

**New Jersey Advisory Commission on Advancing
LGBTQIA+ Youth Equity & Inclusion In Schools
Meeting Date: May 5, 2025
Meeting Minutes**

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 10:03 on May 5th by Chairperson Allison.

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	x	Daniella Mendez	x	Richard Wilson	x	Christopher Cannella	x
Michael Hoffman	x	Karen Bingert		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	x
Shannon Cuttle		JoAnn Groeger	x	Niambi London	x	Andrea Caporale	x

New commissioner, Daniella Mendez, was given a chance to address the group.

Approve Minutes from 2/24: Jo Ann made a motion to approve the minutes, and Andrea seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Committee Reports:

- Data and Analysis: no update
- Professional Learning: no update
- Educational Programming: GSE got a grant for the LGBTQIA+ youth forum this summer, possible collaboration
- Outreach, Communications & Advocacy: Working on a survey to see what folks need from us as a commission, reviewed our goals to hold regional meetings, possibly in the fall, with a Zoom meeting sometime soon, and further discussed the development of a newsletter
- Bylaws: no report

Executive Director Report:

Social media and outreach: We are looking to set up an Instagram account with the goal of forward representation of the commission, and hope to coincide this with the release of our newsletter, looking to do this for the start of the upcoming school year

2025-2026 meeting calendar: 2025: 8/4, 10/6, 12/8; 2026: 2/23, 5/4

QSAC: Kate was assigned to work on Ch. 32 and LGBTQ/Disabilities sections of QSAC manual, and interviewed school leaders and educators to help get a better understanding of what would be considered a “look for”. A full guidance document was created to help districts meet these mandates and submitted as part of the DOE manual editing process. The updated manual will be disseminated to districts for the 2025 school year.

Jo Ann: asked about health and PE, and Kate addressed her concern

Andrea: What about opting out? Kate, there is statutorily protected opt-out in CHPE only.

Chris: What about accountability? Kate: It will be part of the point system utilized by QSAC

Executive Director Report

Conferences and Professional Learning: The Director reported that they have been involved in significant outreach with education and Ed. Professional organizations providing support and practical means for meeting the statutory mandates

The Commission's ED presented at multiple county curriculum consortiums, conferences, and symposiums in the time between the prior meeting and today; this also included upcoming conferences with TEPUP and proposals which have been submitted to NJSBA and NJEA.

NJEA convention 2025: The Commission will have a double-size section with workshops presented at that location

Discussion:

Daniella asked Kate about her work in the northern part of the state, and Kate reviewed her outreach in that region.

Allison: How do you communicate an outreach? Kate explained that it is when she has mostly interacted with groups that have reached out to her.

College student engagement: Kate talked about the need to create a description of what an intern may learn and activities they may engage in with the Commission

Chris motioned to direct Kate to create a proposal for a commission's intern program, and Robyn seconded the motion. The motion was discussed, and it passed.

Website: Kate reviewed with us a draft of the new commission website, which should be live shortly

Allison motioned to direct Kate to create a companion guide to support educational professionals in all spaces as they work towards including LGBTQIA+ inclusion. The motion passed

Allison asked about data collection for the above task; Kate explained that she has faced some roadblocks in this area and asked for feedback from the commission. A conversation was had on these issues.

Allsion motioned to direct Kate to collect all appropriate data from the Department of Education to assist the commission in its work on behalf of LGBTQIA+ safety. The motion passed

Discussion on Student Records (FERPA): A robust conversation was had on these issues.

Open Public Comment on Agenda Items: Carol Warchler thanks the commission

New Business:

Discussion: Professional organizations and recommendations for training and education, any recommendations should be brought to Kate

Chris motioned to direct Kate to provide the commission with a shareable/public report after the meeting. Jo Ann seconded the motion. There was discussion, and the motion passed.

Motion to Adjourn: A motion was made by Robt and Daneilla, and it was seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher F. Cannella