

**New Jersey Advisory Commission on Advancing
LGBTQIA+ Youth Equity & Inclusion In Schools
Meeting Date: September 30, 2025
Meeting Minutes**

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 10:02 am by the chair

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		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		Nelson Troche	x
Zaneta Rago-Craft		Justine Evyn Saliski	x	Trish Perlmutter		Keywuan Caulk	
Shannon Cuttle	x	JoAnn Groeger	x	Niambi London	x	Andrea Caporale	x

Approve Minutes from 8/4: A motion was made by Jo Ann and seconded by Shannon to approve the minutes; the motion passed

Committee Reports:

- **Data and Analysis:** Meet with the Trevor Project in August; they have been very generous with us
- **Professional Learning:** We will be meeting in October
- **Educational Programming:** No report
- **Outreach, Communications & Advocacy:** There is a concern about moving forward with meet and greets because of the current climate
- **Bylaws:** further action will be pending legislation on the commission

Executive Director Report:

- Happy 1st anniversary to the Commission
- Kate reviewed a presentation on HIB that was done at the New Jersey Law Center, and she outlined concerns she had regarding the lack in the reporting process. She requested the commission's recommendations on how to address this issue. Rich discussed the GLSEN survey and its impact, focusing on the education of students. Justine spoke about instances when she debated these processes with students and emphasized the importance of students teaching each other how to react and report these situations. Shannon spoke of the work of the HIB task force and its impact.
- Upcoming events:
 - I will be meeting with a group in Mercer to review the QSAC requirements
 - The E Pluribus Unum Conference will be next week
 - NJ Historical Commission Conference
 - NJEA Convention: will have a double booth space to host conversations with other groups

- Kate spoke about how she will be continuing technical assistance with various groups that support students in various settings
- The American Social History Project will be presenting on LGBTQ Inclusive curriculum and has invited Kate to speak

Open Public Comment on Agenda Items: There were no comments

New Business and discussion:

Shannon spoke about the current climate around LGBTQIA+ issues and how this impacts our work and our goals and objectives. Allison directed the committees to meet before our December commission meeting to discuss this and report back.

Shannon also spoke about the increase in young people who have become unhoused after coming out at home. This includes LGBTQIA+ and many non-binary/trans youth.

Rich wanted to check in with the group regarding the professional development activities taking place in the school. NJEA typically hosts 10-12 events a year, and this year, they only managed 2. Are others experiencing the same reaction? Karen B. had 90 people on a recent Zoom; she has seen hesitation regarding folks requesting not to take things associated with "DEI." Robyn explained about the work she has done with the Bar Association. In the first year, there were over 100 people and this year, around 12. Allison spoke about her experiences as a local union leader in her school district. Others on the Commission spoke of similar experiences.

Chris asked about an update on the Commission website, and Kate reported there was none. Chris also gave an update on the new staff contact for the NJEA SOGI Committee, Leigh Davidson.

Motion to Adjourn: A motion was made by Karen and seconded by Robyn to adjourn. The motion carried

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher F. Cannella