



New Jersey School Boards Association

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MINUTES OPEN SESSION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

**NJSBA Headquarters
413 West State Street
Trenton, New Jersey**

February 27, 2018

President Daniel Sinclair called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m., read the Open Public Meeting Act statement, and asked for a roll call. Executive Committee members in attendance were Mr. Daniel Sinclair, President; Mr. Donald Webster, Jr., Immediate Past President; Mr. Michael McClure, vice president for finance; Mr. Brandon Pugh, vice president for legislation and resolutions; Ms. Christy Tighe, vice president for county activities via conference call; and Dr. Lawrence S. Feinsod, executive director.

Staff members present for the entire meeting included Frank Belluscio, deputy executive director, Cynthia Jahn, general counsel, Carl Tanksley, director of legal and labor relations, and Denise Mazzucca, executive administrative assistant. Staff members attending part of the meeting to provide department reports were the following: Ray Pinney, director of county activities & member engagement; Michael Vrancik, director of governmental relations; Vincent DeLucia, director of training & professional development; Joseph Hsieh, director of information technology; Kim Blum, director of human resources; John Faford, director of finance; Patty Maillet, director of business development; and Jane Kershner, director of field services.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Feinsod spoke about several developments at NJSBA:

Parkland/Student Safety: Dr. Feinsod spoke about the steps NJSBA has been taking in response to the Parkland incident. The "Reflections" column was sent out shortly after the shooting took place advising school boards to review their policies and practices on school security. This review is a critical step and should be ongoing, but it is still not enough. NJSBA also sent out an overview of next steps, including a sample resolution for local boards to consider.

A related issue facing our board members involves the 17-minute nationwide student walk-out. Dr. Feinsod has directed the staff to develop an information document for our members on this matter. NJSBA will provide information to help our members reach the appropriate decisions.

New Jersey has very strong school security procedures, and some of the toughest gun control laws in the nation. In 2014, NJSBA produced a comprehensive study of school security, which included 45 recommendations for action by local school boards and the state and federal governments. The report is still relevant today. Dr. Feinsod stated that after the Parkland school shooting, it has become crystal clear that further action is necessary. Therefore, he and President Sinclair have asked Immediate Past President Webster to chair a committee to revise the 2014 School Security Task Force Report as necessary. The committee will consist of eight to ten staff and board members.

The Executive Committee has been discussing a proposed resolution on violence prevention and school security, which the Board of Directors would submit to the Delegate Assembly.

Orientation: The second New Board Member Orientation took place February 23-25 and was very successful. Approximately 100 people attended. The written feedback has been very positive. The next weekend training taking place will be the Leadership Orientation taking place April 20-22. It will focus on Presidents, Vice-Presidents, and those who aspire to those roles.

Equity Council: At this year's Orientation weekends, NJSBA introduced a new session on equity led by Dr. Penelope Lattimer, director of the Rutgers Institute to Improve Student Achievement and executive director of the New Jersey School Development Council.

NJSBA will also be forming an Equity Council to consider research and identify practices in curriculum, educational opportunity, school climate, policy, and other areas. Dr. Feinsod and Vince DeLucia will be meeting with Dr. Lattimer on March 12 to begin planning for the council.

Governor's Education Advisor: Dr. Feinsod met with Cary Booker, Governor Murphy's senior policy advisor for education, in late January. Mr. Booker requested that NJSBA provide the governor's office with a report on impediments to school district regionalization. The report was submitted to him on February 16. Dr. Feinsod is scheduled to meet with Mr. Booker to continue their conversation.

NJSBA Budget: The Finance Committee will review the proposed NJSBA Budget for 2018-2019 on March 2. The budget includes an increase in the percentage of non-dues revenue—to 35.5%, the highest in the Association's history. In addition, for the ninth consecutive year, there will be no increase in members' dues. The budget will be considered by the Board of Directors on March 16

Upcoming Events: Some important dates coming up include: the NJSBA Tech Conference, at Mercer County College on Friday, March 9th; The Governor's Budget Message, Tuesday, March 13; The NSBA Convention and Delegate Assembly April 7th – 10th, San Antonio, TX

OTHER REPORTS

Frank Belluscio announced that the School Communication Forum is scheduled to take place March 1. The event is sold out and the topic to be discussed is social media and how it relates to board members.

