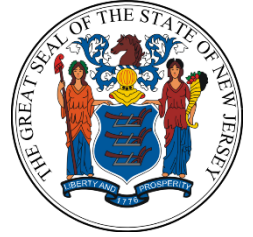


**State of New Jersey
Commission on Holocaust Education**

P.O. Box 500
Trenton, NJ 08625
(609) 376-3968

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



**New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education
2nd Quarter Holocaust Commission Meeting
New Jersey Department of Education
Friday, December 13, 2024
11:00 am
Minutes**

Presiding: Maud Dahme, Chair

Executive Director: Doug Cervi

Secretary/Treasurer: Brianna Doherty

DAG: Kevin Milton

Present Constituting a Quorum

Tamara Beatty
Nicholas Capuano
Allison Connolly
Phil Kirschner
Igor Kotler
Michelle Myers
Irvin Moreno Rodriguez
Judy Olesh
Marvin Raab – Vice Chair
Frank Stebbins
Shana Stein
Colleen Tambuscio
Elyse Wolff
Gene Woods

Absent

Dina Cohen
Abe Foxman
Rabbi Avi Richler
Ilyse Shainbrown
Yitz Stern
Sister Alice Swartz
Betty Schwartz

Convening

The New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education Chair Maud Dahme convened the public meeting at 11:00 a.m. and seeing there was a quorum, the meeting of December 13, 2024, was called to order.

Approval of Minutes of The Meeting

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the NJ Commission on Holocaust Education approved the minutes of the public meeting conducted on September 20, 2024.

Chair Report

The Chair called the meeting to order and welcomed members. The Chair reiterated the importance of maintaining active engagement with the Commission's initiatives and encouraged members to continue discussions on expectations and objectives for the upcoming year. Additionally, the Chair reported on the trip planning progress, including the current number of applicants and the target participant cap. Chairwoman Maud Dahme also introduced Kevin Milton, newly assigned DAG, who will assist with legal matters and OPMA Compliance.

Vice Chair Report

The Vice Chair proposed increasing the number of Commission meetings to improve workflow and coordination. The need for a structured endorsement process for programs was discussed, with concerns raised about the legal framework and requirements for Commission endorsements. The Vice Chair emphasized the importance of clear guidelines for co-sponsorships and disseminating educational programs effectively.

Executive Director Report

The Executive Director introduced two new part-time employees:

- **Sara Fernandez** – 7 hours/week, coordinating speaking engagements, professional development requests, and assisting with resource and curriculum development.
- **Jessica McAuliffe** – 14 hours/week, focusing on resource development, curriculum support, and curating materials in the Dr. Paul Winkler Holocaust Resource Library.

Additionally, the Executive Director provided updates on the annual Center Director Meeting held on August 30, 2024, noting the positive engagement and planned initiatives for the coming year.

Standing Committee Reports:

Budget and Fundraising Committee

- Reported receiving two donations in Q2:
 - \$1,000 from King's College in honor of Maud.
 - \$150,000 from NJEA for the Summer Seminar.
- Grant Cycle (Q2 - October, November, December):
 - \$10,000 was budgeted for the grant program.
 - The Commission received 11 grant requests totaling \$26,965 from:
 - Rutgers Center for the Study of Genocide and Human Rights (1)
 - CHHANGE (2)
 - Holocaust Resource Center at Kean University (2)
 - Esther Raab Holocaust Museum and Goodwin Education Center (2)
 - Littman Families Holocaust Resource Center at Rutgers (1)

- Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center at Stockton University (1)
- Due to limited funding, one request was denied, and the others were reduced.
- The DOE approved an increase to \$30,000 for Q3 (January-March) to accommodate additional programming.

Legislative Committee

- The Committee is evaluating the feasibility of endorsing external programs and will seek legal guidance on potential implications.
- Efforts to improve accountability for Holocaust education in schools were discussed, with possible collaboration with JCRCs to support legislative initiatives.

Curriculum Committee

- Focus is on revising outdated curriculum materials, prioritizing Native American history education once the high school Holocaust curriculum revision is complete.
- Efforts are underway to standardize curriculum alignment across K-12 levels.
- Work is ongoing to ensure accessibility to new scholarship and resources for educators.

Professional Development Committee

- Planning professional development opportunities, with a focus on increasing participation and effectiveness.
- A new interactive PowerPoint for teacher training is being developed.
- Discussions are underway regarding training facilitators to lead professional development sessions statewide.

Evaluation and Assessment Committee

- County-specific reports on Holocaust education implementation are near completion and will be presented to Executive County Superintendents in December.
- Scheduling for presentations at County Round Table Meetings will begin in the spring. Commission members will be invited to attend.

Student/Survivor Project Committee

- The Adopt-a-Survivor program materials have been finalized and uploaded to the website.
- The Committee is discussing further initiatives to expand survivor-educator engagement.

PR and Awareness Committee

- Social media outreach has significantly improved, with increased engagement on Facebook.
- Efforts are being made to enhance visibility and outreach through tagging and social media partnerships.
- Consideration is being given to requiring grant recipients to publicly acknowledge Commission support.

Generation of the Shoah Committee

No report.

Special Events Committee

- Due to scheduling conflicts, there will not be a commemoration at Drumthwacket on January 27, 2025.
- Preliminary discussions for the 2026 event have begun to secure an early reservation.

Interfaith Committee

No report.

Upcoming 2024-2025 Meeting Dates

Please add the dates below to your calendar.

June 13, 2025, Q4 Commission Meeting

Adjournment

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the NJ Commission on Holocaust Education adjourned its December 13, 2024 meeting at 11:05 am on March 7, 2025.