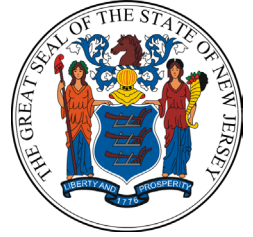


**State of New Jersey
Commission on Holocaust Education**

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**New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education
3rd Quarter Holocaust Commission Meeting
New Jersey Department of Education
Friday, March 7, 2025
11:00 am
Minutes**

Presiding: Maud Dahme, Chair

Executive Director: Doug Cervi

Secretary/Treasurer: Brianna Doherty

DAG: Kevin Milton

Present Constituting a Quorum

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

Staff (not constituting a quorum)

Jessica McAuliffe
Sara Fernandez

Absent

Tamara Beatty
Dina Cohen
Abe Foxman

Ilyse Shainbrown
Sister Alice Swartz
Betty Schwartz

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.

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 March 7, 2025, was called to order.

Approval of Minutes of The Meeting

Postponed until the June meeting.

Chair Report

- The chair thanked the Curriculum Committee for all of their hard work this year.
- Congratulated Phil Kirschner and Frank Stebbins on their reappointment to the Commission.
- Provided time for Sara Fernandez and Jess McAuliffe to introduce themselves to the Commission.

Vice Chair Report

- Provided an update on the virtual guided tours of Sobibor and Majdanek.
- Discussed recent speaking engagements and is interested in bringing in more speakers.

Executive Director Report

- Announced retirement effective June 30, 2025.
- Reflected on his service and thanked the Commission for their support.
- Reported on attendance at various programs, including at Princeton and the UN.
- Emphasized the importance of outreach, including collaboration with Kean University and NJEA participation.

Secretary/Treasurer Report

- December meeting minutes will be shared in advance of the Q4 meeting.
- In your folders, you'll find your name tag, which is to be worn when you attend programs/events/etc. representing the Commission. There are also copies of the flyers for the upcoming events happening around the state.
- The Commission received thank-you notes from students at a school in Wisconsin who attended a virtual tour of Sobibor. Copies were passed around at the meeting.
- As of March 1, 2025, our account balance is \$88,467. Our donation account has a balance of \$105,001.25.
- The meeting on June 13th will serve as the Commission's reorganization meeting. If you are interested in the chair or vice chair position, please send your letter of interest to Brianna Doherty by April 21, 2025. Also, if you are interested in serving on a committee, please email Brianna Doherty by April 21, 2025

Standing Committee Reports:

Budget and Fundraising Committee

- Our annual dues for the Association of Holocaust Organizations has been paid, \$250.
- For Q3 (January, February, March) of the event sponsorship grant opportunity for the Holocaust Resource Centers, \$30,000 was budgeted. The Commission received 8 grant requests totaling \$20,096.85.
 - 2 from CHHANGE
 - 1 from each Drew University, Kean University, Ramapo, Raab/Goodwin, MSU, and Stockton.
- For Q4 (April, May, June) of the event sponsorship grant opportunity for the Holocaust Resource Centers, \$30,000 was again budgeted. The Commission received 7 requests. These requests have not been reviewed by the committee yet.
- Following the report, there was a brief discussion about copyright laws regarding our books. Brianna Doherty and Irvin Moreno Rodriguez will be looking into digital formats for the books often requested.

Legislative Committee

- Met with NJ District 11 to provide an update on post survey plans and legislation. Excited to keep the conversation going.
- Noted increasing national interest in Holocaust Education Survey.

Education Committee

- Final phase of high school curriculum updates underway, with completion expected by May.
- Focus on developing professional development “train-the-trainer” materials.
- Plans to revise Native American genocide curriculum with academic partners.
- Commission engaging with Bergen County curriculum directors.
- Strong emphasis on pedagogically sound Holocaust and anti-bias education.
- Following the report, a discussion emerged on teaching antisemitism vs teaching the Holocaust. What is best for a public school class?

Communication and Outreach Committee

- If you go to an event, please take photos and send them to Gene along with a brief caption.
- **Special Events Committee**
 - NJ again participated in the Light Up Yellow Campaign for International Holocaust Remembrance Day. This is the 3rd year NJ has participated in the campaign. In honor of the day, the State House, Trenton Makes Bridge, Drumthwacket, and multiple casinos in Atlantic City were lit yellow. Brianna shared links to photos, drone footage, press releases, and social media posts. We are hoping to participate again next year and have the goal to include MetLife Stadium in the project.
 - We have started planning for Kristallnacht. Alex Kor will be coming to NJ from November 9-12. He will be doing presentations at multiple centers.
 - CHHANGE asked if we were designating a center as the “host” for the State of NJ IHRD program. This has not been done since 2014. Is this something the Commission wants to bring back?

New Business

- Multiple members expressed gratitude to Doug Cervi for his leadership and contributions.
- Discussion on addressing antisemitism and current global events through Holocaust education.
- Concerns raised about national trends threatening DEI and Holocaust Education efforts

Adjournment

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the NJ Commission on Holocaust Education adjourned its March 7, 2025 meeting at 1.05pm.