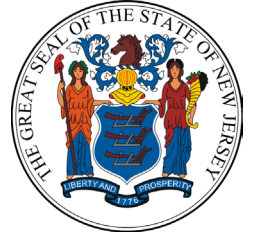


**State of New Jersey
Commission on Holocaust Education**

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<http://www.nj.gov/education/holocaust/>

New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education
2nd Quarter Commission Meeting
New Jersey Department of Education
Friday, December 12, 2025
11:00 am
Minutes

Presiding: Maud Dahme, Chair

Managing Director/ST: Brianna Doherty

Present Constituting a Quorum:

Tamara Beatty
Nicholas Capuano
Maud Dahme
Igor Kotler
Michelle Myers
Irvin Moreno-Rodriguez
Just Olesh
Marvin Raab
Rabbi Avi Richler
Ilyse Shainbrown
Frank Stebbins
Shana Stein
Yitz Stern
Colleen Tambuscio
Elyse Wolff
Gene Woods

Staff (not constituting a quorum)

Brianna Doherty
Sara Fernandez

Absent

Allison Connolly
Abe Foxman
Phil Kirschner

The New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education Chair, Maud Dahme, convened the public meeting at 11:00 a.m. with the reading of the statement pertaining to the public session of the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education as it complies with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act.

The Open Public Meetings Act was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon.

In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time, and place thereof posted in the Department of Education, Secretary of State's Office, and notice was also given to the State House Press Corps, the Governor's Office, and Commission Members.

And seeing there was a quorum, the meeting of December 12, 2025, was called to order.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the NJ Commission on Holocaust Education approved the minutes of the public meetings conducted on September 19, 2025.

Executive Committee Report

Chair Report – Maud Dahme

The Chair provided an update on the 2026 Summer Seminar to the Infamous Sites of the Holocaust. Due to issues with the bidding process, the Chair decided to cancel the 2026 trip.

The Chair also asked Commission members to share any programs or events that they have attended since the last Commission meeting.

Vice Chair Report – Marvin Raab

No Report

Managing Director/Secretary Treasurer Report – Brianna Doherty

Folders were distributed containing flyers for upcoming programs and recent articles that may be of interest to Commission members.

Notice of the annual awards was distributed at NJEA. An official broadcast is scheduled to go out in January. We are still having issues with the endowment for the Axelrod Award. The Managing Director has reached out to the ADL multiple times with zero response.

The Managing Director provided an overview of the speaker requests that have been completed since the last meeting, as well as the requests that are scheduled for Jan-June to date. She also provided an update on professional development requests that have been completed and scheduled.

The Commission had a booth at NJEA, which was extremely successful. We distributed a number of books and had numerous conversations with educators about resources and opportunities available to them. The Managing Director was also invited to sit on a panel discussion with the other NJ Commissions to discuss inclusive education.

The Managing Director also provided a report of all programs and activities she attended on behalf of the Commission since the Q1 meeting as well as an update from the Office of Commissions on upcoming partnerships.

Standing Committee Reports

Budget/Fundraising Committee

The Fall Event Sponsorship Grant was budgeted at \$20,000, with \$19,761 encumbered and \$18,924.79 spent, leaving a remaining balance of \$836.21. Programs funded through this grant included: Hidden: A Musical with Bergen County Community College; CHHANGE's Annual Kristallnacht Program; an Educator Workshop with USHMM at Kean University; the Annual Kristallnacht Program at Kean University; It Starts with Words: Teaching the Holocaust to Combat Hate with Montclair State University; the Hate Ends Now Cattle Car Exhibit with Esther Raab Holocaust Museum and Goodwin Education Center; an Educator Workshop at Ramapo College; a film screening of No Place on Earth with the Littman Families Holocaust Resource Center at Rutgers; and a Study Tour to the Anne Frank Center in NYC with Stockton University.

Applications are now open for the Spring Grant Cycle (January–June), with a budget of \$30,000. Additionally, the Commission has decided to withdraw from its partnership with the Anne Frank House to bring an exhibit to New Jersey, citing cost issues and administrative challenges.

Since the last meeting, one donation of \$150 was received from the Morris County Women's Republican Club in honor of Maud, bringing the total in the donation account to \$110,531.63. The committee raised questions regarding whether the account is interest-bearing and where that interest goes. The Managing Director confirmed that while the account does earn interest, all interest is remitted to the state. She also noted that despite the funds being donated to the Commission, the account remains a state account subject to procurement law and state regulations, and the funds could potentially be redirected if needed elsewhere.

Legislative Committee

The Commission now has access to GovNet to monitor legislation.

Prior to the election, the Managing Director created a database of legislators, their contact information, committee representation, and which Commission members live in their district. This is currently being updated post-election.

A legislative briefing packet is being worked on and will be made available to Commission Members.

Education Committee

The curriculum team has been working on the Indigenous Histories of North America curriculum with Dr. Sarah Koenig from Ramapo College. The k-4 units will be ready for review in June.

This was another successful year for CHE, 105 educators attended. The Commission PD “menu” was distributed to Commission Members.

The committee decided not to host an administrator program for 2026 but will be planning one for 2027.

The committee is continuing to go through the recommendations of the 2023 survey. A vendor has been selected to conduct the translation of all resources and materials into Spanish and French.

Communication and Outreach Committee

The Managing Director is continuing to update the website as needed to ensure all links are working. The team at the office has been working to draft and save social media posts. There has been a lot of positive interactions on both Facebook and Instagram.

The new upstander stickers have been ordered and will be delivered in January.

The Managing Director and Gene Woods have a meeting scheduled with the NJEA review to discuss adding articles to the review regularly. If anyone is interested in contributing an article, please reach out to them.

The Kristallnacht event with Dr. Alex Kor was a huge success. The committee also planned an event for International Holocaust Remembrance Day with Alexandra Zapruder. The program will be on January 22nd at RVCC.

The Commission hosted a 2G training with Peter Nelson. We have 2 new speakers to add to the Speakers Bureau. Ramapo is also hosting a 2G training with Peter Nelson.

Irvin will be working to organize an interfaith panel later in the spring. Information will be made available soon.

New Business

Hiring New Executive Director: Qualifications and Job Description

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the NJ Commission on Holocaust Education approved the job description and qualifications drafted by the Search Committee for the Executive Director position.

The position will be posted in January. The interview will follow in February/March and the Search Committee will propose a candidate at the March Commission Meeting.

Upcoming Commission meeting dates

March 13, 2026

June 26, 2026

Adjournment

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the NJ Commission on Holocaust Education adjourned its December 12, 2025, public meeting at 1:30 p.m.