

Tonight marks our final meeting for the 2018-2019 school year. And I'd like to take this opportunity to review the progress we've made and the challenges we've met over the past year. In the process, I will also share some exciting developments that point to the continued growth and success of NJSBA.

But first, let me add my sincere thanks to our three retiring Board of Directors members—Eileen, Ray and Helen—for their contributions to NJSBA. I also want to recognize Christy Tighe for her leadership of county activities for the past two years.

We will save our recognition of IPP Don until later in the meeting.

In his report, President Dan noted our new display which pays tribute to another group of exemplary leaders, the Board Members of the Year. I'd like to thank Richard Snyder for his excellent suggestion.

And in particular, I want to give kudos to our talented graphics manager, Adriana DiGiacomantonio, or "Age," who designed the photo display.

Talk about kudos – This will be Dan's last BOD meeting as president. I would like to thank President Dan for being a great partner, advisor, and friend to me. He has an amazing work ethic; great support for public education, and always places children in the center of his thoughts and ideas. Well-deserved "JOB WELL DONE" from all of us.

Strategic Plan 2018-2020 <i>Partnerships/collaboration at the heart of all goals: Student Achievement, Advocacy, Training, Direct Services</i>	
<u>Collaboration and Partnerships</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability Institute at The College of New Jersey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rutgers School of Management and Labor Relations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NJ Business & Industry Association 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garden State Coalition of Schools
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. Army 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NJCCVTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NJ State League of Municipalities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NJEdge
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEL4NJ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NJ State Board of Education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NJ Department of Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LEE Group
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governor's Office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislative Leadership
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Over the past six years, as part of our Strategic Plans, we have forged new and stronger relationships with partners both inside and outside the education community. I've shown this chart in the past. It reflects many, but not all, of the partnerships that we've built. These relationships span our mission in advocacy, training, direct services and business development. In some cases, we may agree to disagree with some of our partners on certain issues. But the lines of communication that we've established build trust and enable us to work toward common goals.

A New Partnership	
The NJSBA Online University	RUTGERS Division of Continuing Studies
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A new partnership• In-kind services to develop 14 online courses• Mandated training, other online programs for board members• Professional development for new audiences and markets• Strategic Plan: 'Future Ready' direct services, training	

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I am pleased to announce that NJSBA is entering into a partnership with the Rutgers University Division of Continuing Studies.

This agreement marks the beginning of the NJSBA Online University, an activity that is directly related to three goal areas of our Strategic Plan: building a “Future Ready” Association, enhancing direct services, and making training more accessible.

Rutgers will provide in-kind services to develop 14 courses. The

online programs will cover mandated training and other professional development areas. The partnership represents our commitment to make training available around-the-clock, seven days a week.

Our goals for the partnership are:

- First, to expand the course offering for board members, and
- Second, to make NJSBA training available to a larger audience, such as school district human resource managers, facility managers and IT directors.


Going forward, we will also explore the prospect of marketing the online training modules outside of New Jersey through agreements with other state school boards associations.


I want to thank Patty Maillet, Vince DeLucia, John Faford and Kim Blum for their work on this project.

An Enduring Partnership

Sustainable Jersey for Schools: *A Success Story*

- Launched in 2014
- Founding Partners: *NJSBA* and the Sustainability Institute at *The College of New Jersey*
- **\$1.8 Million in grants to school districts**
- Advances environmentally and financially sustainable practices and STEAM education
- Provides technical assistance, training
- Membership: 56% (328) of N.J. school districts



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One of NJSBA’s long-standing and most successful collaborations is Sustainable Jersey for Schools. We launched the program in 2014 in partnership with the Sustainability Institute at The College of New Jersey.

Enthusiasm for the program has far exceeded our expectations. Today, more than 56 percent, or 328, of the state’s operating school districts are members of this free program. And that number will continue to grow. Sustainable Jersey provides guidance, resources, recognition and certification for sustainable

practices, while advancing student learning in the STEAM education areas.

Significantly, it has been a major source of grant funding for school districts.

In fiscal year 2018 alone, Sustainable Jersey for Schools awarded over \$330,000 in grants to our members. Since its founding, the program has provided \$1.8 million in grants. Thanks to Sustainable Jersey, our state's public schools have implemented over 3,900 actions in areas such as energy efficiency, waste management, healthy school environment, student and staff wellness, and student learning.

Immediate Past President Don and I both serve on the Board of Trustees for Sustainable Jersey. We are very proud of the level of participation in the program and the benefits it provides to our members.

On June 14, at its annual Summit, the organization will honor

NJSBA and five other organizations that were instrumental in the founding and success of Sustainable Jersey. These groups include the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, the NJEA, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, the Department of Environmental Protection and the New Jersey State League of Municipalities.

