atkins (Alt.)  
Vocational Elizabeth Martin

County Michael Jacobs  
Association  
Leadership

**ROLL CALL** - President Cortellino called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. A roll call indicated 4 officers, county association leadership, urban boards, vocational boards and 14 counties were represented. Those present constituted a quorum.

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

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

**OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT** - No public comments.

**RECOGNITION OF NEW MEMBERS** - The following new members and alternates were introduced.

- Middlesex County Alternate - Diana Solis, New Brunswick Board of Education
- Monmouth County Member - Kathy Winecoff, Millstone Township Board of Education
- Somerset County Alternate - Jean Trujillo, Hillsborough Township Board of Education
- Warren County Alternate - Jaclyn Rowbotham, Harmony Board of Education

**OATH OF OFFICE** - New members and alternates in attendance were asked to take the oath of office. The following members took their oath of office: Kathy Winecoff and Jaclyn Rowbotham.

**PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATE FOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR** - Dr. Purnell provided the board with an overview of the extensive process NJSBA went through in its search for the new deputy director. The Association held two virtual town hall forums with members and staff and conducted a survey to collect information on the skills and attributes that the new deputy director should have. Several staff members were called upon to serve on committees to vet resumes and interview candidates. The names of candidates were not included on resumes, so staff members could remain as unbiased as possible when considering applicants. Multiple rounds of interviews were conducted. The first round with 21 candidates, the second round with 8 candidates, and the third round with 3 candidates. The final round was a meeting with the officers. The Association also relied on an outside search consultant in seeking and vetting candidates and during the second round of the interview process.

Dr. Purnell recommended the appointment of Dr. Nicholas Diaz as the new deputy director. Dr. Diaz is currently the shared superintendent at Franklin Township School District and Union Township Schools in Hunterdon County. Before serving as a shared superintendent, he was superintendent at Frelinghuysen Township School District in Warren County; principal and district technology articulator for Manville School District in Somerset County; and an assistant principal at Somerville schools, also in Somerset County. In addition to his role as a shared superintendent, Dr. Diaz is an adjunct professor at Centenary University and was recognized in 2017 as a “Superintendent to Watch” by the National School Public Relations Association.

Dr. Diaz was given the opportunity to introduce himself and address the board. He spoke about his leadership and what he can bring to NJSBA.

President Cortellino and the officers expressed their support of Dr. Diaz’s appointment as deputy director.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – Diane Morris inquired about Dr. Diaz’s start date. Dr. Purnell advised that he would assume the position in the fall prior to Workshop.

**NEW BUSINESS** – No new business.

**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 6:36 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,



Timothy J. Purnell, Ed.D.  
Executive Director