



New Jersey Schools Insurance Group
6000 Midlantic Drive, Suite 300 North
Mount Laurel, New Jersey 08054
www.njsig.org

**Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes of January 29, 2025
(Ratified at the Board of Trustees Meeting on March 19, 2025)**

New Jersey Schools Insurance Group’s Board of Trustees Meeting of January 29, 2025 took place at NJSIG’s office, located at 6000 Midlantic Drive, Suite 300 North, Mount Laurel, New Jersey 08054, and by video teleconference.

ATTENDEES

Participants: Dave Rapuano, Esq.; Phil Williams; Joanne Kirby; Jodi Galpert; Jim Ridgway; Al Kirk; Latonya Brennan; Bob Gemmell; Jay Lynch; Casey Byrne

NJSIG Staff: Jill Deitch, Esq.; Beth Ferlicchi, Esq.; Benjamin Ziemann, Esq.; Michele Carosi; Sherwin Archibald; Lauren Schilling; Claire King; Jeff Cook; Shevon Bennett; Denise Hall; Neil Marek; Anthony Fernandez; Karen Olsen; Leslie McMahon; Joe Semptimphelter; Joanna Radomicki; Joanne Gunter; Jill Smith

ITEM #1 CALL TO ORDER

In accordance with the Sunshine Law and N.J.S.A. 10:4-10, due notice of all pending meetings was given to the *Newark Star Ledger*, www.NJ.com, and *Trenton Times* on June 14, 2024. Notice of this meeting was also filed with the New Jersey Secretary of State. Electronic notice of this meeting was also posted to NJSIG’s website at www.njsig.org. The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:02 p.m.

ITEM #2 ROLL CALL

Nicholas Bice	–	Present
Stephanie Brown, Ed.D.	–	Absent
Christopher Carrubba	–	Present
Richard Casey	–	Present
Damaris Gurowsky	–	Present

Irene LeFebvre	–	Present
Jamie Moscony	–	Present
Chris Russo, Ed.D.	–	Present
Alix Silva	–	Absent

ITEM #3 ACCEPTANCE OF THE PUBLIC AND CLOSED SESSION MINUTES OF November 13, 2024

Action Taken: Moved (Casey) \ Second (LeFebvre) \ Carried (Affirmative Votes = Bice, Carrubba, Casey, Gurowsky, LeFebvre, Moscony) to accept the November 13, 2024 Board of Trustees meeting minutes. No opposition; Russo abstained.

ITEM #4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation was invited. There was no public participation.

ITEM #5 SUB-FUND LIAISONS – REPORTS/COMMENTS

Kirk reported on the BACCIEC and ERIC South sub-funds; announced the next sub-fund meeting will be in Camden on February 5; will discuss upcoming budgets, the new school bus driving training, and leadership principles.

Brennan reported on the ERIC North and NJEIF sub-funds; joint sub-fund meeting is on January 31 and about 200 people are registered; highlighted a meeting scheduled for February 13, which will discuss evolving legal obligations for schools and law enforcement, and which will enable attendees to obtain school safety specialist credits.

Lynch reported on the MOCCSIF sub-fund; will be attending the joint sub-fund meeting on January 31; also planning an in-person meeting for April which will focus on issues relating to student athletics (Title IX changes, etc.)

Gemmell reported on the ERIC West sub-fund; will be attending the joint sub-fund meeting on January 31; still planning the spring meeting, which will be on May 9.

ITEM #6 REPORTS

A. Executive Director Report

Jill Deitch, Esq., Executive Director, deferred discussing her report since it focused on discussion items to be addressed later in the meeting.

B. Accounting / Finance Report

Michele Carosi, Chief Financial Officer, provided an overview of the Accounting Department report and an update on the status of the department.

C. Underwriting Report

Claire King, Underwriting Manager, provided an overview of the Underwriting Department report and an update on the status of the department.

D. Claims Report

Sherwin Archibald, Claims Manager, provided an overview of the Claims Department report and an update on the status of the department.

E. Information Technology Report

Jeff Cook, Information Technology Manager, provided an overview of the Claims Department report and an update on the status of the department.

F. Member Services and Loss Control Report

Lauren Schilling, Member Services and Loss Control Manager, provided an overview of the Member Services and Loss Control Department report and an update on the status of the department.

ITEM #7 DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Property reinsurance renewal, update

Presented by Jill Deitch. Provided an update on the status of the property reinsurance renewal for the 2025/2026 policy year and highlighted key take-aways from the December 2024 trip to London to meet with the excess and reinsurance carriers. London meetings were positive and every carrier said they appreciated that NJSIG made the effort to meet with them in person. Based on the information obtained in London, we are cautiously optimistic about the property market this year and hopeful that rates will remain somewhat stable. Carriers seem more confident given the changes we have made to our program, such as the coinsurance language and the policy changes regarding vacant and newly acquired buildings. The London meetings occurred before the recent wildfires in Southern California, but it is still too early to tell if those events will

affect our property program. NJSIG is currently scheduled to meet with additional carriers in South Carolina in February.

