



**MINUTES**  
**OPEN SESSION**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**NJSBA Headquarters**  
**413 West State Street**  
**Trenton, New Jersey**  
**September 20, 2024**

President Dr. Karen Cortellino called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m., read the Open Public Meetings Act statement and asked for a roll call. Executive Committee members in attendance were, Dr. Karen Cortellino, president; Ms. Irene LeFebvre, immediate past president; Dr. Tom Connors, vice president for finance and Dr. Timothy Purnell, executive director.

The following staff members attended part of the meeting to observe or provide department reports, Carl Tanksley Esq., general counsel; Jonathan Pushman, lead director of advocacy; Lauren Cuervo, lead director of connection; John Faford, director of finance & operations; Gwen Thornton, lead director of content; Janet Bamford, chief public affairs officer; and Paige Beierschmitt, executive assistant/hr.

President Cortellino asked Dr. Purnell to provide an update.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Welcome:** Dr. Purnell thanked President Cortellino and greeted everyone.

## **DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

Dr. Purnell noted that all the department directors provided written updates. The reports have been posted on the Executive Committee website at [www.njsba.org/ec](http://www.njsba.org/ec). The directors in attendance presented brief comments on their reports.

Tim discussed the new pillars.

### **Gwen Thornton – Government Programs**

- *Program Participation:* Gov II, III, and IV sessions saw strong attendance, with over 70 participants each.
- *Board Self-Evaluation:* IT is developing an updated board self-evaluation tool, marking the first revision in a decade.
- *Master Board Certifications:* Certifications will be awarded at 12 counties' first county meetings, scheduled for fall and spring.
- *Superintendent Searches:* Managing 14 searches currently, workload deemed heavy but manageable.

## **Lauren Cuervo – Workshop Team**

- *Workshop Preparations:* Workshop team embraced a creative “Summer of Sales” 80s theme. Increased housing reservations (300 more room nights) and expanded exhibitor floor plan (33 additional booths).
- *Sponsorship Growth:* Secured 11 new gold sponsors, surpassing last year’s numbers.
- *Feedback and Improvements:* Adjustments based on feedback include differentiated lanyard colors, exhibitor logo signage, “You Are Here” maps, and information kiosks.
- *Technology and Database:* RFPs initiated for next year’s workshop software. Moving the database to the cloud for enhanced security and accessibility, with estimated costs of \$8,000.

## **Jonathan Pushman – Government Relations**

- *Team Developments:* Jonathan now oversees John Burns, Charlie, and Ray.
- *New GR Member:* Harrison Silver joined the team, attended the state house visit with Jonathan and John Burns.
- *Workshop and Student Representation:* Preparing for the workshop, including a student representative on the panel.
- *Legislative Focus:* Addressing changes in school funding formula (S2) and the Educator Evaluation Task Force’s ongoing initiatives.
- *Acknowledgement:* Karen highlighted Jonathan’s advocacy efforts for LEE and NJSBA.

## **Janet Bamford – Communications and Publications**

- *Awards and Publications:* “School Leader” received two national awards; the fall issue, focused on “Work-Based Learning,” is near completion.
- *Henry Hudson Regionalization:* Progress on budget incentives for broader educational access.
- *New Video Content:* Robin is producing videos for various NJSBA initiatives, including Teacher of the Year and the association’s centennial celebrations.

## **John Faford – Finance**

- *Financial Status:* July closed positively. Membership collection rates are high (90% dues collected).
- *Revenue Streams:* Charter school memberships and cooperative purchasing commissions contributed to positive revenue trends.
- *Audit Update:* The Audit Committee meeting is set for 5:30 pm. Pension adjustments will be reviewed, with two new committee members, Scott Nodes and John Henry-Barr.

## **Paige Beierschmitt – Human Resources**

- *New Hires:* Successfully onboarded three new employees.

## **Carl Tanksley – Legal and Regulatory Affairs**

- *ACES Program:* Governor’s recent bill expanded the ACES program, though projected electricity cost increases (up to 800%) are concerning.
- *Remote Net Metering:* Updates on legislation to allow more school districts to add solar panels.
- *Delegate Assembly:* Five resolutions submitted; four were returned as defective but are expected to be resubmitted on time.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

President Cortellino asked for a motion to approve the following Action Items:

**A. Approval of Open Session Minutes of the May 3, 2024, Executive Committee Meeting**

*A motion to approve Action Item A was made by Irene Lefebvre, immediate past president, was duly seconded.*

**B. Approval of Vouchers Past 30 Days.**

*A motion to approve Action Item B was made by Irene LeFebvre, immediate past president, was duly seconded.*

Directors in attendance were dismissed from the meeting at 4:11 p.m.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS –**

**NEW BUSINESS –**

Carl Tanksley – Ethics Training

Dr. Purnell shared with the Officers a few informational items:

- Tim did an overview of Tom, Karen, and Irene’s schedules for Workshop.

DA will be discussed at the November 15 EC Meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, president Cortellino asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by immediate past president Lefebvre, was duly seconded, and carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Timothy J. Purnell

Executive Director