

**New Jersey Advisory Commisioon on Advancing  
LGBTQIA+ Youth Equity & Inclusion in Schools  
Meeting Date: February 24, 2025  
Meeting Minutes**

**Call to order,**

*The meeting was called to order at 10:03 AM*

*Kate opened the meeting with a brief moment of silence to recognize the struggles the LGBTQIA+ community has faced in recent months*

*Motion to appoint Robt as acting chair passed*

**Compliance**

*Adequate notice of this meeting has been disseminated in accordance with NJSA 10:4-8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, specifying the date, time, and place of this meeting.*

**Attendance/Roll Call**

Allison Connolly		Jamie Zug		Richard Wilson	x	Christopher Cannella	x
Michael Hoffman	x	Karen Bingert	x	Jason Sabino		Robyn Gigl	x
Robt Martin Seda-Schreiber	x	Katherine Lin	x	Jaivon Lewis	x	Nelson Trioche	x
Zaneta Rago-Craft	x	Justine Evyn Saliski	x	Trish Perlmutter (Ian Fielder for Trish))	x	Keywuan Caulk	
Shannon Cuttle	x	JoAnn Groeger		Niambi London		Andrea Caporale	x

*Secretary Chris called the roll, and there was a quorum present*

**Approve Minutes**

Allison Connolly		Jamie Zug		Richard Wilson	x	Christopher Cannella	x
Michael Hoffman	x	Karen Bingert	x	Jason Sabino		Robyn Gigl	x
Robt Martin Seda-Schreiber	x	Katherine Lin	x	Jaivon Lewis	x	Nelson Trioche	x
Zaneta Rago-Craft	x	Justine Evyn Saliski	x	Trish Perlmutter		Keywuan Caulk	

Shannon Cuttle	x	JoAnn Groeger		Niambi London		Andrea Caporale	x
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*Minutes have been approved*

**Presentation: NJ Bias Crimes Unit, the following items were discussed:**

- *Reviewed statistics of reports of bias, LGBTQ...IA+ was third behind racial and Jewish categories*
- *Differences between incident and crime...examples of these were presented*
- *Reporting a bias crime*
- *DCR vs. DCJ...one is civil, the other is criminal, both under the SAttorney General's office*
- *Duty phone reporting*
- *Laws against bias crimes...bias crimes bump up the level of the crime by one*
- *Pyramid of escalation of bias*
- *Examples of bias crimes in schools and how they are being handled*
- *What can we do?*

**Questions and responses from commissioners:**

- *Karen: expressed her concern regarding how situations are "framed" by the DCJ; the number of cases that are happening is not truly reflected in the stats*
- *Robt: asked if the DCJ contacts the school before making assessments. This is done on a case-by-case basis*
- *Kate: talked about the gap between the number of incidents and those that make it to the DCJ...how do we bridge this gap?*
- *Zaneta: perhaps there is also a "gap" between incidents and crimes*
- *Nelson: there is often "grey" in some of these cases, concerns about the impact on black kids*
- *Karen: once law enforcement is involved, it is hard for school officials to make changes or deal.... We can not use restorative practices at this point...how can we do better education?*
- *Shannon: talked about the stigma of reporting that leads to negative views of communities*
- *Jaivon: inquired about SRO (Karen explained the program); districts should follow protocol and do proper reporting*
- *Zaneta: if districts' hands are tied once reports are made to the police, this seems like a problem*
- *Karen: is there a way for districts to compare stats and results of investigations its police*
- *Chris: how can we fix these gaps? (continue to educate is essential; police sometimes have other pressing issues, and these issues get pushed back. Look into issues on the school level, especially if it is not a situation where justice needs to be served )*
- *Jaivon: can we focus efforts on districts that do not report*
- *Chris: what happens to districts that do not report (there is nothing written down)*
- *Shannon: The anti-bully task force made recommendations on how to hold the district accountable*

**Bylaws committee report and second reading--postponed**

**Committee Reports**

- Data and Analysis: *we have been meeting bi-weekly to assess what we have. Please reach out if your sub-committee needs data assistance*
- Professional Learning: *We have focused on two areas... assessing the state of PD in that state and creating a list of agencies that provide it. We are also working on a survey of educators in this area. Getting PD into schools is difficult*

*Question about teacher prep programs*

- Educational Programming: *what is the experience like for students in schools; a packet of stories--student personas was handed out, and Andrea showed artwork from her spectrum alliance*

*Robt: stories are essential to this work*

*Nelson: stories should be the cornerstone*

- Outreach, Communications & Advocacy: *We have been meeting biweekly, some overlap with other subcommittees. Communication: what does a newsletter look like? Acknowledge the current climate and its impact on our advocacy work—questions about social media presence and our individual role.*

## **Executive Director Report**

- Partners in purpose
- Presentations/talks
- Projects
- Upcoming events

*Questions:*

*Rich: what do you need from us to get support legislation?*

*Robyn: anything else we can do to help in broader terms?*

*Shannon: do you need to use it to help build resources and as a resource to get this work done?*

**Open Public Comment on Agenda Items:** *There were no members of the public present to comment*

## **New Business**

- Current climate: discussion

Motion to Adjourn at 12:23

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary Christopher Cannella