B. Casualty reinsurance renewal, update

Presented by Jill Deitch. NJSIG has meetings planned with the casualty reinsurers and excess carriers in the next few weeks. These meetings are important because we have the opportunity to develop our relationships with our current partners and to tell our story to new markets.

C. Safety grants, surplus returns

Presented by Jill Deitch. Met with the Finance Committee at the end of November 2024 to discuss the future of the safety grant and surplus return programs. The last safety grant that was funded by the Board was in October 2022. This safety grant will be paid out as planned in October 2025, but Deitch does not plan to recommend that the Board fund any more safety grants in the near future. Our overall historical surplus is quite healthy, so it makes sense at this time to wind down the safety grants and ramp up our surplus return program, which is the best way to ensure that NJSIG continues to be the strongest and most cost-effective pool for our members. Deitch is recommending that NJSIG issue another surplus to members who participated in the 2020/2021 workers' compensation line of coverage in the amount of \$2.4 million, which would be paid out in June/July 2025 and would be in addition to the \$2 million in safety grants earmarked to be paid out in October 2025. Deitch hopes we will continue to be able to return surplus monies to our members and that these funds can be relied upon by our members to stabilize inevitable rate fluctuations. Finally, NJSIG is working closely with industry partners to take advantage of other grant programs.

D. March 6, 2025 Broker Meeting

Presented by Jill Deitch. NJSIG's annual broker meeting is scheduled for March 6, 2025. At this meeting, we provide rate guidance to our members and brokers based on our actuary's preliminary rate indications and the pricing information that we get from the reinsurance and excess markets. Reinsurance and excess quotes are due to NJSIG by the end of February 2025.

ITEM #8 ACTION ITEMS

A. Checking accounts & new claims ratification (NJSIG No. 0125-01)

Presented by Carosi

Action Taken: Moved (Russo) \ Second (Gurowsky) \ Carried (Affirmative Votes = Bice, Carrubba, Casey, Gurowsky, LeFebvre, Moscony, Russo) to approve the resolution as presented. No opposition or abstentions.

B. Authorization to invest additional funds (NJSIG No. 0125-02)

Presented by Deitch and Carosi

Action Taken: Moved (LeFebvre) \ Second (Russo) \ Carried (Affirmative Votes = Bice, Carrubba, Casey, Gurowsky, LeFebvre, Moscony, Russo) to approve the resolution as presented. No opposition or abstentions.

C. Surplus return (NJSIG No. 0125-03)

Presented by Deitch

Action Taken: Moved (Gurowsky) \ Second (Russo) \ Carried (Affirmative Votes = Bice, Carrubba, Casey, Gurowsky, LeFebvre, Moscony, Russo) to approve the resolution as presented. No opposition or abstentions.

D. Contracting:

i. Independent medical examination services (NJSIG No. 0125-04)

Presented by Archibald

Action Taken: Moved (Russo) \ Second (LeFebvre) \ Carried (Affirmative Votes = Bice, Carrubba, Casey, Gurowsky, LeFebvre, Moscony, Russo) to approve the resolution as presented. No opposition or abstentions.

ii. Field Adjuster and APD Appraisal Services (NJSIG No. 0125-05)

Presented by Archibald

Action Taken: Moved (LeFebvre) \ Second (Russo) \ Carried (Affirmative Votes = Bice, Carrubba, Casey, Gurowsky, LeFebvre, Moscony, Russo) to approve the resolution as presented. No opposition or abstentions.

ITEM #9 NEW BUSINESS

None.

ITEM #10 CLOSED (EXECUTIVE) SESSION

Action Taken: Moved (Russo) \ Second (Gurowsky) \ Carried (Affirmative Votes = Bice, Carrubba, Casey, Gurowsky, LeFebvre, Moscony, Russo) to enter into closed (executive) session at approximately 1:35 p.m. No opposition or abstentions.

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act (“OPMA”), N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 *et. seq.*, authorizes public entities to meet in executive session under certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the OPMA requires that the Group adopt a resolution at a public meeting to go into private session; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of the New Jersey Schools Insurance Group that it is necessary to meet in executive session to discuss certain items involving:

- A. Litigation; and/or
- B. Matters involving attorney client privilege; and/or
- C. Matters involving pending contract negotiation; and/or
- D. Matters involving terms and conditions of employment of current public employee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any discussion held by the Board of Trustees which need not remain confidential will be made public as soon as feasible. The minutes of the executive session will not be disclosed until the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees will not return to open session to conduct business at the conclusion of the executive/closed session.

[REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[Redacted]

- [Redacted]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

ITEM #11 ADJOURN MEETING

Action Taken: Moved (LeFebvre) \ Second (Russo) \ Carried (Affirmative
Votes = Bice, Carrubba, Casey, Gurowsky, LeFebvre,
Moscony, Russo) to adjourn the meeting at approximately
2:02 p.m.