Earlier this month, I met with Randy Solomon, the executive director of Sustainable Jersey. He expressed concern about the capacity issues facing Sustainable Jersey for Schools because of its enormous success. Therefore, at tonight's meeting I am recommending that the Board of Directors approve a \$50,000 donation for Sustainable Jersey for Schools. The Board of Directors authorized a similar donation in May of 2017. Prior to that, while the program was in development and during its early years, NJSBA provided start-up funding through proceeds from our energy cooperative, the Alliance for Competitive Energy.

Tonight's donation, like the one in 2017, would come from the Association's current budget. John Faford, our director of budget and finance, assures me that, because of greater-than-anticipated

revenue from Workshop and other sources, the current-year budget has sufficient revenue to support the donation.

Sustainable Jersey for Schools is an important and beneficial program for our members and for the children of the State of New Jersey. And we can expect the level of participation to increase.



Three years ago, NJSBA launched its new website, which was made possible through funding approved by the Board of Directors.

The investment has been worthwhile. It also serves an example of how we are becoming a Future Ready Association.

A recent analysis by our Marketing Unit, which tracks website activity, shows a 40 percent increase in traffic to njsba.org over the past year. The site is a valuable information source for school

board members, other public officials, the news media, parents and other citizens who care about education.

It's the result of the website's design and the quality of its content.

The website experiences the most traffic on Wednesday morning, when *School Board Notes* is released. The most visited pages are the homepage, followed by school board candidacy, superintendent search, upcoming meetings, and mandated training.

And by industry standards, our website is secure, it's mobile-friendly, and it receives top ratings for its download speed to desktops and mobile devices.

I want to commend our Marketing Unit, particularly Lauren Cuervo, who coordinates website content, our IT Department and the Communications Department for their continued attention to the site.

An Exciting Workshop

- **2019 Keynote Speaker:**
Ian Hockley
- **Early Registration**
through June 30
- **Group Registration:**
District teams of 20
- **250+ training and**
information sessions
- **Expanded Monday**
programming



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At our March meeting, I was pleased to announce that the Workshop keynote speaker will be Ian Hockley. Ian founded a non-profit group called “Dylan’s Wings of Change,” and named the group in honor of his son, who was one of the children killed in the Sandy Hook mass shooting. The organization works to develop youth leadership in schools through a program called “Wingman,” which teaches children to be empathetic, courageous and inclusive.

Last month, we announced a collaborative effort with the

foundation to provide resources on social and emotional skill development for New Jersey schools and districts.

The partnership will include the introduction of the Wingman program to 17 schools in New Jersey. The Educational Leadership Foundation of New Jersey will also offer several no-cost Wingman Workshops to school board members in late 2019.

Besides serving as keynote speaker at Workshop, Ian will also address NJSBA's Special Education Symposium on Monday.


By the way, Workshop 2019 is scheduled for Monday, October 21st through Thursday, October 24th. Information, including program and hotel registration, is available on the Workshop website. Early bird group registration—\$1,600 for districts teams of up to 20 people—is available until June 30th. After that date, the group registration rate will increase to \$1,700.


We encourage school districts to include their IT and facility directors in the group. Patty Maillet will provide a Workshop

update shortly.

An Advocate for Local School Boards

- **Legislative Achievements**
 - School Resource Officers
 - TEACHNJ Arbitrator Training
 - CTE Teacher Endorsement
- **School Funding Outreach**
- **Legislative Committee** – May 11
- **Mercury Vapor Hazard** – May 15
- **Legislative Day** – May 16



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At our last meeting, I mentioned our success in opposing two union-backed proposals that would have attacked school boards' ability to make critical decisions in the financial interest of educational programs and students.

Since then, we've seen other achievements.

- Governor Murphy signed a bill that would expand the pool of qualified candidates for Class 3 special law enforcement officers—a viable lower-cost option to employing traditional school resource officers.

- Another new law will require arbitrators in tenure cases to receive training on “unbecoming conduct,” particularly when it involves sexual assault and child abuse. NJSBA alerted lawmakers to the need for the training after arbitrators allowed staff to return to the classroom after engaging in questionable activities.

In addition, the State Board of Education is considering revisions to certification requirements that would give flexibility to candidates for the Career and Technical Education endorsement. This reflects a recommendation of our Task Force on Educational Opportunities for the Non-College-Bound Learner. These changes are expected to increase the pool of CTE teachers, who are currently in limited supply.

We continue to advocate for all local boards of education during the state budget process. NJSBA will vehemently oppose any reduction in state aid increases for the districts that have been persistently underfunded for the past decade. In our testimony, we stated that this increased funding is “sacred and must be

untouched.” Their students have been disadvantaged for far too long. But we also take seriously our advocacy on behalf of nearly 200 school districts where cuts in aid will hurt students, and we will advocate vigorously for necessary relief—but not at the expense of the persistently underfunded districts.

Mike Vrancik will provide more information during the advocacy update.

NJSBA will always be responsive to the issues facing individual school boards. One that was recently brought to our attention concerns a mercury-vapor hazard caused by certain rubberized school floors.