Ray Pinney indicated that many of the county associations have requested to have their topics switched to school security. Ray advised that the Member Engagement Department is doing everything possible to modify the schedule to meet the members' needs. Christy Tighe, vice president for county activities, noted that at the upcoming 8th grade dialogues we may want to ask students their opinions on school security and student safety.

Jane Kershner advised that the Leadership Weekend was sold out within two days of the initial notice. There is currently a waiting list of over 20 people. The ultimate goal is to conduct the Leadership Weekend every year. The group leader training for the Leadership program will be taking place this weekend.

John Faford stated that a new expense report would be forwarded to everyone. It will ensure uniformity in the way expenses are processed.

Cyndy Jahn noted that a copy of the proposed updated regulations on disposing of Association property was included in the handouts at today's meeting. This will be an information item at the March 11 Board of Directors meeting.

Joseph Hsieh spoke about the upgrades for the staff computers. All NJSBA staff members will be trained on the upgraded software the day before their new computers are installed. The conference rooms are being upgraded to become "future ready" and being outfitted with new video conferencing equipment.

Vince DeLucia announced that there are currently 413 entries for the STEAM Tank Challenge. Last year, there were 199.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Dr. Feinsod noted that all of the department directors provided written updates. (The reports have been posted on the Executive Committee website at www.njsba.org/ec.) The following directors presented brief comments from their reports: Frank Belluscio, Kim Blum, Joseph Hsieh, Cyndy Jahn, Jane Kershner, Michael Vrancik, Carl Tanksley, Vince DeLucia, Ray Pinney, Patty Maillet, and John Faford. The department directors, other than Frank Belluscio, Carl Tanksley, and Cyndy Jahn, were dismissed at 2:10 p.m.

PROPOSED AGENDA FOR MARCH 16, 2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The agenda for the March 16, 2018 Board of Directors meeting was reviewed.

ACTION ITEMS

President Sinclair asked for a motion to approve Action Item A, Approval of Open Session Minutes of February 24, 2018 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion to approve Action Item A was made by Brandon Pugh, vice president for legislation/resolutions; was duly seconded by Don Webster, immediate past president; and carried unanimously.

President Sinclair asked for a motion to approve Action Item B, Ratification of Officers' Vouchers. (Officers abstain from voting on their own vouchers.) A motion to approve Action Item A was made by Donald Webster, immediate past president; was duly seconded by Michael McClure, vice president for finance; and carried unanimously.

President Sinclair asked for a motion to approve the resolution for school safety to be forwarded to the Board of Directors. A motion was made by Donald Webster, immediate past president; was duly seconded by Michael McClure, vice president for finance.

A discussion was opened up to discuss any changes requested by the officers. Dr. Feinsod recommended that the document be approved. Brandon Pugh requested that one of the "whereas" clauses of the resolution be changed to reference all forms of violence in schools, rather than just gun violence. President Sinclair said he felt the word "gun" needed to be included in the resolution, and it was decided to include gun and other forms of violence prevention. President Sinclair called for a vote on the amendment to the resolution and it carried unanimously. President Sinclair asked for a motion to approve the amended resolution for school safety to be forwarded to the Board of Directors. A motion was made by Donald Webster, immediate past president; was duly seconded by Michael McClure, vice president for finance; and carried unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION:

President Sinclair asked for a motion to go into closed session to discuss the executive director's annual evaluation at 2:22 pm. A motion to go into closed session was made by Michael McClure, vice president of finance; was duly seconded by Brandon Pugh, vice president for legislation/resolutions; and carried unanimously.

The executive committee moved and it was duly seconded by Michael McClure, vice president finance, to leave closed session at 2:29 PM.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 2:30.

INFORMATION ITEMS

The information items provided to the officers for the February 27, 2018 meeting included Association Financials and Departmental Updates. www.njsba.org/ec.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Dr. Lawrence S. Feinsod
Executive Director
LSF:dm