

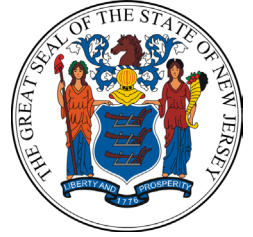


**State of New Jersey
Commission on Holocaust Education**

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New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education
2nd Quarter Commission Meeting
New Jersey Department of Education
Monday, December 4, 2023
11:00 am
Minutes

Presiding: Phil Kirschner, Chair

Executive Director: Doug Cervi

Present Constituting a Quorum

Tamara Beatty
Dina Cohen
Allison Connolly
Maud Dahme
Abe Foxman
Igor Kotler
Irvin Moreno Rodriguez
Judy Olesh
Marvin Raab
Peter Schild
Frank Stebbins
Shana Stein
Yitz Stern
Sister Alice Swartz
Betty Schwartz
Colleen Tambuscio
Elyse Wolff
Gene Woods

Absent

Jaclyn Jones
Michelle Myers
Rabbi Avi Richler
Ilyse Shainbrown

Convening

The New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education Chair Phil Kirschner convened the public meeting at 11:01 a.m. and seeing there was a quorum, the meeting of December 4, 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 December 4, 2023.

Chair Report

Phil Kirschner would like to acknowledge the loss of two important figures in Holocaust education in New Jersey, Dr. Vera Goodkin and Gail Rosenthal. Gail was tremendous, he considers her one of the forces of Holocaust education in the last 30-35 years. What she did at what was a small university tucked into Atlantic County, she built a powerhouse on Holocaust education and what she built became a template for the other Holocaust Resource Centers throughout the state. It is a great loss to Holocaust education. He also mentions Dr. Vera Goodkin, a Holocaust Survivor and longtime associate of the Commission. Her expertise as the Commission was growing was invaluable. She was extremely committed to Holocaust education and education in general and was such a powerful speaker. May their memories be a blessing.

Standing Committee Reports:

Budget and Fundraising Committee

Brianna Doherty stated that the NJDOE and Office of Treasury require that all donations made to the Commission are voted on by the Commission at a public meeting, it is also a requirement that all donations are deposited within 24 hours of being received. It is impossible for both of these things to happen, but Ms. Doherty worked with the Office of Legal and External Services and the Office of Budget and Accounting at the DOE and may have come up with a solution. The suggested solution is for the Commission to vote for one of the following options:

1. Doug Cervi, Executive Director, and Brianna Doherty, Executive Assistant have the authority to make decisions on donations.
2. The Executive Director, Chair, Vice Chair, and Executive Assistant have the authority to make decisions on donations.

*see items for considerations

Curriculum Committee

Executive Director Doug Cervi stated that the Commission has a booth at the NJEA convention where we spoke with hundreds of educators about the work of the Commission, the curriculum, and the resources we have to offer. We also distributed over 250 copies of Maud Dahme's memoir *Chocolate the Taste of Freedom*.

Colleen Tambuscio reported that the K-8 Curriculum team will be meeting in the new year to begin planning professional development around the k-8 curriculum.

Evaluation and Assessment Committee

Brianna Doherty stated that she and Ashley Woolsey-Greene from the NJDOE Office of Standards have begun working on the report for the Holocaust and Genocide Education Mandate Survey.

Generation of the Shoah Committee

Ilyse Wolff reported that the committee continues to get referrals for potential speakers. Ilyse Shainbrown and Ilyse Wolff interview the potential speakers and make recommendations regarding approval to the Speaker Bureau. Once approved by Brianna Doherty and Doug Cervi, they appear on the website and are available for speaking engagements upon request.

Interfaith Committee

No Report

Legislative Committee

Frank Stebbins reported that the legislative committee met several times to revise the bylaws. The latest version is in the folders provided by Brianna Doherty. The Chair opened the floor for discussion on the bylaws. *see items for consideration

PR and Awareness Committee

Gene Woods reported that the committee continues to post flyers and advertisements from the Commission on Facebook.

Professional Events Committee

No Report

Special Events Committee

Brianna Doherty reported that the Kristallnacht Commemoration at Kean University was a huge success. There were 180 people in the room and another 60 joined virtually. At the time of this meeting, she had not heard back from the Joint Management Commission at the Governor's Office regarding the Light It Up Yellow Campaign. The committee is now moving forward with planning for the 30th-anniversary commemoration of the signing of the Holocaust and Genocide Education Mandate in New Jersey. The commemoration will be at Stockton University on April 15th. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. and the formal program starts at 6:00 p.m.

Student/Survivor Project Committee

Judy Olesh reported that the committee met a few times, and they are looking forward to working with centers. They have been working on a survey to send out to the centers to assess needs. They have also drafted a letter for schools interested in bringing in a speaker. They are working on finalizing this letter. The committee will continue with their Adopt a Survivor program, they are working to expand the program to other centers as well.

New Business:

2024 Summer Seminar

Maud Dahme wanted to thank NJEA for the funds they are again donating to the Commission for the Summer seminar and we thank them for their continued support. This year the trip will be from July 16th to July 31st.

International Model UN Trip to Germany

Irvin Moreno Rodriguez thanked the Commission for its support of the Model UN Trip to Germany where Stockton University, along with Maud Dahme, took 24 undergraduate students through sites related to the Holocaust in Frankfurt and Erfurt Germany where the students later participated in

the International Model UN Conference. Maud Dahme was the keynote speaker at this conference where she got to tell her story to hundreds of students. Brianna Doherty can attest; we have been getting so many requests for copies of her book from all over the world.

Meeting Location

The Commission would like to go back to traveling around the state to the various Holocaust Resource Centers. The meetings for the 2023-2024 school year are planned but Brianna Doherty will work on scheduling the meetings for the 2024-2025 school year at various centers.

Commission Member Travel

Brianna Doherty states that only 6 Commission members have sent her their vendor numbers to be eligible for travel reimbursement. The NJ Commission on Holocaust Education can reimburse all Commission members for travel, within NJ, when they are representing the Commission. This includes meetings, events, and programs. This is for miles, tolls, parking, Ubers, car rentals, and registration. If you want to receive reimbursements, Ms. Doherty needs everyone to go to NJSTART.gov and register to become a vendor, then send her your vendor number. Every month, she will check with you on where you have gone and will do all of the necessary paperwork to get you the reimbursement.

Member Concerns

Chair, Phil Kirschner, opened a discussion on the conflict between Israel and Hamas. The Commission proceeded to discuss what they have been seeing and what the centers they are affiliated with have been doing.

Items for Consideration

**Items scheduled for vote during the December meeting are marked with an asterisk*

A. Donations to the Commission*

- The Commission voted in favor of Doug Cervi, Executive Director, and Brianna Doherty, Executive Assistant having authority to make decisions on donations and request that they report at each Commission meeting the donations received.

B. Partnering with the Sobibor Museum to produce a virtual tour of the museum for NJ schools.

- The Commission decided to have a small group of Commission members attend a Zoom call with the museum to hear what they have to say.

C. Bylaw Revision*

- After a lengthy discussion, the Commission voted in favor of the bylaw revisions, 17 – 2. Bylaws adopted on December 4, 2024.

D. Vice-Chair*

- The Commission voted unanimously in favor of appointing Maud Dahme as Vice-Chair of the NJ Commission on Holocaust Education for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year.

Adjournment

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the NJ Commission on Holocaust Education adjourned its December 4, 2023, public meeting at 1:08 p.m.