



New Jersey School Boards Association

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Board of Directors
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Executive Director's Report (as prepared)
Dr. Lawrence S. Feinsod

A. Progress Report

- ... Yesterday, I wrote a “Reflections” column that addressed communicating with our children about the election and the need to maintain civil discourse when we disagree on issues.
- ... Many people approached me over the past week with concerns about the impact of the election on our students. I’ve gotten many positive comments about the column.
- ... During the election process, NJSBA remained focused on its mission and goals. I am happy to report that we continue to make progress in advocating your interests and building important relationships. To me, the two “R” words are so very important – Relationships and Relevancy!
- ... We had the most successful Workshop to date—meeting all of our financial, attendance and programming goals. Patty Maillet will speak about Workshop and get your thoughts later in the meeting.
- ... At our last meeting, my report focused on the progress we’ve made toward our 2015-2017 Strategic Plan goals.
- ... Let me take a few minutes to recount some of our recent achievements.

Superintendent Salary Cap

- ... On Tuesday night, I received a call on my cell phone from Acting Commissioner of Education Kim Harrington.
- ... She called to tell me about the proposed revisions to the Superintendent Salary Cap regulations prior to their release on Wednesday.
- ... Commissioner Harrington took the time to explain the proposed changes in the salary maximums and other adjustments.

- ... We have a strong relationship with Commissioner Harrington, just as we had with her predecessor, Dave Hespe.
- ... So I was very comfortable in telling her that, while NJSBA appreciates the movement toward more flexibility, we still believe that the salary cap is unnecessary and bad public policy.
- ... An electronic copy of the report was linked to this week's *School Board Notes* story about the superintendent salary cap.
- ... For NJSBA, it's a matter of local governance of public education, a concept that is at the heart of effective education.

Accountability Regulations Task Force

- ... The Superintendent Salary Cap is part of the state's extensive Accountability Regulations.
- ... A year ago, in anticipation of the sunseting of these provisions, we appointed a task force of board members and NJSBA staff to review the regulations. Our goal was to identify changes that would ensure accountability and efficiency, but eliminate the unnecessary red tape and restrictions that the regulations imposed on school districts.
- ... The Task Force on New Jersey's Accountability Regulations was headed by Mike Kaelber, director of legal and labor relations services. It included eight NJSBA staff members and five local school board members, several with experience as superintendents and school business administrators. The president of the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials and an executive county school business served as consultants.
- ... Last month, after extensive research, study and deliberation, the Task Force finalized its recommendations. There are 63 of them.
- ... I provided State Board of education President Mark Biedron and Acting Commissioner of Education Kim Harrington with the recommendations last month.
- ... I will meet with Mark Biedron, in my office, on December 5, to continue our discussion of the recommendations.
- ... As you know, I have an ongoing dialogue with Mark, and meet with him every month to address our concerns on educational issues.

... We have a number of printed copies here tonight. If you would like one, see Frank Belluscio at the end of the meeting.

Building Relationships: League of Municipalities

... I've often highlighted the successful partnerships that we've formed with many organizations. These relationships are geared toward advancing student achievement, which is at the center of NJSBA's mission.

... I want to mention another important relationship that we're building...one with the New Jersey State League of Municipalities.

... On Tuesday, President Don moderated a panel discussion at the League's annual conference. This is the third consecutive year that we've joined with the League in presenting a session on school district-municipal cooperation at both Workshop and the League convention.

... This year's program addressed how school districts and municipalities can cooperate on Energy Saving Improvement Plans. John Henry, our STEAM education and sustainability specialist, was one of the panelists, along with Mark Warner of Gabel Associates, which manages NJSBA's ACES and ACESplus energy programs. The other panelists were the mayor of Cape May City and a representative of the state Board of Public Utilities.

... These are the types of efforts that promote communication, break down barriers, and advance common interests.

Building Relationships: Sustainable Jersey for Schools

... Of course, one of our most successful partnerships has been with The Sustainability Institute at The College of New Jersey.

... This week, membership in Sustainable Jersey for Schools reached 554 schools in 225 school districts. That's almost 40 percent of the state operating districts.

... The Sustainable Jersey for Schools program is only two years old.

... At Workshop, President Don and I had the honor of recognizing the newly certified schools and the 2016 Sustainability Champions.

... Financial and environmental sustainability are critical for the future of our schools. And consultation and guidance on sustainability practices form a critical service for our Association.

... NJSBA's leadership role is recognized at the national, state and local levels.

Building Relationships: Rider Symposium

... Earlier this month, NJSBA co-sponsored the Environmental Sustainability Symposium for High School Students with Rider University.

... John Henry and Sergeant First Class George Johnson, a STEAM education specialist who has been placed at NJSBA through our partnership with the U.S. Army, participated in the symposium. They conducted a Green STEAM Tank Challenge, replicating the very successful feature offered at Workshop 2016.