



New Jersey School Boards Association

INFORMATION ITEM

MEMORANDUM

To: Officers, Board of Directors Members/Alternates

From: Lawrence S. Feinsod, Ed.D., Executive Director

Date: May 10, 2019

Re: NJSBA President and Officers' Reports

Attached are the reports from the following officers:

- President
- Immediate Past President
- Vice President for Finance
- Vice President for County Activities

**New Jersey School Boards Association
Board of Directors Meeting
The President**

Daniel Sinclair

May 10, 2019

A Thank You – and a Look Ahead

Tonight will be the last Board of Directors Meeting that I will preside over. I leave office proud of the progress we have made and confident of our Association's future.

Just two years ago, I stood before the Delegate Assembly and thanked them for electing me president. It was just over four years ago that I began my service as vice president for county activities.

During that time, I've witnessed NJSBA's growing influence over state education policy, improved training and resources for our members, and very real and satisfying progress in other critical areas.

I want to look *ahead* to some of the exciting things in store for NJSBA, our 5,000 local school board members, and New Jersey's 1.4 million public school students.

First, I am optimistic about the growing educational opportunities for kids who aren't headed to four-year colleges immediately after high school graduation. Those of you who were here two years ago may remember me talking about the need to expand options for career-focused students.

NJSBA took a proactive step with the creation of the Task Force on Educational Opportunities for the Non-College-Bound Learner. This committee produced a report with nearly 70 recommendations to promote best practices and new state and federal policy.

The report is changing conversations among New Jersey's parents and educational leaders about our students' post-secondary plans. There is a growing realization that many well-paying careers do not require a college degree—but do require specialized skills.

Governmental decision-makers are also taking notice.

Last month, the State Board of Education proposed amendments to teacher certification requirements to give flexibility to candidates for the Career and Technical Education endorsement. This reflects a recommendation of our Task Force. These changes are expected to increase the pool of CTE teachers, who are currently in limited supply.

Clearly, we have “moved the needle” on this issue. And I look forward to helping NJSBA continue to increase awareness about the importance of CTE.

A central part of NJSBA's mission is professional development. Over the years, one of my greatest pleasures has been to serve as a group leader, or small-group trainer, at our weekend New Board Member Orientation.

In 2013, NJSBA reestablished the weekend Orientation, considered one of the nation's premier training programs for new board members.

In 2018, we moved to the next level with an intensive weekend leadership training program for current and aspiring board presidents and vice presidents. GPS for Visionary Leadership, developed by NJSBA's field service department, includes large group and small group sessions covering the board-superintendent relationship, community relations, student-focused decision-making, and other important topics.

Through the support of corporate New Jersey, NJSBA provides both the weekend Orientation and Leadership program at no cost to school districts. This is due to the initiative and hard work of Dr. Feinsod, the Business Development staff and the Educational Leadership Foundation of New Jersey, our fund-raising arm.

We held our second leadership program this month. And I was one of the group leaders. Talking with these engaged, smart and dedicated board leaders left me feeling very optimistic about the future of education in New Jersey.

Not only are we creating strong leaders for local boards of education, but we are also building the future leadership of our Association.

Speaking of the leadership, I am very enthusiastic about our new president, Mike McClure, and the incoming vice presidents. I look forward to seeing them advance our Association "to the next level."

Now, it is time for me to thank some special people.

First, my fellow officers. I counted the combined years that the four current officers—myself, Mike McClure, Christy Tighe and Don Webster—have served on boards of education. It totals 72 years! That's a lot of time spent in meetings, training and committees. On behalf of New Jersey's schoolchildren, thank you.

In particular, I want to express my appreciation to our immediate past president—my predecessor and mentor, Don Webster. At next week's Delegate Assembly Don's exemplary service as an NJSBA Officer will come to an end. Don has spent 22 years as a local school board member; has been an NJSBA Officer since 2010, and served as President from 2014 to 2017.

Don never hesitates to step up to the plate when it comes to the well-being of students and the New Jersey School Boards Association. He chaired two separate NJSBA task forces on school safety, as well as our Non-College-Bound Learner task force and other committees. He represented NJSBA on the state Legislature's school security task force. He presided over important meetings on my behalf. And, recently, he has been serving as acting vice president of legislation and resolutions.

Don... a special thank you is due from all of us!

I also want to thank Dr. Larry Feinsod and the NJSBA staff. Over the past four years, through activities with the National School Boards Association, I've become familiar with other state associations. Without a doubt, NJSBA has the best professional staff in the country. I have never failed to be impressed by their talent and their unflagging efforts on behalf of all of us.

If it is true that time flies, it is also true that memories last.

When I reflect on my tenure as NJSBA president, I will always remember the school districts and county associations I have visited, the legislators I have spoken with, and the many meetings with our long-standing allies and new partners. Most of all, I will remember the privilege of meeting and speaking with school board members across the state—the dedicated people who work tirelessly on behalf of our children.

Thank you for your commitment to public education and for the opportunity to serve as your president!

**New Jersey School Boards Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Report of the Immediate Past President**

Donald Webster, Jr.

May 10, 2019

NJSBA Association Activities

I represented our association as a Delegate to the NSBA 2019 Delegate Assembly and Convention in Philadelphia on 3/28-3/31. At the assembly, the following actions were taken: approval of amendments to the NSBA Bylaws, acknowledgement of the Belief Statements of the Association, and approval of various resolutions submitted by member states related to issues affecting public education. The new set of national officers, recommended by the Nominating Committee, were approved. During the General Sessions of the convention, the focus of the Keynote speakers was on school safety, educational policies in America, and equity issues in our nation's public schools.

I participated in the Josten's Renaissance Program at Sayreville High School on 4/6, where we heard about programs and strategies for improving the culture and climate in our schools.