Washington Township in Gloucester County is facing this issue. To help them and other school districts, we will conduct a meeting next Wednesday with experts from the state Department of Health and the New Jersey Work Environment Council.

The governor’s chief education policy advisory, Cary Booker, will

be in attendance, along with representatives of the commissioner of education and the state's major educational organizations. We will discuss health hazards, air quality standards, and effective remediation. Our goal is to develop a list of best practices in detection and remediation that we will distribute to school districts statewide.

NJSBA must be responsive, and we must also be relevant. Sharing information on emerging issues is critical to this goal. Let me give you another example.

Tomorrow, former New Jersey Supreme Court Justice Gary Stein will speak at our Legislative Committee meeting. Justice Stein is part of a coalition of non-profit organizations and civil rights groups involved in a challenge to racial imbalance in the state's public schools. The coalition was involved in discussion with the Murphy Administration, with the goal of reaching agreement and averting legal action. However, it appears that these attempts to reach an agreement have failed and the case will go to court.

It is critical that NJSBA be aware of what is being considered so that we can represent local boards of education at the appropriate time. That's why we asked Justice Stein to discuss the coalition's goals at tomorrow's Legislative Committee meeting.

The 21 County School Boards Associations

Attendance: Approximately 4,100

- **Relevant Programming**
 - Mental Health Services
 - School Finance
 - Social-Emotional Learning
 - Advocacy/Legislation
 - School Security
 - Assessment
- **Foundations for Success**
- **Forum for Advocacy, Ideas**



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Under our Strategic Plan, the county school boards associations will continue to play a major role in professional development and advocacy. As you've heard me say many times, the county associations are a barometer of the health of NJSBA.

And we are in very good health.

Attendance at county meetings has been strong. Programming has been excellent. On the screen you can see several of the topics addressed at county meetings this year.

In addition, several counties hosted Foundations for Success training.

And as always, the county associations serve as excellent forums to build relationships and share ideas with our legislative representatives.

Thank you to Ray and his team!

Each year, it has been my goal to attend meetings for all 21 counties. I've reached that goal for 2018-2019.

But I will add at least one additional visit, when I attend the Warren County Spring Meeting on May 14 and present the 50-Year Milestone Award to Betsy Ames of the Franklin Township Board of Education. Betsy also served simultaneously on the Warren Hills Regional High School Board of Education for approximately 25 years. So her cumulative school board service exceeds 75 years. That's amazing!

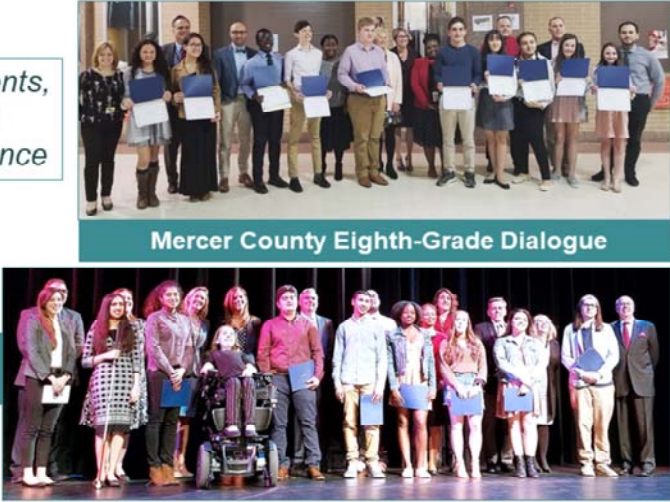
Betsy was also a member of the NJSBA Board of Directors. She has always been supportive of NJSBA and her county association.

The 21 County School Boards Associations
Listening to Our Future Leaders: 8th-Grade Dialogues
Honoring Our Unsung Heroes

*1,700 students, parents,
board members and
educators in attendance*

Mercer County Eighth-Grade Dialogue

**Somerset County's
Unsung Heroes**



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I've also had the honor of attending several of the Eighth Grade Dialogues and Unsung Heroes programs, sponsored by several county associations.

The Unsung Heroes concept originated in Middlesex County and has been replicated by four other associations. It recognizes students who model good citizenship or who have achieved academic success despite disabilities, language barriers, or other significant challenges.

There is nothing more inspiring than hearing the stories of the students.

This year, Ray Pinney and our videographer Robin Kampf produced a series of videos that profile four of our unsung heroes. Ray and Robin worked closely with the students, their principals and guidance counselors. The results are heartwarming and serve as a reminder of why all of us in this room are involved in public education.

I'd like to conclude my presentation by sharing the story of one of these exceptional students, Brian McAuliffe.

On the eve of Special Education Week in New Jersey, I think you will find Brian's story to be especially rewarding.

Unsung Heroes: **Brian's Story**



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Unsung Heroes: **Brian's Story**



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