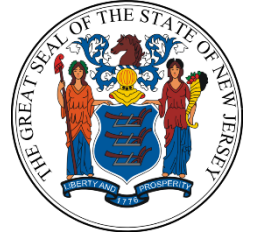


**State of New Jersey
Commission on Holocaust Education**

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New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education
4th Quarter Commission Meeting
New Jersey Department of Education
Monday, June 3, 2024
11:00 am
Minutes

Presiding: Phil Kirschner, Chair

Executive Director: Doug Cervi

Secretary/Treasurer: Brianna Doherty

Present Constituting a Quorum

Tamara Beatty
Nick Capuano
Dina Cohen
Allison Connolly
Igor Kotler
Michelle Myers
Irvin Moreno Rodriguez
Judy Olesh
Marvin Raab
Ilyse Shainbrown
Shana Stein
Yitz Stern
Sister Alice Swartz
Colleen Tambuscio
Elyse Wolff
Gene Woods

Absent

Maud Dahme
Abe Foxman
Rabbi Avi Richler
Frank Stebbins
Betty Schwartz

Convening

The New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education Chair Phil Kirschner convened the public meeting at 11:10 a.m. and seeing there was a quorum, the meeting of June 3, 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 March 11, 2023.

Chair Report

The Commission would like to welcome our new member, Nick Capuano.

Standing Committee Reports:

Budget and Fundraising Committee

Brianna Doherty reported that the Commission received 2 donations this quarter.

\$79 Honoring Dr. Vera Goodkin

\$50 Honoring Maud Dahme

Brianna Doherty also reported that the Commission's operating account has been spent down so we do not have leftover funds this year.

Legislative Committee

On behalf of the Legislative Committee, Brianna Doherty reported that the Holocaust and Genocide Education Survey Report was approved and is now available to the public on the Commission's website. We are currently waiting on approves from the DOE for a press release and broadcast to school districts.

Curriculum Committee

Colleen Tambuscio reported that the committee will be working this summer to develop professional development programs on the k-4 and 5-8 curriculum guides. They will also be working on the first round of updates for the 9-12 curriculum to better align it to the k-8 curriculum guides.

Professional Development Committee

The committee provided an update on the two professional development sessions that were hosted in partnership with NJEA. The first PD Program was at Kean University on March 15, 2024, and the second was at Stockton University on May 13, 2024. Both programs were well-attended and a number of educators have reached out to the Commission for additional resources and assistance.

Evaluation and Assessment Committee

No Report

Student/Survivor Project Committee

Michelle Myers reported that their suggested edits for the website have been submitted to Brianna Doherty who will be working on this over the summer. Our survey has been sent out to the Holocaust Resource Centers, and 7 have been returned so the Committee will be reaching out to them to continue the conversation and offer assistance. It is a suggestion that we create a

subcommittee that will work closely with centers or a mentorship program with stronger centers assisting the centers that can use some help.

PR and Awareness Committee

Gene Woods reported that the committee is continuing to share events and programs that are sent out to the Commission and they are still working with Brianna Doherty to figure out getting Facebook for the Commission and are looking into a professional account for Facebook.

Generation of the Shoah Committee

There have been requests from the 2G community to go through the Speaker Training that our Commission members previously went through. We have been in contact with Peter Nelson and he is available and willing to do the training. Cohorts are typically made up of 6-8 people and the training is once a week for 5 weeks.

Special Events Committee

No Report

Interfaith Committee

No Report

New Business:

2024 Summer Seminar

On behalf of Maud Dahme, Brianna Doherty reported that the final arrangements for the summer seminar are being made and the orientation meeting will be on June 15, 2024, at Maud's house.

2024 NJEA Convention

Brianna Doherty reported that NJEA approved our 4 proposals for the convention. The programs are:

- Kittatinny Regional High School and their Holocaust Resource Center
- Encountering History: Conversation with the Dimensions in Testimony Interactive Biography
- Practical implementation of the Holocaust and Genocide Education Mandate
- Guidelines for Teaching about the Holocaust and Genocide

We have also been asked to partner with NJEA on one of their larger sessions featuring the stories of survival. More details on this will follow as things are set.

Member Concerns

- Elyse Wolff presented concerns on pending legislation (Bill AJR88) and (Bill S2937). Elyse Wolff along with other members of the Commission were asked to testify on behalf of these bills by the Jewish Federation. Elyse Wolff expressed concern regarding the Commission not making a public statement regarding the legislation.
 - o The Chair acknowledged the concern, and the Commission discussed it. Because we are an office in the NJ Department of Education, they advised that we do not comment on pending legislation. The Chair suggested that those asked to testify do so but should state that while they are members of the Commission, they are not speaking on behalf of the Commission.

Public Comment

- Stephanie Abrahams from the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest

- Presented on their Interfaith Teen Leader Group. She asked for assistance to spread the word about the work that this group is doing. Brianna Doherty suggested adding the events and programs to the Commission calendar and will also share information about the program with the Center Directors and school districts.

Member Comments

- Marvin Raab reported on the virtual tour of Sobibor program hosted with the Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center at Stockton University. There were 1068 individuals in attendance. The event was amazing and they now would like to do more, possibly hosting more programs in the fall and additionally creating a virtual tour for Majdanek and Belzec.

2024 NJ Commission on Holocaust Education Reorganization

The members selected Maud Dahme as Chair and Marvin Raab as Vice Chair for 2024-2025.

2024-2025 Meeting Dates

Please add the dates below to your calendar.

August 30, 2024, Center Director Meeting

September 20, 2024, Q1 Commission Meeting

December 13, 2024, Q2 Commission Meeting

March 7, 2025, Q3 Commission Meeting

June 13, 2025, Q4 Commission Meeting

Adjournment

On a motion duly seconded and carried, the NJ Commission on Holocaust Education adjourned its June 3, 2024 public meeting at 1:30 p.m.