I represented the Officer's at County School Board Association meetings in Middlesex, Monmouth, Cape May, Atlantic, Mercer and Ocean. The primary focus of these meetings was member/board training certification award recognition, legislative updates, superintendent performance review reminders, and the local district strategic planning process for the upcoming year.



New Jersey School Boards Association

413 West State Street • P.O. Box 909 • Trenton, NJ 08605-0909 • Telephone: 609.695.7600 • Toll-Free: 888.88NJSBA • Fax: 609.695.0413

New Jersey School Boards Association Board of Directors Meeting Report of the Vice President for Finance

Mike McClure

May 10, 2019

Association Finance

- Through March, NJSBA is having a very strong year financially. The main reasons for this performance are:
 - Workshop 2018 revenues surpassed budget, primarily because of higher levels of registrations, commercial exhibitors and sponsorships.
 - TEC (Technology for Education and Careers) Program revenues have also increased significantly. In particular, members have increased their purchasing levels from SHI under our cooperative purchasing agreement with them for Future Ready classroom products.
 - Salary expense is less than budget due to several earlier vacancies, and a reduction in the use the Temporary Help expense budget.
 - Health care costs are under budget due to a combination of better-than-expected rates and more employees opting out of coverage.
 - Offsetting factor - Fee-based revenues are trailing budget, but we will focus on getting these revenues back on track by year-end.
- At its last meeting in March, the Board approved the 2019 – 2020 budget, which will result in no membership dues increase for the 10th consecutive year.
- Cobalt Update – Association Management System (AMS)
 - Cobalt's project development team has recently been onsite at our headquarters for two meetings with the AMS project team and NJSBA's super users. (The Board approved the funding for this project at the January 2019 meeting.)
 - Cobalt's initial efforts have primarily focused on developing: a deeper understanding of our needs; a detailed plan to meet those needs; and the ability to transfer data from Personify to Cobalt.
 - Cobalt's initial phase will address the function of accumulating and tracking members' census data.
 - The new system will be launched in the first quarter of 2020.

Association Activities

On March 21- attended the Mercer County meeting, where the focus was on the Vaping problem with the younger generation and the effects of vaping on your health. The meeting was well attended, including the US army.

On March 26 - attended the Middlesex County's 'Unsung Heros' meeting, which was held at Old Bridge High School. Sixty-nine (69) students were recognized for their ability to overcome debilitating health and emotional challenges to succeed in academics. Hearing their stories was the most uplifting event I have attended this year. Kevin Ciak did a fantastic job as facilitator and reading the children's achievements.

On March 29 - attended the Passaic County meeting, where we heard from some of our elected officials. The program included a Q&A session that was very informative.

On March 29 to April 1 - attended the NSBA Annual Conference in Philadelphia PA. During the conference, I attended the Magna awards to support the New Jersey school district that was a recipient. The New Jersey Colts Neck School District did a great job. The Delegate Assembly meeting included changes in the NSBA Bylaws. I also had the opportunity to stop in on the NJSBA trainers program, which was all full.

On April 6 - attended Sayreville High School for presentations on Social and Emotional Learning. It was well attended by board members from across the State. The program was very informative and a great learning experience.

On April 23 - attended the EC meeting at NJSBA headquarter to set the agenda for the BOD May meeting. We also received updates from our department directors.

On May 1 – conducted a new officer orientation, along with staff, to present information to the incoming officers about their duties and the policies and procedures of NJSBA.

**New Jersey School Boards Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Report of the Vice President for County Activities**

Christy Tighe

May 10, 2019

As school board members, we believe in the importance of lifelong learning for our students. Our dream for the children in our districts is for them to continue to learn and grow long after they have graduated. This is true for ourselves, as well. School board members fulfill an essential role in the community and are the outward faces of the school district. Therefore, it is important that we also become lifelong learners and invest in ourselves. Professional development — whether it be at a place of employment or in a volunteer role — helps people continue, not only to be competent in their profession, but also to excel in it, which should be an ongoing process that continues throughout an individual's career or term of service. While experience is a great teacher, it often means that we tend to continue what we have done in the past. Professional development opens us up new possibilities, strategies, and skill areas.

NJSBA's county school boards associations enhance the skills and knowledge of local board of education members, serve as a forum for the exchange of information and ideas, and act as a catalyst to initiate and expedite action. The meetings are opportunities for school board members to receive professional development and up-to-date information on current education initiatives, legislation and regulations affecting public schools. They enable participants to stay connected and work together to advocate for their districts and advance student achievement.

Spring is a time for celebration in the counties, as we recognize school board members who have achieved milestone awards for years of service; those who have achieved New Board Member, Certificated Board Member, Master Board Member, and Certified Board Leader; as well as the high performing boards who receive Board Certification and Master Board Certification. We also congratulate newly elected county SBA leaders, and thank those who are retiring for their dedicated service to their county associations.

School board members in New Jersey are a diverse group, representing all backgrounds, races, ages, and income brackets; from college students to corporate executives, retirees and stay-at-home parents. However, we all have a common mission: To ensure the best possible education for the students in our district. It has been my honor and pleasure to serve in the capacity of Vice President for County Activities over the past two years, to have the opportunity to travel the state, meet with so many dedicated individuals who are doing excellent work in their communities, and bring their concerns, thoughts, best practices, and success stories back to Trenton.

And, as always, I'd like to thank every member of the NJSBA Board of Directors for your leadership and dedication to your county associations. It is crucial that the work we do as Directors be shared at the county level, and that the voices from our membership be brought back to our BOD meetings. We appreciate you making the effort to attend, share your thoughts, and join the conversation. We all must continue to work together to advance public education and help all our schools and students succeed.

Respectfully submitted,

Christy Tighe